

L – Nuclear Weapon Testing Treaties

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

[Opened for signature 24 September 1996,
not in force]

[Eds..]

Article I Basic Obligations

1. Each State Party undertakes not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.
2. Each State Party undertakes, furthermore, to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

Article II The Organization

A. General Provisions

1. The States Parties hereby establish the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty organization (hereinafter referred to as 'the Organization') to achieve the object and purpose of this Treaty, to ensure the implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States Parties.
2. All States Parties shall be members of the Organization. A State Party shall not be deprived of its membership in the Organization.
3. The seat of the Organization shall be Vienna, Republic of Austria.
4. There are hereby established as organs of the Organization: the Conference of the States Parties, the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat, which shall include the International Data Centre.
5. Each State Party shall cooperate with the Organization in the exercise of its functions in accordance with this Treaty. States Parties shall consult, directly among themselves, or through the Organization or other appropriate international procedures, including procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter, on any matter which may be raised relating to the object and purpose, or the implementation of the provisions, of this Treaty.
6. The Organization shall conduct its verification activities provided for under this Treaty in the least intrusive manner possible consistent with the timely and efficient accomplishment of their objectives. It shall request only the information and data necessary to fulfil its responsibilities under this Treaty. It shall take every precaution to protect the confidentiality of information on civil and military activities and facilities coming to its knowledge in the implementation of this Treaty and, in particular, shall abide by the confidentiality provisions set forth in this Treaty.
7. Each State Party shall treat as confidential and afford special handling to information and data that it receives in confidence from the Organization in connection with the implementation of this Treaty. It shall treat such information and data exclusively in connection with its rights and obligations under this Treaty.
8. The Organization, as an independent body, shall seek to utilize existing expertise and facilities, as appropriate, and to maximize cost efficiencies, through cooperative arrangements with other international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency. Such arrangements, excluding those of a minor and normal commercial and contractual nature, shall be set out in agreements to be submitted to the Conference of the States Parties for approval.
9. The costs of the activities of the Organization shall be met annually by the States Parties in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessments adjusted to take into account differences in membership between the United Nations and the Organization.
10. Financial contributions of States Parties to the Preparatory Commission shall be deducted in an appropriate way from their contributions to the regular budget.
11. A member of the Organization which is in arrears in the payment of its assessed contribution to the Organization shall have no vote in the Organization if the amount of its arrears equals or

exceeds the amount of the contribution due from it for the preceding two full years. The Conference of the States Parties may, nevertheless, permit such a member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the member.

B. The Conference of the States Parties

Composition, Procedures and Decision-making

12. The Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter referred to as 'the Conference') shall be composed of all States Parties. Each State Party shall have one representative in the Conference, who may be accompanied by alternates and advisers.
13. The initial session of the Conference shall be convened by the Depositary no later than 30 days after the entry into force of this Treaty.
14. The Conference shall meet in regular sessions, which shall be held annually, unless it decides otherwise.
15. A special session of the Conference shall be convened:
 - (a) When decided by the Conference;
 - (b) When requested by the Executive Council; or
 - (c) When requested by any State Party and supported by a majority of the States Parties.

The special session shall be convened no later than 30 days after the decision of the Conference, the request of the Executive Council, or the attainment of the necessary support, unless specified otherwise in the decision or request.

16. The Conference may also be convened in the form of an Amendment Conference, in accordance with Article VII.
17. The Conference may also be convened in the form of a Review Conference in accordance with Article VI II.
18. Sessions shall take place at the seat of the Organization unless the Conference decides otherwise.
19. The Conference shall adopt its rules of procedure. At the beginning of each session, it shall elect its President and such other officers as may be required. They shall hold office until a new President and other officers are elected at the next session.
20. A majority of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum.
21. Each State Party shall have one vote.
22. The Conference shall take decisions on matters of procedure by a majority of members present and voting. Decisions on matters of substance shall be taken as far as possible by consensus. If consensus is not attainable when an issue comes up for decision, the President of the Conference shall defer any vote for 24 hours and during this period of deferment shall make every effort to facilitate achievement of consensus, and shall report to the Conference before the end of this period. If consensus is not possible at the end of 24 hours, the Conference shall take a decision by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting unless specified otherwise in this Treaty. When the issue arises as to whether the question is one of substance or not, that question shall be treated as a matter of substance unless otherwise decided by the majority required for decisions on matters of substance.
23. When exercising its function under paragraph 26 (k), the Conference shall take a decision to add any State to the list of States contained in Annex 1 to this Treaty in accordance with the procedure for decisions on matters of substance set out in paragraph 22. Notwithstanding paragraph 22, the Conference shall take decisions on any other change to Annex 1 to this Treaty by consensus.

Powers and Functions

24. The Conference shall be the principal organ of the Organization. It shall consider any questions, matters or issues within the scope of this Treaty, including those relating to the powers and functions of the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat, in accordance with this Treaty. It may make recommendations and take decisions on any questions, matters or issues within the scope of this Treaty raised by a State Party or brought to its attention by the Executive Council.
25. The Conference shall oversee the implementation of, and review compliance with, this Treaty and act in order to promote its object and purpose. It shall also oversee the activities of the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat and may issue guidelines to either of them for the exercise of their functions.
26. The Conference shall:
 - (a) Consider and adopt the report of the Organization on the

