

**Address by Mr Lassina Zerbo
Executive Secretary**

**Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

**Delivered on his behalf by Mr Oleg Rozhkov, Director, On-Site Inspection
Division**

**60th Regular Session of the General Conference of the
International Atomic Energy Agency
(Vienna, 26-30 September 2016)**

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to express my congratulations on your election, Mr President, and to wish you, the IAEA Member States and the Secretariat, a productive conference. I am honoured to speak today on behalf of Dr Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

As we commemorate this year's **twentieth anniversary** of the CTBT, it is important to reflect upon what has been achieved. We are grateful for the commitment to a nuclear-test-free world that has been shown by all ratifying States, which have not only said no to nuclear testing, but **never**. In this respect, I would like to acknowledge the determined efforts of **Myanmar and Swaziland**, both of which deposited their instruments of ratification last week on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

Over the past twenty years, we have made great strides in establishing the CTBT verification regime. The **International Monitoring System (IMS)**, comprised of 337 facilities worldwide, is now over 90% complete and monitors the globe to ensure that no nuclear test goes undetected. The IMS delivers information in a timely and verifiable manner and has proven its effectiveness and

operational readiness on multiple occasions. Its irreplaceable value was demonstrated most recently on 9 September 2016 when the IMS detected unusual seismic activity in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**. Data and data products were provided to Member States by the International Data Centre very shortly after the event, and a technical briefing was held just hours later.

Moreover, we further underlined the readiness of the verification regime with the **Integrated Field Exercise (IFE14)** held in Jordan in November 2014. The exercise not only strengthened the organization's capacity to carry out on-site inspections when requested and approved by Member States, but was also a crucial confidence building measure.

In addition to the on-site inspections equipment, monitoring stations, data centres or communication infrastructure, it is also the cutting-edge science and technology that give the Treaty's verification regime its exclusive and proven value. For this reason, our biennial **Science and Technology conferences** are designed to further enhance the strong relationship between the CTBTO and the broader scientific and technological community. Last year's conference at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna was the fifth in this series of multidisciplinary conferences and with nearly 1110 registered participants, the largest such conference to date.

The twentieth anniversary is also an important opportunity to advance the Treaty's entry into force. Although the CTBT is closer than ever to universality, with 183 States Signatories and 166 ratifying States, it will not enter into force until the last 8 of the so-called "Annex 2" States complete their ratification procedures.

In June, the **20 Years CTBT Ministerial Meeting** brought together leaders and policymakers to discuss, review and reinvigorate the conversation on entry into force. Last week in New York, Foreign Ministers from 34 States joined together with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the biennial CTBT Friends Ministerial Meeting to make a forceful call for the Treaty's long delayed entry into force.

Also last week, the **United Nations Security Council** approved its first-ever, CTBT-specific resolution. This is a welcome initiative, which provides significant political support for the entry into force of the Treaty, reinforces the global norm against nuclear testing, and further strengthens the international community's resolve to complete the build-up of the Treaty's verification regime. However, we should recall that the only way to truly put an end to nuclear testing is through the entry into force of the Treaty.

Mr President,

Excellencies,
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The CTBTO Preparatory Commission and the **International Atomic Energy Agency** share **numerous parallels**: we both work towards the creation of a safe and secure world, free of the threat of nuclear weapons. We both contribute to the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

The principles and methods that underpin our work also bring us together. Multilateralism, verification and cooperation have formed the basis for many of the Agency's accomplishments in the field of non-proliferation. Both our organizations enjoy large memberships and rely on science and technology to serve and support our Member States.

Whether we look at IAEA safeguards or the CTBT's IMS, both require the political will and the technical tools to succeed. Such parallels place the CTBTO and the IAEA in a privileged position to seek opportunities for enhanced cooperation. Strengthened cooperation will bring us closer to the world that we wish to leave to the next generation – a world that is safe, secure and free from the threats of nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.