

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

-Ensuring It's Vitality-

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Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: Ensuring its Vitality

CTBT basically aims at not allowing the qualitative improvement of the existing nuclear weapons and the development of any new types of nuclear weapons through banning all sorts of nuclear tests that accompany physical nuclear explosion in the air, outer space, underwater and underground.

Accordingly, all governments that have signed this treaty are neither allowed to conduct nuclear tests or other nuclear explosions inside its own country nor to be involved in any kinds of acts that instigate or encourage such explosions.

In a nutshell, the main objective of this treaty is to eliminate the origin of any possibilities of nuclear development.

Once this treaty becomes effective and displays its vitality, then there is no doubt that it would make a great contribution to the world peace and stability. However, the problem is, though 16 years has passed after issuing the CTBT, it still hasn't come into effect. Then what could be the reason for that?

It's because the current reality surrounding the nuclear disarmament is too far distant from the treaty's ideal.

The realistic and massive nuclear disarmament is the pre-condition for enforcing the treaty. But currently, the world-wide nuclear disarmament is not making satisfactory progress due to the disagreements and conflicts in the interests of the main nuclear powers. In particular, the US, which emerged as a nuclear superpower after the end of the cold war Soviet Union, is exerting all its efforts to take pre-emptive measures to prevent the appearance of any other nuclear power and to secure the overwhelming superiority in the strategic nuclear armed forces.

For this, the US is initiating nuclear disarmament negotiations in order to weaken the nuclear power of the potential enemies while pursuing absolute military and strategic supremacy by enforcing qualitative modernization of their nuclear weapons and building strategic missile defense system.

What is more serious is that the US is enhancing the efficiency of the nuclear weapons without physical nuclear tests by making the ill use of the advanced technology such as sub-critical nuclear testing technologies and thus, deceiving the

world public opinion and disguising its sinister intentions.

Because the US is still seized with the cold war way of thinking, it is devoted to the high-handed politics based on the powerful military capability and this leads to the aggregation of the international tensions of today.

It is for this reason that other nuclear powers that still cannot measure up to the US in the overall military and economic capabilities are giving priority to nuclear weapons in their security policy and thus retain their position by at least maintaining the basic strategic balance.

In case we avoid the complete elimination of existing nuclear weapons and unilaterally execute the CTBT, it would give rise to serious inequality and imbalance in the security of each states and this would rather bring about irretrievable consequences in the world peace and stability.

Up to the end of 2009, the world recorded a total of 2,054 nuclear tests and 99.99% of those were carried out by permanent member states of the UN Security Council.

The nuclear powers conducted hundreds of nuclear tests and built up their nuclear arsenal as much as they can and thus monopolized the nuclear weapons.

Therefore, no more nuclear tests are necessary for them and still, they can exercise their influence as much as they want in the international stage as a nuclear power by depending on their existing nuclear arsenal.

Given this current situation, countries like DPRK are forced to take the issue of signing the CTBT seriously because it is placed in special circumstances beyond its control where it needs to be equipped with self-defensive nuclear deterrent forces in order to cope with the direct nuclear threats of the US, the only nuclear super-power of the world.

What's even more serious is that the US has its national policy of not ruling out the use of nuclear weapons in order to stifle the DPRK.

In the "2010 Nuclear Posture Review", the US refused to give the guarantee to not use the nuclear weapons against the DPRK and Iran and thus, made the pre-emptive nuclear strike a fait accompli.

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In addition to this, the US is staging frantic nuclear war exercises against the DPRK every year with massive means of nuclear strike in and around the Korean peninsula. The continuous US hostile policy and threats forced the DPRK to carry out the nuclear tests twice and possess nuclear deterrent forces as part of the self-defensive measures aimed at safeguarding the security and sovereign rights of the country. Even countries like France and UK that are not directly under the threats of war as being the member states of the NATO, regard the nuclear deterrent as a guarantee for ensuring sovereignty and peace. So it is needless to say that we should take the same approach to defend our country.

Unless the US hostile policy and its nuclear threats are completely withdrawn and a solid and permanent peace regime is in place on the Korean peninsula, the DPRK is left with no other choice but to steadily strengthen its self-defensive nuclear deterrent to the standard as it deems necessary.

It is so clear that unless the US, a nuclear superpower which is vociferous to play a "pivotal role" in the world peace and stability, abandon its plan to seize the military supremacy based on the modernized nuclear weapons and give up its nuclear threats to the independent anti-imperialist countries like the DPRK, the prevention of developing nuclear weapons through CTBT would remain a mission impossible.

Only when the CTBT is enforced under the pre-condition that the nuclear weapons would be completely removed in the worldwide scale can all states be granted practically equal and just obligations and rights.

In that sense, the more pressing issue than enforcing the CTBT is to establish the international legal framework on unconditional ban on the use and complete removal of existing nuclear weapons worldwide and work out impartial and proportionate measures for nuclear disarmament and removal based on mutual trust.

In order to make the CTBT effective in the reality, its pre-conditions should be ready and for that, the main nuclear powers should fulfill their responsibility and duty in efforts to thoroughly remove the source of the nuclear war in the world.

Especially it is important for the US, a nuclear superpower of the world, to stop all

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acts of military buildup that destroy the world stability such as modernizing and conventionalizing nuclear weapons as well as developing new ultra-modern weapons in substitute for nuclear weapons.

Unless the US puts an end to these maneuvers, we would never see the folding up of the arms race between the great powers aimed at defending their own security and strategic interests and this would produce grave consequences to the world peace and stability.

As had been repeatedly clarified, the DPRK would discharge its responsibility and duty as a responsible nuclear state for the nuclear non-proliferation in the future.