- implementation of this Treaty and the annual programme and budget of the Organization, submitted by the Executive Council, as well as consider other reports;
- (b) Decide on the scale of financial contributions to be paid by States Parties in accordance with paragraph 9;
- (c) Elect the members of the Executive Council;
- (d) Appoint the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as 'the Director-General');
- (e) Consider and approve the rules of procedure of the Executive Council submitted by the latter;
- (f) Consider and review scientific and technological developments that could affect the operation of this Treaty. In this context, the Conference may direct the Director-General to establish a Scientific Advisory Board to enable him or her, in the performance of his or her functions, to render specialized advice in areas of science and technology relevant to this Treaty to the Conference, to the Executive Council or to States Parties. In that case, the Scientific Advisory Board shall be composed of independent experts serving in their individual capacity and appointed, in accordance with terms of reference adopted by the Conference, on the basis of their expertise and experience in the particular scientific fields relevant to the implementation of this Treaty;
- (g) Take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with this Treaty and to redress and remedy any situation that contravenes the provisions of this Treaty, in accordance with Article V;
- (h) Consider and approve at its initial session any draft agreements, arrangements, provisions, procedures, operational manuals, guidelines and any other documents developed and recommended by the Preparatory Commission;
- (i) Consider and approve agreements or arrangements negotiated by the Technical Secretariat with States Parties, other States and international organizations to be concluded by the Executive Council on behalf of the Organization in accordance with paragraph 38 (h);
- (j) Establish such subsidiary organs as it finds necessary for the exercise of its functions in accordance with this Treaty; and
- (k) Update Annex 1 to this Treaty, as appropriate, in accordance with paragraph 23.

C. The Executive Council

Composition, Procedures and Decision-making

27. The Executive Council shall consist of 51 members. Each State Party shall have the right, in accordance with the provisions of this Article, to serve on the Executive Council.
28. Taking into account the need for equitable geographical distribution the Executive Council shall comprise:
- Ten states Parties from Africa;
 - Seven States Parties from Eastern Europe;
 - Nine States Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - Seven States Parties from the Middle East and South Asia;
 - Ten States Parties from North America and Western Europe; and
 - Eight States Parties from South-East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East.
- All States in each of the above geographical regions are listed in Annex 1 to this Treaty. Annex 1 to this Treaty shall be updated, as appropriate, by the Conference in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 26 (k). It shall not be subject to amendments or changes under the procedures contained in Article VII.
29. The members of the Executive Council shall be elected by the Conference. In this connection, each geographical region shall designate States Parties from that region for election as members of the Executive Council as follows:
- At least one-third of the seats allocated to each geographical region shall be filled, taking into account political and security interests by States Parties in that region designated on the basis of the nuclear capabilities relevant to the Treaty as determined by international data as well as all or any of the following indicative criteria in the order of priority determined by each region:
 - Number of monitoring facilities of the International Monitoring System;
 - Expertise and experience in monitoring technology;

and

- Contribution to the annual budget of the Organization;
- (b) One of the seats allocated to each geographical region shall be filled on a rotational basis by the State Party that is first in the English alphabetical order among the States Parties in that region that have not served as members of the Executive Council for the longest period of time since becoming States Parties or since their last term, whichever is shorter. A State Party designated on this basis may decide to forgo its seat. In that case, such a State Party shall submit a letter of renunciation to the Director-General, and the seat shall be filled by the State Party following next-in-order according to this sub-paragraph; and
- (c) The remaining seats allocated to each geographical region shall filled by States Parties designated from among all the States Parties in that region by rotation or elections.
30. Each member of the Executive Council shall have one representative on the Executive Council, who may be accompanied by alternates and advisers.
31. Each member of the Executive Council shall hold office from the end of the session of the Conference at which that member is elected until the end of the second regular annual session of the Conference thereafter, except that for the first election of the Executive Council, 26 members shall be elected to hold office until the end of the third regular annual session of the Conference, due regard being paid to the established numerical proportions as described in paragraph 28.
32. The Executive Council shall elaborate its rules of procedure and submit them to the Conference for approval.
33. The Executive Council shall elect its Chairman from among its members.
34. The Executive Council shall meet for regular sessions. Between regular sessions it shall meet as may be required for the fulfilment of its powers and functions.
35. Each member of the Executive Council shall have one vote.
36. The Executive Council shall take decisions on matters of procedure by a majority of all its members. The Executive Council shall take decisions on matters of substance by a two-thirds majority of all its members unless specified otherwise in this Treaty. When the issue arises as to whether the question is one of substance or not, that question shall be treated as a matter of substance unless otherwise decided by the majority required for decisions on matters of substance.
- #### *Powers and Functions*
37. The Executive Council shall be the executive organ of the Organization. It shall be responsible to the Conference. It shall carry out the powers and functions entrusted to it in accordance with this Treaty. In so doing, it shall act in conformity with the recommendations, decisions and guidelines of the Conference and ensure their continuous and proper implementation.
38. The Executive Council shall:
- Promote effective implementation of, and compliance with, this Treaty;
 - Supervise the activities of the Technical Secretariat;
 - Make recommendations as necessary to the Conference for consideration of further proposals for promoting the object and purpose of this Treaty;
 - Cooperate with the National Authority of each State Party;
 - Consider and submit to the Conference the draft annual programme and budget of the Organization, the draft report of the Organization on the implementation of this Treaty, the report on the performance of its own activities and such other reports as it deems necessary or that the Conference may request;
 - Make arrangements for the sessions of the Conference, including the preparation of the draft agenda;
 - Examine proposals for changes, on matters of an administrative or technical nature, to the Protocol or the Annexes thereto, pursuant to Article VII, and make recommendations to the States Parties regarding their adoption;
 - Conclude, subject to prior approval of the Conference, agreements or arrangements with States Parties, other States and international organizations on behalf of the Organization and supervise their implementation, with the exception of agreements or arrangements referred to in sub-paragraph (i);
 - Approve and supervise the operation of agreements or arrangements relating to the implementation of verification

