

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY AT THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP B  
CTBTO, 9 March 2026**

Thank you, Chair.

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

In the 30 years since the CTBT opened for signature, this treaty and the CTBTO may never have played a more important role than it does right now. The global security architecture is under pressure. Conflict is on the rise and key international institutions face serious challenges. Countries are expanding or modernising their nuclear arsenals and statements on breaches of the CTBT and nuclear explosive tests are in the public domain.

It is paramount that we remain able not only to reliably detect any nuclear explosions but also to thoroughly assess allegations. Norwegian experts have assessed the claims and published their own interpretation based on the available IMS data. In this context, preserving the CTBT and associated moratoria on nuclear testing is of critical importance. We must avoid an unrestrained nuclear arms race. We encourage the nuclear-weapon states to be more transparent about their stockpile stewardship programmes and activities at former nuclear test sites.

Norway continues to urge all States that have not yet signed and ratified the CTBT – particularly those listed in Annex 2 – to do so without further delay, to enable the treaty to enter into force.

Norway attaches great value to the effectiveness of the International Monitoring System. It is crucial to ensure the sustainment of the IMS system. We stand ready to engage in the difficult prioritisations that will be required to maximise the return on investments in the system and to maintain the network's detection capability at a high level. In the context of a zero nominal growth budget we expect the PTS to do its utmost to protect the core of the verification regime that lies within the IMS and IDC. The detection capability and our trust in the system and its stations should remain the highest priority.

Peaceful cooperation and respect for international law are cornerstones of multilateralism. We once again recall that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a blatant violation of international law, including the UN Charter. Russia's actions continue to undermine the principles of multilateralism, including in the CTBT. Norway continues to support the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

We welcome the Integrated Field Exercise later this year and appreciate Namibia for hosting it. Norway will participate and support the exercise with its experts and look forward to PTS presentations on the progress on the preparations.

Finally, we wish to commend the efforts of Dr Floyd and the PTS to protect, advance, and future-proof the CTBT.

Thank you.