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**Address by Dr Robert Floyd**

**Executive Secretary**

**Preparatory Commission for the**

**Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the**

**Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

New York, 23 September 2021

Co-Presidents, Ms Pandor and Ms Sereni,

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms Nakamitsu,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate the Co-Presidents on their election and their willingness to take on the leadership of this conference for the next two years. I also wish to thank our past Co-Presidents for their leadership and for the kind words of congratulations of all Co-Presidents and the Secretary General. Thank you.

Tomorrow will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). On 24 September 1996, with a sense of hope and optimism, countries gathered here in New York to sign this landmark agreement and commit to putting an end to nuclear explosions by anyone, anywhere, and for all time.

A non-proliferation and disarmament objective decades in the making, the CTBT is truly an historic achievement.

The CTBT now has 185 States Signatories and 170 ratifying States, and there is near universal adherence to the Treaty’s prohibition on nuclear testing. We continue to make steady progress towards universalization, as evinced by the recent ratifications by Comoros and Cuba.

Through the Article XIV process and other mechanisms, we are stepping up our collective efforts to promote CTBT signatures and ratifications in its twenty-fifth anniversary year. With these efforts we can expect to welcome ratifications by many more States in the near future. We can also look forward to some of the few remaining non-signatory States joining the vast majority of the world by signing the Treaty.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The CTBT is a testament to the importance of multilateralism in advancing international peace and security. It also demonstrates that non-proliferation and disarmament are cooperative undertakings with responsibilities shared by all.

The Treaty’s science-based verification regime has proven capable of effectively monitoring all corners of the globe for any evidence of a nuclear explosion, building trust for all. And beyond the core mission of nuclear test monitoring, the verification regime provides a virtual treasure trove of data that can be utilized for a variety of applications, such as climate change research and disaster warning and mitigation.

While these accomplishments highlight the overall success of the CTBT, the only way to secure an enduring and verifiable prohibition on nuclear testing is through its entry into force and universalization.

In this 25th anniversary year, I urge you to take action through bilateral, regional, or multilateral initiatives to move towards universalization of the Treaty and complete its verification regime.

It is high time that the international community is able to access the full scope of benefits that can be provided by the CTBT by bringing the Treaty into force. Let us commit today to do all we can to achieve this shared objective, and be ever closer to fulfilling the promise of a nuclear-weapons-free world for now and for generations to come.

Thank you.