- activities with States Parties and other States; and
- (j) Approve any new operational manuals and any changes to the existing operational manuals that may be proposed by the Technical Secretariat.
39. The Executive Council may request a special session of the Conference.
40. The Executive Council shall:
- Facilitate cooperation among States Parties, and between States Parties and the Technical Secretariat, relating to the implementation of this Treaty through information exchanges;
 - Facilitate consultation and clarification among States Parties in accordance with Article IV; and
 - Receive, consider and take action on requests for, and reports on, on-site inspections in accordance with Article IV.
41. The Executive Council shall consider any concern raised by a State Party about possible non-compliance with this Treaty and abuse of the rights established by this Treaty. In doing so, the Executive Council shall consult with the States Parties involved and, as appropriate, request a State Party to take measures to redress the situation within a specified time. To the extent that the Executive Council considers further action to be necessary, it shall take, *inter alia*, one or more of the following measures:
- Notify all States Parties of the issue or matter;
 - Bring the issue or matter to the attention of the Conference;
 - Make recommendations to the Conference or take action, as appropriate, regarding measures to redress the situation and to ensure compliance in accordance with Article V.

D. The Technical Secretariat

42. The Technical Secretariat shall assist States Parties in the implementation of this Treaty. The Technical Secretariat shall assist the Conference and the Executive Council in the performance of their functions. The Technical Secretariat shall carry out the verification and other function entrusted to it by this Treaty, as well as those functions delegated to it by the Conference or the Executive Council in accordance with this Treaty. The Technical Secretariat shall include, as an integral part, the International Data Centre.
43. The functions of the Technical Secretariat with regard to verification of compliance with this Treaty shall, in accordance with Article IV and the Protocol, include *inter alia*:
- Being responsible for supervising and coordinating the operation of the International Monitoring System;
 - Operating the International Data Centre;
 - Routinely receiving, processing, analyzing and reporting on International Monitoring System data;
 - Providing technical assistance in, and support for, the installation and operation of monitoring stations;
 - Assisting the Executive Council in facilitating consultation and clarification among States Parties;
 - Receiving requests for on-site inspections and processing them, facilitating Executive Council consideration of such requests, carrying out the preparations for, and providing technical support during, the conduct of on-site inspections, and reporting to the Executive Council;
 - Negotiating agreements or arrangements with States Parties, other States and international organizations and concluding, subject to prior approval by the Executive Council, any such agreements or arrangements relating to verification activities with States Parties or other States; and
 - Assisting the States Parties through their National Authorities on other issues of verification under this Treaty.
44. The Technical Secretariat shall develop and maintain, subject to approval by the Executive Council, operational manuals to guide the operation of the various components of the verification regime, in accordance with Article IV and the Protocol. These manuals shall not constitute integral parts of this Treaty or the Protocol and may be changed by the Technical Secretariat subject to approval by the Executive Council. The Technical Secretariat shall promptly inform the States Parties of any changes in the operational manuals.
45. The functions of the Technical Secretariat with respect to administrative matters shall include:
- Preparing and submitting to the Executive Council the draft programme and budget of the Organization;
 - Preparing and submitting to the Executive Council the draft report of the Organization on the implementation of this Treaty and such other reports as the Conference or the

Executive Council may request;

- Providing administrative and technical support to the Conference, the Executive Council and other subsidiary organs;
 - Addressing and receiving communications on behalf of the Organization relating to the implementation of this Treaty; and
 - Carrying out the administrative responsibilities related to any agreements between the Organization and other international organizations.
46. All requests and notifications by States Parties to the Organization shall be transmitted through their National Authorities to the Director-General. Requests and notifications shall be in one of the official languages of this Treaty. In response the Director-General shall use the language of the transmitted request or notification.
47. With respect to the responsibilities of the Technical Secretariat for preparing and submitting to the Executive Council the draft programme and budget of the Organization, the Technical Secretariat shall determine and maintain a clear accounting of all costs for each facility established as part of the International Monitoring System. Similar treatment in the draft programme and budget shall be accorded to all other activities of the Organization.
48. The Technical Secretariat shall promptly inform the Executive Council of any problems that have arisen with regard to the discharge of its functions that have come to its notice in the performance of its activities and that it has been unable to resolve through consultations with the State Party concerned.
49. The Technical Secretariat shall comprise a Director-General, who shall be its head and chief administrative officer, and such scientific, technical and other personnel as may be required. The Director-General shall be appointed by the Conference upon the recommendation of the Executive Council for a term of four years, renewable for one further term, but not thereafter. The first Director-General shall be appointed by the Conference at its initial session upon the recommendation of the Preparatory Commission.
50. The Director-General shall be responsible to the Conference and the Executive Council for the appointment of the staff and for the organization and functioning of the Technical Secretariat. The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of professional expertise, experience, efficiency, competence and integrity. Only citizens of States Parties shall serve as the Director-General, as inspectors or as members of the professional and clerical staff. Due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. Recruitment shall be guided by the principle that the staff shall be kept to the minimum necessary for the proper discharge of the responsibilities of the Technical Secretariat.
51. The Director-General may, as appropriate, after consultation with the Executive Council, establish temporary working groups of scientific experts to provide recommendations on specific issues.
52. In the performance of their duties, the Director-General, the inspectors, the inspection assistants and the members of the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any other source external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action that might reflect adversely on their positions as international officers responsible only to the Organization. The Director-General shall assume responsibility for the activities of an inspection team.
53. Each State Party shall respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Director-General, the inspectors, the inspection assistants and the members of the staff and shall not seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

E. Privileges and Immunities

54. The Organization shall enjoy on the territory and in any other place under the jurisdiction or control of a State Party such legal capacity and such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the exercise of its functions.
55. Delegates of States Parties, together with their alternates and advisers, representatives of members elected to the Executive Council, together with their alternates and advisers, the Director-General, the inspectors, the inspection assistants and the members of the staff of the Organization shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary in the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization.

