

**Statement to the 62<sup>nd</sup> regular session of the  
General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency  
Preparatory Commission for the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization  
20 September 2018**

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Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty Organization.

At the outset, I would like to convey our most sincere wishes to Director General Yukiya Amano for a full and speedy recovery.

Each year, the General Conference offers an insight into the invaluable work carried out by the IAEA. Be it in nuclear energy or applications, safety or security, technical cooperation or safeguards, the Agency presents its Member States and other stakeholders with a wide range of support and services that uphold its noble mandate: atoms for peace and development.

Our own mandate might not be as broad, but, to a large extent, it draws its strength from its simplicity: to prohibit nuclear explosions by everyone, everywhere.

To ensure that States live up to their undertaking, the Treaty establishes two major verification pillars: an International Monitoring System made up of 337 facilities around the globe that collect and transmit data to the International Data Centre in Vienna; and an on-site inspection regime designed to confirm on the ground whether a nuclear explosion has taken place – making it the final verification measure under the Treaty.

Over 90% of these facilities have been built and transmit data, allowing Member States to draw an independent conclusion on the nature of events picked up by the system – and ultimately determine whether it was a nuclear explosion. This corresponds to approximately 12 TB of data per year, making the CTBT second to none when it comes to monitoring – and better understanding – our planet.

In addition to using the data to verify compliance with the Treaty, States have sought to explore the benefits that are derived from the civil and scientific applications of CTBT data and technologies. Among these applications are disaster risk mitigation, climate change and sustainable development. There is no better way to address these issues than collectively and by bringing together scientists and policy-makers from around the world.

In the same vein, the CTBTO actively participates in, and collaborates with, a number of scientific and academic institutions and mechanisms, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We are also a member of the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies.

For your information, we are also sending two of our experts to this year's Scientific Forum on climate mitigation, monitoring and adaptation, a welcome initiative by the IAEA to which the CTBTO can make a substantive contribution.

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We share with the IAEA the vision of safe and peaceful use of the atom – one that excludes, by definition, the explosive testing of nuclear weapons. We also share science-based verification as the foundation of our non-proliferation work and the condition for our credibility.

The monitoring system established by the CTBT has been tried and tested on numerous occasions. In each case, the timely response of the organization demonstrated the readiness of the CTBTO to fulfil its mission.

A case in point occurred a year ago on the occasion of the announced nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Data was collected from 125 seismic, hydroacoustic and infrasound stations and used to determine the magnitude of the event and compute its location, resulting in an error ellipse of only 110 km<sup>2</sup> – less than the estimated area for the five previous announced nuclear tests.

A year later, we welcome the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula. We are particularly heartened by the announced commitment of the DPRK to the denuclearization of the Peninsula. If successful, this can open a new chapter in efforts to promote peace and security in the region.

It is our sincere hope, in this context, that these developments will lead to a comprehensive and verifiable agreement that would include the signature and ratification of the CTBT by the DPRK, thus advancing the Treaty's entry into force.

The CTBTO is in a unique position to make available its expertise, technologies and monitoring assets to any international process aimed at confirming the irreversible closure of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site. If invited to do so, and with the approval of our Member States, we therefore stand ready to contribute within our mandate to the implementation of any agreement in this regard between the parties involved.

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Distinguished delegates,  
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The CTBT enjoys near-universal support. After decades of arduous negotiations and technical challenges, it is today the most practical and achievable step toward a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Despite the widely accepted norm against nuclear testing, the spectre of nuclear test explosions remains a dangerous reality in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There is thus an urgent need for the international community to act and put in place a legally binding ban on nuclear testing once and for all.

Your leadership can make a difference in this regard by bringing about the entry into force of the CTBT at an early date, thus making the world better and safer.

Thank you.