Mr. Chairperson,

Israel voted in favor of resolution L.56 entitled "Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty" in light of its longstanding support of the Treaty, which it signed in 1996. Despite Israel's favorable attitude towards the Treaty, we are unfortunately unable to support the language contained in L.56 in its entirety, and in particular preambular paragraph 6 and operative paragraph 1.

Mr. Chairperson,

Although the CTBT and the NPT both deal with issues pertaining to the nuclear domain, they are different in their obligations and membership. Therefore, decisions and resolutions taken in the context of one treaty cannot be automatically transferred or imposed on states which have not subscribed on to the other.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the establishment of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBT, Israel has actively participated in the development of all elements of the Treaty's verification regime. Israel transmits data from its certified seismic stations to the International Data Center, and actively participates in various activities related to the OSI element. Israel's Radionuclide Laboratory has been certified recently by the CTBTO and continues to expand its analytical capabilities.
The extent of Israel's support and involvement in the substantive work of the CTBTO PrepCom demonstrates the importance Israel attributes to this Treaty and to our recognition of its contribution to the enhancement of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

For Israel, completion of the verification regime constitutes a major consideration for ratification. It is also a prerequisite for entry into force (EIF) of the Treaty. We appreciate the significant progress made in the development of the CTBT verification regime. However, its completion still requires further efforts. Major steps are still needed for the continued build-up and testing of the International Monitoring System stations, the completion of the OSI Operational Manual, as well as equipment purchase and training. In this regard, we commend the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PTS for the work done towards the successful conduct of IFE-14. In the context of the upcoming exercise, Israel is pleased to be hosting the Twenty Second On-Site Inspection (OSI) workshop in April 2015.

Mr. Chairperson,

The regional security situation in the Middle East, including adherence to and compliance with the Treaty by states in the region, is another major consideration for ratification for Israel. The Treaty's verification regime should be robust to detect non-compliance with its basic obligations, be immune to abuse, and at the same time allow each State Signatory to protect its national security interests. Adequate coverage of the Middle East by the IMS is paramount. Regrettably, three Middle Eastern countries have yet to set up or operate national seismic stations and transfer data to the International Data Center.
Another significant consideration for ratification is Israel's equal status in the Policy Making Organs of the Treaty's Organization. The fact that the MESA regional group, which is defined in Annex 1 of the Treaty, has been paralyzed for more than 15 years must be remedied. All states must be allowed to participate in the work of the Treaty on an equal footing in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality.

Thank you.