

## **Statement to the 2021 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Art. XIV Conference)**

### **Delivered by Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Ine Eriksen Sørensen, Norway**

Mr Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) has been a centrepiece of the global arms control and non-proliferation regime since its adoption here by the General Assembly, 25 years ago. Although the Treaty has still not entered into force, it has established an important norm against nuclear tests.

It remains imperative that we stand up for the international laws, norms and standards that are essential for ensuring stability and peace. But a norm or a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear testing can never be a substitute for a comprehensive, universally binding, legal agreement.

We urge the states listed in Annex 2 to ratify the Treaty now.

Mr Secretary-General,

We are gravely worried about the DPRK's publicly stated intentions and continued efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction. We urge the DPRK to abandon its nuclear and ballistic programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, as requested by several UN Security Council resolutions. We also urge the DPRK to re-commit to meaningful negotiations towards this end.

Mr Secretary-General,

Norway welcomes the appointment of Dr. Robert Floyd as Executive Secretary of the CTBTO. I wish him the best of luck in leading the efforts to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty will be operational upon the Treaty's entry into force. I assure him of Norway's full cooperation in this regard.

Norway has fulfilled our responsibilities under the International Monitoring System. There are six monitoring stations on Norwegian territory, all of which have been certified to comply with all technical requirements and specifications. These stations are transmitting their data continuously to the International Data Centre of the CTBTO in Vienna.

Norway also continues to contribute financially to CTBT capacity-building, including training courses for developing countries.

Mr Secretary-General,

Norway will continue to work hard to strengthen established non-proliferation regimes and uphold international norms and laws. We will continue to take initiatives that deliver concrete results and that lead to further disarmament, and ultimately to our common goal of a world

without nuclear weapons. Ensuring that the CTBT enters into force would be a significant step towards achieving that goal. Thank you.