

Joint Statement on Nuclear Testing

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Algeria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, El Salvador, Gabon, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of the Marshall Islands, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, The Gambia, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uruguay, and my own country, Austria.

1. This Review Conference takes place in the 30th anniversary year of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, a moment that calls for both reflection and recommitment.
2. When the CTBT opened for signature in September 1996, it implemented a determination already embedded in the NPT. The Preamble of the NPT itself recalls the commitment of its Parties to the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty to “seek the discontinuance of all nuclear test explosions for all time”. That aspiration is now embodied in the CTBT, signed by 187 states, supported by a verification system of extraordinary reach and sophistication, and sustained by a central norm that has held even before its entry into force. A norm we must ensure continues to hold.
3. As of this year, we have gone longer without a verified nuclear test explosion than at any point since testing began in 1945. This is not a small achievement. It reflects decades of sustained commitment by states across every region of the world, as well as the invaluable work of the CTBTO. This institution and the International Monitoring System ensures that the norm against testing is backed by science and transparency.
4. We also need to acknowledge what the prohibition was built upon: the impact of what nuclear testing has meant for people and communities across the world. From North America and the Pacific to Central Asia, from North Africa to the South Atlantic, over 2,000 tests left enduring consequences — for human health, for the environment, for generations who bore costs they did not choose. That history is not an abstraction. It is a reason, and it is a responsibility.
5. Mr. President, This is precisely why any threat to the norm is so grave. Not only for the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, but for international peace and security at a moment when there is already considerable strain. A nuclear test, by any state, at any yield, could fundamentally undermine confidence in the NPT with its disarmament and non-proliferation norms at the centre, and put at risk progress that has taken decades to build.
6. We therefore call on all states to reaffirm their commitment to refrain from any nuclear test explosion, under any circumstances and at any yield, and to uphold and strengthen the global norm against testing, including through the management of any disputes and by addressing allegations of non-compliance. We call on all States to refrain from any action that would undermine the moratorium and defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty.
7. We express our full support for the CTBTO and its mission, and we call all states that have not yet done so, in particular those in Annex II, to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay or precondition. We recall that with the Entry into Force of the Treaty through the realization of on-site-inspections and other Treaty compliance mechanisms, State Parties would acquire even more complete verification and confidence building instruments.
8. The goal, a permanent, universal, legally binding and verifiable prohibition of nuclear testing, remains within reach. This anniversary year, and this Review Conference, are the right moment to reaffirm our shared commitment to it.

We call on you to include this reaffirmation in the outcome document.

Thank you, Mr. President.