56. The legal capacity, privileges and immunities referred to in this Article shall be defined in agreements between the Organization and the State Parties as well as in an agreement between the Organization and the State in which the Organization is seated. Such agreements shall be considered and approved in accordance with paragraph 26 (h) and (i).

57. Notwithstanding paragraphs 54 and 55, the privileges and immunities enjoyed by the Director-General, the inspectors, the inspection assistants and the members of the staff of the Technical Secretariat during the conduct of verification activities shall be those set forth in the Protocol.

Article III National Implementation Measures

1. Each State Party shall, in accordance with its constitutional processes, take any necessary measures to implement its obligations under this Treaty. In particular, it shall take any necessary measures:

- (a) To prohibit natural and legal persons anywhere on its territory or in any other place under its jurisdiction as recognized by international law from undertaking any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty ;
- (b) To prohibit natural and legal persons from undertaking any such activity anywhere under its control; and
- (c) To prohibit, in conformity with international law, natural person possessing its nationality from undertaking any such activity anywhere.

2. Each State Party shall cooperate with other States Parties and afford the appropriate form of legal assistance to facilitate the implementation of the obligations under paragraph 1.

3. Each State Party shall inform the Organization of the measures taken pursuant to this Article.

4. In order to fulfill its obligations under the Treaty, each State Party shall designate or set up a National Authority and shall so inform the Organization upon entry into force of the Treaty for it. The National Authority shall serve as the national focal point for liaison with the Organization and with other States Parties.

Article IV Verification

A. General Provisions

1. In order to verify compliance with this Treaty, a verification regime shall be established consisting of the following elements:

- (a) An International Monitoring System;
- (b) Consultation and clarification;
- (c) On-site inspections; and
- (d) Confidence-building measures.

At entry into force of this Treaty, the verification regime shall be capable of meeting the verification requirements of this Treaty.

2. Verification activities shall be based on objective information, shall be limited to the subject matter of this Treaty, and shall be carried out on the basis of full respect for the sovereignty of States Parties and in the least intrusive manner possible consistent with the effective and timely accomplishment of their objectives. Each State Party shall refrain from any abuse of the right of verification.

3. Each State Party undertakes in accordance with this Treaty to cooperate through its National Authority established pursuant to Article III, paragraph 4, with the Organization and with other States Parties to facilitate the verification of compliance with this Treaty by *inter alia*:

- (a) Establishing the necessary facilities to participate in these verification measures and establishing the necessary communication;
- (b) Providing data obtained from national stations that are part of the International Monitoring System;
- (c) Participating, as appropriate, in a consultation and clarification process;
- (d) Permitting the conduct of on-site inspections; and
- (e) Participating, as appropriate, in confidence-building measures.

4. All States Parties, irrespective of their technical and financial capabilities, shall enjoy the equal right of verification and assume the equal obligation to accept verification.

5. For the purposes of this Treaty, no State Party shall be precluded from using information obtained by national technical means of verification in a manner consistent with generally recognized principles of international law, including that of respect for the sovereignty of States.

6. Without prejudice to the right of States Parties to protect sensitive installations, activities or locations not related to this

Treaty, States Parties shall not interfere with elements of the verification regime of this Treaty or with national technical means of verification operating in accordance with paragraph 5.

7. Each State Party shall have the right to take measures to protect sensitive installations and to prevent disclosure of confidential information and data not related to this Treaty.

8. Moreover, all necessary measures shall be taken to protect the confidentiality of any information related to civil and military activities and facilities obtained during verification activities.

9. Subject to paragraph 8, information obtained by the Organization through the verification regime established by this Treaty shall be made available to all States Parties in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Treaty and the Protocol.

10. The provisions of this Treaty shall not be interpreted as restricting the international exchange of data for scientific purposes.

11. Each State Party undertakes to cooperate with the Organization and with other States Parties in the improvement of the verification regime, and in the examination of the verification potential of additional monitoring technologies such as electromagnetic pulse monitoring or satellite monitoring, with a view to developing, when appropriate, specific measures to enhance the efficient and cost-effective verification of this Treaty. Such measures shall, when agreed, be incorporated in existing provisions in this Treaty, the Protocol or as additional sections of the Protocol, in accordance with Article VII, or, if appropriate, be reflected in the operational manuals in accordance with Article II, paragraph 44.

12. The States Parties undertake to promote cooperation among themselves to facilitate and participate in the fullest possible exchange relating to technologies used in the verification of this Treaty in order to enable all States Parties to strengthen their national implementation of verification measures and to benefit from the application of such technologies for peaceful purposes.

13. The provisions of this Treaty shall be implemented in a manner which avoids hampering the economic and technological development of the States Parties for further development of the application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Verification Responsibilities of the Technical Secretariat – [Eds...]

B. The International Monitoring System – [Eds...]

C. Consultation and Clarification – [Eds...]

D. On-Site Inspections – [Eds...]

E. Confidence-Building Measures – [Eds...]

Article V Measures to Redress a Situation and to Ensure Compliance, Including Sanctions

1. The Conference, taking into account, *inter alia*, the recommendations of the Executive Council, shall take the necessary measures, as set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3, to ensure compliance with this Treaty and to redress and remedy any situation which contravenes the provisions of this Treaty.

2. In cases where a State Party has been requested by the Conference or the Executive Council to redress a situation raising problems with regard to its compliance and fails to fulfil the request within the specified time, the Conference may, *inter alia*, decide to restrict or suspend the State Party from the exercise of its rights and privileges under this Treaty until the Conference decides otherwise.

