

F4. Why have we taken so long to ratify the CTBT which all of us support, while allies such as Britain and France have already ratified it? How does this reflect on our leading role in the CTBT forum?

Of 150 signatories, only 21 have ratified the CTBT to date, reflecting the process of preparing, passing, and promulgating domestic legislation. Our allies Britain and France have only just ratified the CTBT in 1998 and we expect to ratify it in the same year. Legislation to allow us to ratify will be introduced in Parliament in September. Completion of the ratification process before the end of 1998 will leave us in good company among the first group of countries to ratify and will support our leading position in the CTBT forum.