



CTBTO
PREPARATORY COMMISSION

COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN
TREATY ORGANIZATION

Statement to the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

**Dr Robert Floyd
Executive Secretary**

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Mr President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm deeply honoured to address the Tenth NPT Review Conference and I congratulate you, Mr President, for your election, and I wish to also express my deep appreciation to you, Mr President, for calling this special session of the plenary so that I might address the conference; sincere and deep thanks.

In the current foreboding circumstances, the honour of addressing this august group, is almost totally eclipsed by a strong sense of responsibility, to contribute constructively to strengthening our precious non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, through this Review Conference.

Despite our collective efforts, the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the threat of their use continues to pose unacceptable risks to humanity.

However, as I have listened to the General Debate this week, and I've had a lot of time to listen to it, I've been encouraged by what I feel is a shared recognition of the importance of the NPT - of its vital contribution to global peace and security. And of the need to ensure its continued viability as the lynchpin of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

I've also been inspired by the strong support expressed for the CTBT and its verification regime, which underscores the universal support for the CTBT and the objective of a world free from nuclear tests.

Mr President,

The opening for signature of the CTBT twenty-five years ago was a landmark achievement, the culmination of decades of intensive efforts involving NPT States Parties.

Today, there are 186 States Signatories to the CTBT, of which 174 have ratified. I congratulate Comoros, Cuba, Dominica, Eswatini, The Gambia, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, and

Zimbabwe for ratifying the CTBT since the last NPT Review Conference in 2015 - four of these in this year. I especially would like to acknowledge with great appreciation, Timor-Leste's deposit of its instrument of ratification on the opening day of this Review Conference.

In addition, with Dominica's ratification, the Latin America and Caribbean region has reached full adherence to the CTBT. This is a historic milestone, and an important demonstration of the region's commitment and unity on the nuclear test ban.

The CTBT is already a success story. It has created and sustained a norm against nuclear testing so powerful that fewer than a dozen tests have been conducted since its adoption in 1996, and only one country has violated it this millennium.

By comparison, more than 2,000 nuclear tests were conducted before the Treaty opened for signature.

This success is built upon the CTBT's verification regime being almost complete – more than 92% of the International Monitoring System (IMS) facilities are in place and are mission capable. Due to its operational effectiveness, it ensures that no test goes undetected.

Continued support for the full development of all elements of the verification regime is essential. This includes provisional operation of the IMS for testing, calibration, and improvement. We must also establish a firm financial footing to meet sustainment and recapitalization costs of the International Monitoring System, a one-billion-dollar asset of immense value to all humanity.

Mr President,

We rely on the multilateral treaties and verification regimes that underpin the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. The NPT and the CTBT are instrumental parts of this peace and security architecture.

In its 52 years, the NPT has established a near-universal legal and technical framework that has largely contained global nuclear proliferation. And while the NPT explicitly calls for the complete cessation of nuclear testing in its preamble, it was only with the opening for signature of the CTBT in 1996 that this aspiration for a nuclear test free world could be delivered.

But until adherence to the CTBT is universal, the risk of nuclear testing will not fade, and the goal of nuclear disarmament will remain out of reach.

I urge all NPT States Parties to provide support and assistance to those States that have yet to ratify the CTBT.

Every additional ratification strengthens the global norm against nuclear testing and builds momentum towards the Treaty's entry into force.

It is our historic responsibility to bring the Treaty into force and to ensure that the ban on nuclear testing is legally binding on all states. This is the only way to secure a permanent, verifiable end to nuclear testing – a goal shared by all NPT States Parties.

I thank you for your partnership.