3. In cases where damage to the object and purpose of this Treaty may result from non-compliance with the basic obligations of this Treaty, the Conference may recommend to States Parties collective measures which are in conformity with international law.

4. The Conference, or alternatively, if the case is urgent, the Executive Council, may bring the issue, including relevant information and conclusions to the attention of the United Nations.

Article VI Settlement of Disputes

1. Disputes that may arise concerning the application or the interpretation of this Treaty shall be settled in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Treaty and in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. When a dispute arises between two or more States Parties, or between one or more States Parties and the Organization, relating to the application or interpretation of this Treaty, the parties concerned shall consult together with a view to the expeditious settlement of the dispute by negotiation or by other peaceful

means of the parties' choice, including recourse to appropriate organs of this Treaty and, by mutual consent, referral to the International Court of Justice in conformity with the Statute of the Court. The parties involved shall keep the Executive Council informed of actions being taken.

3. The Executive Council may contribute to the settlement of a dispute that may arise concerning the application or interpretation of this Treaty by whatever means it deems appropriate, including offering its good offices, calling upon the States Parties to a dispute to seek a settlement through a process of their own choice, bringing the matter to the attention of the Conference and recommending a time-limit for any agreed procedure.

4. The Conference shall consider questions related to disputes raised by States Parties or brought to its attention by the Executive Council. The Conference shall, as it finds necessary, establish or entrust organs with tasks related to the settlement of these disputes in conformity with Article II, paragraph 26 (j).

5. The Conference and the Executive Council are separately empowered, subject to authorization from the General Assembly of the United Nations, to request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question arising within the scope of the activities of the Organization. An agreement between the Organization and the United Nations shall be concluded for this purpose in accordance with Article II, paragraph 38 (h).

6. This Article is without prejudice to Articles IV and V.

Article VII Amendments

1. At any time after the entry into force of this Treaty, any State Party may propose amendments to this Treaty, the Protocol, or the Annexes to the Protocol. Any State Party may also propose changes, in accordance with paragraph 7, to the Protocol or the Annexes thereto. Proposals for amendment shall be subject to the procedures in paragraphs 2 to 6. Proposals for changes, in accordance with paragraph 7, shall be subject to the procedures in paragraph 8.

2. The proposed amendment shall be considered and adopted only by a Amendment Conference.

3. Any proposal for an amendment shall be communicated to the Director-General, who shall circulate it to all States Parties and the Depositary and seek the views of the States Parties on whether an Amendment Conference should be convened to consider the proposal. If a majority of the States Parties notify the Director-General no later than 30 days after its circulation that they support further consideration of the proposal, the Director-General shall convene an Amendment Conference to which all States Parties shall be invited.

4. The Amendment Conference shall be held immediately following a regular session of the Conference unless all States Parties that support the convening of an Amendment Conference request that it be held earlier. In no case shall an Amendment Conference be held less than 60 days after the circulation of the proposed amendment.

5. Amendments shall be adopted by the Amendment Conference by a positive vote of a majority of the States Parties with no State Party casting a negative vote.

6. Amendments shall enter into force for all States Parties 30 days after deposit of the instruments of ratification or acceptance by all those States Parties casting a positive vote at the Amendment Conference.

7. In order to ensure the viability and effectiveness of this Treaty, Parts I and III of the Protocol and Annexes 1 and 2 to the Protocol shall be subject to changes in accordance with paragraph 8, if the proposed changes are related only to matters of an administrative or technical nature. All other provisions of the Protocol and the Annexes thereto shall not be subject to changes in accordance with paragraph 8.

8. Proposed changes referred to in paragraph 7 shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:

- (a) The text of the proposed changes shall be transmitted together with the necessary information to the Director-General. Additional information for the evaluation of the proposal may be provided by any State Party and the Director-General. The Director-General shall promptly communicate any such proposals and information to all States Parties, the Executive Council and the Depositary;
- (b) No later than 60 days after its receipt, the Director-General shall evaluate the proposal to determine all its possible consequences for the provisions of this Treaty and its implementation and shall communicate any such information

to all States Parties and the Executive Council;

- (c) The Executive Council shall examine the proposal in the light of all information available to it, including whether the proposal fulfils the requirements of paragraph 7. No later than 90 days after its receipt, the Executive Council shall notify its recommendation, with appropriate explanations, to all States Parties for consideration. States Parties shall acknowledge receipt within 10 days;
- (d) If the Executive Council recommends to all States Parties that the proposal be adopted, it shall be considered approved if no state Party objects to it within 90 days after receipt of the recommendation. If the Executive Council recommends that the proposal be rejected, it shall be considered rejected if no State Party objects to the rejection within 90 days after receipt of the recommendation;
- (e) If a recommendation of the Executive Council does not meet with the acceptance required under sub-paragraph (d), a decision on the proposal, including whether it fulfils the requirements of paragraph 7, shall be taken as a matter of substance by the Conference at its next session;
- (f) The Director-General shall notify all States Parties and the Depositary of any decision under this paragraph;
- (g) Changes approved under this procedure shall enter into force for all States Parties 180 days after the date of notification by the Director-General of their approval unless another time period is recommended by the Executive Council or decided by the Conference.

Article VIII Review of the Treaty

1. Unless otherwise decided by a majority of the States Parties, ten years after the entry into force of this Treaty a Conference of the States Parties shall be held to review the operation and effectiveness of this Treaty, with view to assuring itself that the objectives and purposes in the Preamble and the provisions of the Treaty are being realized. Such review shall take into account any new scientific and technological developments relevant to this Treaty. On the basis of a request by any State Party, the Review Conference shall consider the possibility of permitting the conduct of underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. If the Review Conference decides by consensus that such nuclear explosions may be permitted, it shall commence work without delay, with a view to recommending to States Parties an appropriate amendment to this Treaty that shall preclude any military benefits of such nuclear explosions. Any such proposed amendment shall be communicated to the Director-General by any State Party and shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Article VII.

