

JOINT STATEMENT BY PANAMA AND NORWAY
Working Group A, Vienna, 17 October 2023

Item 13 (Any Other Business):

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of Panama and Norway, I would like to make the following statement:

Today more than ever, the need to advance the entry into force and universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is reiterated.

Taking into consideration the aforementioned, Panama and Norway wish to reiterate their full support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and stress the need for an early Entry into Force (EIF) of the CTBT and its universalization, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Therefore, we note with appreciation of the adoption of the Final Declaration of the 13th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT. We would like to acknowledge the efforts made by States and their constructive approach during the negotiations of the final declaration in preparation for this Conference.

As the universalization of the CTBT is in the interest of all states, we encourage States Parties to continue working towards the entry into force of the Treaty, and to refrain from any actions that could undermine its entry into force and universalization. We urge all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level.

Also, we would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Dr Robert Floyd, as well as the staff of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, for organizing this Conference, as well as for all their support to the Presidency in preparing for and conducting the Conference.

Finally, having heard the expressions of recognition in your interventions, we wish to point out that, during our mandate, we will seek to continue leading and coordinating international efforts to promote the early entry into force and universalization of the Treaty.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.