Statement by

**H.E. Ms. Ingrid Brocková**

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Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

New York

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Dear Co-Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me congratulate the Co-Presidents on their election to steer this Conference. You have Slovakia´s full support in your efforts to bring us closer to the entry into force of the CTBT, especially at the time of its 25th anniversary.

I also congratulate Dr. Robert Floyd on his appointment as the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-test-Ban Treaty Organisation.

Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. At the same time, I would also like to make additional remarks in my national capacity.

Dear Co-Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since our last Conference in 2019, the CTBT family has grown by 2 more ratifying states. Slovakia welcomes decisions of Cuba and Comoros to join and bring us closer to our common objective.

Weapons of mass destruction continue to be the greatest immediate threat to humanity in both scale and consequences. Collective measures to enhance security and promote sustainable development has been always of highest importance.

The CTBT and the Non-Proliferation Treaty are key components of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. They both reinforce global peace and security through deterring the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Slovakia again calls upon all States, especially the remaining Annex II countries that have not signed or ratified the Treaty, to do so without further delay. Slovakia especially sees great importance in organisation´s robust monitoring ad verification system, a unique instrument for detecting undesirable nuclear activities. Nevertheless, without a legally binding Treaty, a global nuclear test moratorium remains only a fragile concept.

Dear Co-Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen

Since the beginning, Slovakia has consistently supported the work of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission, particularly through the Agreement between the Government of Slovakia and the Preparatory Commission on cooperation related to On-Site Inspections. In 2020 two major On-Site Inspection Build-Up Exercises were planned to be conducted in Slovakia. Regrettably, due to the COVID-19 pandemic they had to be postponed and subsequently cancelled. Nevertheless, our cooperation has not stopped here – we would like to reaffirm the readiness and strong will of Slovakia to continue contributing to the implementation of the envisaged On-Site Inspections activities, in particular by hosting the Regional Introductory Course for Eastern Europe, envisaged to take place in in 2023.

Thank you