2. At intervals of ten years thereafter, further Review Conferences may be convened with the same objective, if the Conference so decides as a matter of procedure in the preceding year. Such Conferences may be convened after an interval of less than ten years if so decided by the Conference as a matter of substance.

3. Normally, any Review Conference shall be held immediately following the regular annual session of the Conference provided for in Article II.

Article IX Duration and Withdrawal

1. This Treaty shall be of unlimited duration.

2. Each State Party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of this Treaty have jeopardized its supreme interests.

3. Withdrawal shall be effected by giving notice six months in advance to all other States Parties, the Executive Council, the Depositary and the United Nations Security Council. Notice of withdrawal shall include a statement of the extraordinary event or events which a State Party regards as jeopardizing its supreme interests.

Article X Status of the Protocol and the Annexes

The Annexes to this Treaty, the Protocol, and the Annexes to the Protocol form an integral part of the Treaty. Any reference to this Treaty, includes the Annexes to this Treaty, the Protocol and the Annexes to the Protocol.

Article XI Signature

This Treaty shall be open to all States for signature before its entry

into force.

Article XII Ratification

This Treaty shall be subject to ratification by signatory States according to their respective constitutional processes.

Article XIII Accession

Any State which does not sign this Treaty before its entry into force may accede to it at any time thereafter.

Article XIV Entry into Force

1. This Treaty shall enter into force 180 days after the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification by all States listed in Annex 2 to this Treaty, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature.
2. If this Treaty has not entered into force three years after the date of the anniversary of its opening for signature, the Depositary shall convene a Conference of the States that have already deposited their instruments of ratification on the request of a majority of those States. That Conference shall examine the extent to which the requirement set out in paragraph 1 has been met and shall consider and decide by consensus what measures consistent with international law may be undertaken to accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate the early entry into force of this Treaty.
3. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference referred to in paragraph 2 or other such conferences, this process shall be repeated at subsequent anniversaries of the opening for signature of this Treaty, until its entry into force.
4. All States Signatories shall be invited to attend the Conference referred to in paragraph 2 and any subsequent conferences as referred to in paragraph 3, as observers.
5. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Treaty, it shall enter into force on the 30th day following the date of deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

Article XV Reservations

The Articles of and the Annexes to this Treaty shall not be subject to reservations. The provisions of the Protocol to this Treaty and the Annexes to the Protocol shall not be subject to reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of this Treaty.

Article XVI Depositary

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the Depositary of this Treaty and shall receive signatures, instruments of ratification and instruments of accession.
2. The Depositary shall promptly inform all States Signatories and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession, the date of the entry into force of this Treaty and of any amendments and changes thereto, and the receipt of other notices.
3. The Depositary shall send duly certified copies of this Treaty to the Governments of the States Signatories and acceding States.
4. This Treaty shall be registered by the Depositary pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article XVII Authentic Texts

This Treaty, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Annex 1 to the Treaty

List of States Pursuant to Article II, Paragraph 28

Africa

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Eastern Europe

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Middle East and South Asia

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Oman, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

North America and Western Europe

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holy see, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

South East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

Annex 2 to the Treaty

List of States Pursuant to Article XIV

List of States members of the Conference on Disarmament as at 18 June 1996 which formally participated in the work of the 1996 session of the Conference and which appear in Table 1 of the International Atomic Energy Agency's April 1996 edition of 'Nuclear Power Reactors in the World', and of States members of the Conference on Disarmament as at 18 June 1996 which formally participated in the work of the 1996 session of the Conference and which appear in Table 1 of the International Atomic Energy Agency's December 1995 edition of 'Nuclear Research Reactors in the World':

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam, Zaire.

Protocol to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty

Part I — The International Monitoring System and International Data Centre Functions – [Eds...]

Part II — On-Site Inspections – [Eds...]

Part III — Confidence-Building Measures – [Eds...]

Annex 1 to the Protocol – [Eds...]

Annex 2 to the Protocol – [Eds...]

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty – Signatures and Ratifications

[as at 10 March 2026]

Total Signed: 187 Total Ratified: 178

Not Signed: 9 Not Ratified: 18

Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

CTBT-Art.XIV/2025/WP.1
[12 September 2025]

We, the ratifying States, together with other States Signatories, met on 26 September 2025 to discuss concrete measures to facilitate the urgent entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We are deeply concerned that on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the opening for signature of the CTBT, the prospect for entry into force of the Treaty remains unclear. We affirm that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We reaffirm the vital importance and urgency of the entry into force of the CTBT and urge all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level.

We reaffirm that overwhelming support for the Treaty and the urgency of its entry into force has been expressed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), most recently in resolution A/RES/79/77; the United Nations Security Council Summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in New York on 24 September 2009, which adopted resolution 1887; the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-up actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); the tenth NPT Review Conference held in New York and the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the eleventh NPT Review Conference held in Vienna, Geneva and New York respectively; the expressions of support for the CTBT made through relevant United Nations organs; the calls for the entry into force as soon as possible of the CTBT made during meetings of States Parties of relevant international legally binding instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation and international and regional meetings; and all the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations that are relevant in the context of the CTBT, demonstrate continued strong international will and support to see this Treaty brought into force. We recall the deep concern expressed in the outcome document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference with respect to the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons”. We reconfirm that wide support has been expressed at the NPT Review Conferences since the CTBT opened for signature in 1996 for the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT at the earliest possible date as a vital multilateral instrument for nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

We reiterate the importance of the process of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT and encourage continued efforts in this regard. We welcome the range of ratification outreach activities, noting among others, past activities of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Youth Group, and individual efforts by States Signatories including the Ministerial Meeting of the “Friends of the CTBT” and activities organized in connection with the United Nations International Day Against Nuclear Tests (IDANT), which share the objective of early entry into force of the Treaty. We highlight the support given by the Executive Secretary and the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO to those activities.

