



CTBTO
PREPARATORY COMMISSION

COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN
TREATY ORGANIZATION

**Statement to the 69th regular session of the
General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
17 September 2025, Vienna
Delivered by: Mr Junan Zhang, Director, Legal and External Relations**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset let me congratulate you, Mr/Madam President, on your election.

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of Dr Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

2025 is a year of milestones. Milestones that bear particular importance for us in this building. The 80th anniversary of the UN Charter. The 80th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The 80th anniversary of the first nuclear test.

In challenging times, these milestones give us a renewed sense of purpose. That the work we do makes our world safer, that multilateralism matters. The work of our two organizations - the CTBTO Preparatory Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency - go hand-in-hand, with a shared goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. We rely on science, technology, and expertise to monitor and verify. To give the international community assurance that no one is cheating the system.

Mr/Madam President,

This year, our organization, the CTBT will also embark on an important milestone. This September we will enter the 30th anniversary year of the opening for signature of the CTBT. For nearly three decades, the CTBT has been a bright spot in the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament landscape. Even while the international climate is marked by heightened tensions and uncertainty, nuclear testing has come to a near complete halt. In the last year, and indeed in the last seven years, not a single nuclear test has been conducted. And as each year goes by without tests, the emerging global norm against testing becomes more powerful.

In this last year, we have built on our successes.

With 187 signatories and 178 ratifications, the CTBT enjoys near universal support. Since the last IAEA General Conference, progress has been made on several further ratifications of the CTBT.

Furthermore, States continue to support and rely on the CTBT verification system, which has over 90 per cent of planned facilities installed. And in the last year the number of facilities certified across the globe has grown to 307.

Through our capacity building work and initiatives such as NDCsforAll, we make CTBTO data accessible to all States Signatories, and support them to maximize the benefits of this Treaty.

Mr/Madam President,

Support for the CTBT continues to grow on the global stage.

The 2025 Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held in April, was a timely opportunity to recall that the CTBT remains right at the heart of the NPT. Its preamble set a bold ambition - the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time. And as part of the package for the NPT's indefinite extension in 1995, the CTBT plays a crucial role in advancing the goals of the NPT.

On 6 and 9 August we commemorated the 80th anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These solemn occasions are an important reminder of why our organisations exist – to support peace and security, and to ensure the tragedies of the past are never repeated.

In August, we also commemorated the International Day against Nuclear Tests, which provided a moment to reflect on the destructive legacy of nuclear testing. In the Executive Secretary's address at the General Assembly on 4 September, he reiterated the need to redouble our efforts to ensure that nuclear testing remains a practice of the past.

Mr/Madam President,

There is no doubt that this Treaty has already had a profoundly positive impact.

Still, the full potential of the Treaty, all of its benefits, cannot be realized until its Entry into Force – until the nine remaining States listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty complete their ratification processes. This will require leadership, and continued support from all States Signatories.

As we approach major milestones this year, we must reaffirm our collective determination. The absence of nuclear test explosions is not a matter of chance. It is the outcome of decades of dedication and collaboration.

The CTBTO, like the IAEA, will continue to work with its membership to support a safer and more peaceful world - for the benefit of all humanity.

Thank you.