

STATEMENT BY NORWAY AT THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP B

Vienna, 25 August 2026

Thank you, Chair.

Norway aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ireland on behalf of the European Union. We would also like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

The global security architecture is under serious strain. Conflicts are multiplying, international institutions face mounting challenges, and questions concerning nuclear explosive testing have returned to international attention.

Against this backdrop, we must maintain our ability both to reliably detect nuclear explosions and to rigorously assess allegations or indications of undeclared nuclear explosive tests. Preserving the test-ban regime and, above all, the International Monitoring System, is therefore of critical importance.

With respect to the funding situation – both for IMS sustainment and for the organisation more broadly – Norway remains opposed to across-the-board cuts. We should make every effort to identify savings that do not compromise the capabilities of the IMS. At the same time, we recognise that difficult choices may become unavoidable. Norway stands ready to engage in serious discussions, including, if necessary, on how best to prioritise resources across the different elements of the verification regime as it currently operates.

Norway continues to urge all States that have not yet signed and ratified the CTBT, particularly the remaining Annex 2 States, to do so without further delay. We also encourage relevant States to enhance transparency regarding activities at former nuclear test sites, including through the sharing of additional data and information that could assist the international community in assessing events occurring at or near such sites.

In closing, we wish to commend the efforts of Dr Floyd and the PTS to sustain, strengthen and further develop the CTBT and its verification regime. We also wish to thank you chair for your dedication and professionalism presiding over this working group over the past six 6 years.

Thank you.