We welcome that 187 States have signed and 178 States have ratified the CTBT, including now 35 out of 44 whose ratification is necessary for its entry into force (Annex 2 States). In this respect, we welcome progress made towards universalization of the Treaty and recognize the significance of the ratification of the Treaty by Papua New Guinea since the 2023 Conference on Facilitating the

Entry into Force of the CTBT. We regret the absence for many years of any further progress among Annex 2 States that still have to sign or ratify the CTBT. We also regret the withdrawal of the instrument of ratification by one Annex 2 State. We urge the remaining nine Annex 2 States (listed in the Appendix), whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the CTBT, to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay, bearing in mind that the CTBT was opened for signature over 29 years ago, and call upon these States to take individual initiatives to sign and ratify the CTBT. In this regard, we would welcome opportunities to engage with non-signatory States, in particular Annex 2 States. We would therefore like to encourage these States to participate as appropriate in future sessions of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO as observers.

We further reiterate the statement in the CTBT Preamble that “the cessation of all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects”. Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, we reaffirm our commitments, as expressed in the conclusions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and call on all States to refrain from nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, the development and use of new nuclear weapon technologies, and any action that would undermine the object and purpose and the implementation of the provisions of the CTBT. As any resumption of nuclear tests would be contrary to the objectives of the Treaty, we call on all States to reaffirm and maintain all existing moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect to end nuclear weapon testing and all other nuclear explosions, which can only be achieved with the entry into force of the Treaty.

We note with regret that, since the 2023 Article XIV Conference there has been no tangible progress towards the ratification of the CTBT by nuclear weapon States which have not yet ratified the Treaty, which is detrimental to our joint efforts to promote the entry into force of the Treaty. We strongly encourage these nuclear weapon States to ratify the CTBT without delay and preconditions. We recall with resolve the undertaking by all nuclear weapon States to ratify the CTBT with all expediency, while also noting that positive decisions by nuclear weapon States will have a beneficial impact towards the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty.

Recalling paragraph 5 of this statement, with regard to the prohibition of nuclear test explosions, we recall our condemnation of the six nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) since 2006. We note that the last such test was conducted in 2017. We appreciate the effectiveness of the CTBT verification regime demonstrated in relation to those nuclear tests, which highlight the urgent need for entry into force of the Treaty. We express serious concern over the security situation on the Korean Peninsula and the DPRK’s ongoing nuclear development and rhetoric consistent with the stated objective of exponentially increasing its nuclear weapons as well as the readiness of its nuclear test site. We reiterate the importance of the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, stating that “the DPRK shall abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and immediately cease all related activities”, while keeping “the DPRK’s actions under continuous review”, and being “prepared to strengthen, modify, suspend or lift the measures as may be needed in light of the DPRK’s compliance”. We underscore the importance of the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, and call for dialogue among all concerned parties on this matter. We call upon the DPRK not to conduct further nuclear tests and to sign and ratify the CTBT and return to substantive negotiations. In this regard, we call upon the international community to double political efforts and diplomatic engagement to reduce tensions and achieve sustainable peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, including through Six-Party Talks.

We remain fully committed to providing the political, technical and financial support required to enable the Preparatory Commission

for the CTBTO to complete all its tasks in the most efficient and cost effective way, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty and the 1996 Resolution establishing the Preparatory Commission, in particular the further build-up of all elements of the verification regime, which will be unprecedented in its global reach. We note with satisfaction the further progress achieved in the establishment of the International Monitoring System (IMS), which currently has 307 certified facilities, the functioning of the International Data Centre (IDC), and the continuing progress in enhancing on-site inspection capabilities including through the conduct of build-up exercises and the preparations to conduct the next Integrated Field Exercise. We welcome the transmission of IMS data to the IDC by all States on a testing and provisional operational basis before the entry into force of the Treaty, in accordance with the approved guidelines of the Nineteenth Session of the Preparatory Commission. We look forward to the entry into force of the Treaty, in accordance with Article XIV thereof, recognizing that only this will allow the use of the verification regime, with all of its elements, for verification purposes.

While bearing in mind the Treaty's objective, as specified in its preamble and provisions, regarding nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, we are encouraged by the fact that the IMS and the IDC of the CTBT verification regime, in addition to their verification role, have also demonstrated their utility in bringing tangible scientific and civil benefits, including for tsunami warning systems. We note the importance of maintaining the viability of the IMS network, including the integrity of IMS facilities so that these benefits, and possibly other disaster alert systems, can be broadly shared by the international community in conformity with the Treaty, the Resolution establishing the Preparatory Commission, and under the guidance of the Preparatory Commission. We also recognize the importance of capacity building and the sharing of relevant expertise on the verification regime, including through holding Science and Technology conferences.

