



CTBTO
PREPARATORY COMMISSION

PUTTING AN
END TO NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIONS

Statement from Dr. Robert Floyd
Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
Conference on Disarmament
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Mr President, Ambassador Ruddyard, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

I have two reasons to greet and thank Ambassador Ruddyard. First, because he's chairing the Conference. And second, because his country, Indonesia, was the most recent Annex 2 state to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty.

This was a major contribution. I thank the people of Indonesia, through Minister Retno who was here with you earlier today.

That was one success. Let's reflect on another.

As you may know, the CTBT itself was negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament. Here, Geneva, is its birthplace. The people of the world owe a debt of gratitude to you and your diplomat forebears who walked these halls.

What a success for the Conference on Disarmament this Treaty represents. A spectacular practical success. A success everyone can understand. A gift to humanity. A gift to collective peace and security.

Before the CTBT was open for signature in 1996, the world suffered over *two thousand* nuclear weapons tests. In the air. Under the ground, on the land, and in the oceans. But following the CTBT there have been fewer than *one dozen* tests. What a change. A transformation for the better.

Why such success? Above all, because the Treaty is fair and transparent.

The Treaty sets a target: a global network of 337 monitoring facilities. It can detect a test anywhere on Earth, almost immediately.

306 facilities - over 90% of that target total - are up and running. They monitor seismic activity. Sound waves in the oceans. Ultra-low frequency sound waves in the atmosphere. Radioactive particles in the air. Their data streams to the CTBTO in Vienna, around the clock.

Crucially, all that data isn't secret, or privileged. It's available to all States Signatories. *We all share in this Treaty.* It's a unique shared global resource that supports all sorts of important civil and scientific work. Earthquake monitoring. Climate change research. Ocean study. Tsunami warning. Even helping find lost aircraft and submarines.

One of my own priorities is to help many more states build their capacity, so they can receive and use this data. Access - and capability. So that all states, global north and global south alike, can use and benefit from this data, for whatever interest they might have.

That's why I've set up the National Data Centres for All initiative. It's had an excellent response. More and more states are setting up their own National Data Centres, and accessing all that data. We're getting more support directly into regions that need it. And we're doing that using more of our official languages. Access - and capability.

So it's clear why this fair and transparent Treaty enjoys huge international support and respect. 187 states have signed it. 177 have ratified it. In the last two years, we've seen eight states ratify the treaty and one state sign the treaty on the way to ratifying it. We're working hard to achieve more signatures and more ratifications.

But - as we all know, there's unfinished business.

Yes, the International Monitoring System is magnificent. It lets the world know very quickly that a large explosion has happened and where it's happened. But only when the Treaty enters into force can we all benefit from its full suite of verification mechanisms.

Entry into force brings the consultation and clarification mechanism and confidence-building measures. And, importantly, it allows on-site inspections. The crucial practical way agreed under the Treaty to confirm that an explosion is - or is not - a nuclear explosion.

We here today know all too well. The international security scene is difficult. Probably worse than difficult.

Yet everywhere I go - including our Article XIV conference in New York in September last year, and the NAM Summit in Kampala just last month - I hear the same thing:

"We need the CTBT to come into force."

This is what almost all of the states around the world want. It's what they reasonably expect. All the more so, when insecurity and conflict are rising again. Hence my message today.

*Annex 2 and any other states represented here who haven't yet ratified the CTBT?
Please, revisit it now.*

Those states that haven't signed the CTBT? Please, revisit it now.

And possessor states. Recommit to your moratoria against testing.

The Conference on Disarmament launched the CTBT. Why not recapture that boldness?
And now bring the Treaty into force.

Thank you.