



UNGA71: FIRST COMMITTEE

**Introduction of L.28
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

**Delivered by H.E Dell Higginson
Ambassador for Disarmament**

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Thank you Mr President.

I take the floor on behalf of New Zealand's fellow co-sponsors, Australia and Mexico, to briefly introduce resolution L.28 entitled *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty*.

This resolution, which our three countries have tabled together now for more than a decade, has particular significance in 2016 - 20 years since the Treaty was first opened for signature.

While we welcome this opportunity again to express our strong support for the CTBT, it is a matter of deep regret to our delegations - as it is to so many others here - that we remain unable to submit a much more desirable resolution: one welcoming the Treaty's entry into force. It is *that* resolution which would have been a better way to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Treaty's adoption and its effort to bring a legally-based end to the era of nuclear testing.

We remain convinced of the importance of entry into force of the CTBT. It is therefore appropriate that, as it has in the past,

our resolution first and foremost calls on those States that have not yet signed and/or ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for entry into force, to do so as soon as possible. Our resolution also highlights recent activities that have been undertaken in support of the CTBT, congratulates in particular the two most recent ratifications by Myanmar and Swaziland, and encourages further progress in the already impressive development of the Treaty's verification regime.

In conclusion, we urge you all to support this text as a demonstration of our shared commitment to the importance and urgency of achieving entry into force of the Treaty.

Thank you Mr President.