

JOINT STATEMENT BY PANAMA AND NORWAY

Sixty-Second Session of the Preparatory Commission Vienna, 24 June 2024

Item 2 (Report of the Executive Secretary):

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of Panama and Norway, as coordinators of the Process for the Facilitation of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) 2023-2025, I would like to make the following statement:

Norway and Panama welcome Papua New Guinea's ratification of the CTBT, bringing the total number of ratifications to 178.

The CTBT stands as a monumental achievement in global efforts to preserve peace, nuclear disarmament, international security, and stability by prohibiting all nuclear explosions.

The CTBT plays an indispensable role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, reducing nuclear weapons globally and curbing the potential for global instability.

We are convinced that the universalization and entry-into-force of the CTBT meets the national interests of all States. It is also the most effective way to achieve an end to nuclear testing and the only way to secure an enduring and verifiable prohibition on nuclear testing.

The international community is already on overtime when it comes to finishing the work we started decades ago. In this regard, Norway and Panama continue to call on States who have not yet signed and/or ratified the Treaty, particularly those pertaining to Annex II, to sign and to ratify the Treaty without delay.

We emphasize that Annex II States bear a special responsibility for the entry into force of the Treaty, particularly nuclear-weapons States. In this context, we note with deep regret the Russian Federation's decision to revoke its ratification of the CTBT.

The CTBT is a pillar of our shared ambition for a nuclear weapons-free future.

Therefore, we encourage all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level.

Together we can fulfill the Treaty's potential to end all nuclear explosions, everywhere, for all time.

In the meantime, we call on all States to abide by the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, and to refrain from any action that would undermine the objectives of the Treaty.

We invite all States to highlight the urgent need for the entry into force of the CTBT at the 2024 Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT.

Likewise, we invite delegations to note the important contribution of the Conference on Facilitation of the Entry into Force of the CTBT to advance this objective, and to reiterate it on the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

Finally, we thank the Executive Secretary, Dr. Robert Floyd, as well as the Provisional Technical Secretariat, for the actions which were noted in his introductory statement.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.