We reaffirm our determination to take concrete and actionable steps towards early entry into force and universalization of the Treaty, and to this end adopt the following measures:

- (a) Spare no effort and use all avenues open to us to encourage further signature and ratification of the Treaty, and urge all States to sustain the momentum generated by this Conference and remain seized of the issue at the highest political level;
- (b) Support and encourage mutually supportive outreach initiatives and activities at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels to promote the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty;
- (c) Encourage ratifying States to continue the practice of designating coordinators to promote cooperation aimed at promoting further signatures and ratifications, taking note of a coordinators' action plan to implement the measures adopted in this declaration;
- (d) Establish a contact list of countries among ratifying States which volunteer to assist the coordinators in various regions in promoting activities to achieve early entry into force of the Treaty;
- (e) Encourage the remaining Annex 2 States to provide, on a voluntary basis, information on practical steps towards signature/ratification of the Treaty;
- (f) Recognize the need to promote the objectives of the Treaty and to facilitate its early entry into force, including through the GEM;
- (g) Encourage all States to actively participate in the annual International Day against Nuclear Tests as established by the UNGA resolution A/RES/64/35, which has been instrumental in increasing awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions;

- (h) Encourage the organization of regional seminars in conjunction with various regional meetings in order to increase awareness of the important role the Treaty plays and encourage the sharing of experience within regions;
- (i) Call upon the Preparatory Commission to continue its international cooperation activities and the organization of workshops, seminars and training programmes in the legal and technical fields for the purpose of ratification outreach;
- (j) Call upon the Preparatory Commission to continue to promote the understanding of the Treaty, including through education and training initiatives, and demonstrating the benefits of the civil and scientific applications of the verification technologies to wider audiences, bearing in mind the purpose and specific mandates as foreseen in the Treaty;
- (k) Request that the PTS continue to provide States with legal assistance with respect to the ratification process and implementation measures and, in order to enhance these activities and their visibility, maintain a list of national contact points for the exchange and dissemination of relevant information and documentation;
- (l) Request the PTS to continue to act as a focal point for collecting information on outreach activities undertaken by ratifying States and other States Signatories, and to maintain a consolidated and updated overview of the information based on inputs provided by ratifying States and other States Signatories;
- (m) Encourage cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society to raise awareness of and support for the Treaty and its objectives, as well as the need for its early entry into force;
- (n) Reaffirm the need to fully support the work of the Preparatory Commission to complete the verification regime through international cooperation and the need to continue capacity building and the sharing of expertise;
- (o) Encourage all States to participate in and contribute to the completion of the verification regime and support endeavours to enhance the effectiveness of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO through technical and political support to the PTS.

Press statement from the Russian Duma on de-ratifying CTBT

[18 Oct 2023]

Members of the State Duma unanimously voted to adopt the bill on the withdrawal of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the second and third readings.

The Chairman of the State Duma, leaders of the State Duma factions and almost all members of the State Duma are the co-authors of the bill.

The issue of de-ratification was raised by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin at the Valdai Discussion Club meeting.

“Just think: the USA has not ratified this document for 23 years, and yesterday their officials just woke up and remembered the members of the State Duma. They should resign due to irresponsibility. Cynicism and double standards, world on fire are the consequences of such attitude. They imagine themselves to be hegemon,

supporters of a unipolar world,” said the Chairman of the State Duma.

The Chairman of the State Duma emphasized that the decision to withdraw the ratification of the CTBT was made solely in the interests of our country and the whole world, built on the basis of stability, security and justice. “This is the policy pursued by our President,” he stressed.

In particular, according to him, the irresponsible approach of the United States of America towards global security is reflected in the unilateral position of the US leadership on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, where they support only Israel. “Such an approach, God forbid, could lead to new hundreds and thousands of victims, and Washington would be responsible for that,” said Leonid Slutsky and added that the next day there would be adopted a relevant appeal of the State Duma to the UN and parliaments of the world. The parliamentarian assured that Russia was ready for any adequate actions to protect global security and maintain parity in nuclear forces. “If the thoughtlessness and irresponsibility [of the USA] towards global security allows any nuclear weapons to be tested, our test facilities are also ready for that. We will do everything necessary to maintain stability in the world,” said the Chairman of the Committee.

Leonid Slutsky expressed confidence that “most countries in the world are grouped around Russia and its President.” Russia will do everything to prevent the world from sliding into war”, he stressed.

First Committee Resolution, ‘Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty’

A/C.1/76/L.43
[15 October 2025]

The General Assembly,

[Eds...]

1. Stresses the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, in order to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;
2. Welcomes the contributions by the signatory States to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to fulfil its mandate to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty, and encourages their continuation;
3. Underlines the need to maintain momentum towards the completion of all elements of the verification regime and put into place plans and adequate resources for its long-term sustainability;
4. Urges all States not to carry out nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, to maintain their moratoriums in this regard and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty;
5. Reiterates its condemnation of the six nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions, urges full compliance with the obligations under those resolutions, including that the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea abandon its nuclear weapons programme and not conduct any further nuclear tests, reaffirms its support for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, welcomes all efforts and dialogue to this end, and encourages all parties to continue diplomatic efforts;
6. Urges all States to refrain from any action that may hamper progress towards the entry into force of the Treaty and its universalization;
7. Also urges all States that have not yet signed or ratified, or that have signed but not yet ratified, the Treaty, in particular the nine whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to accelerate their

ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

8. Encourages further expressions from among the remaining States whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to enter into force of their intention to pursue and complete the ratification process;

9. Welcomes the reappointment of Robert Floyd as the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization by States members of the governing body of the Preparatory Commission;

10. Urges all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-first session the item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”.

US President addressing nuclear testing on Social Media

[30 October 2025]

The United States has more Nuclear Weapons than any other country. This was accomplished, including a complete update and renovation of existing weapons, during my First Term in office. Because of the tremendous destructive power, I HATED to do it, but had no choice! Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years. Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately. Thank you for your attention to this matter!
PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

US Statement to the Conference on Disarmament accusing China of a nuclear test

[6 February 2026]

[Eds . . .]

Today, I can reveal that the U.S. Government is aware that China has conducted nuclear explosive tests, including preparing for tests with designated yields in the hundreds of tons. The PLA sought to conceal testing by obfuscating the nuclear explosions because it recognized these tests violate test ban commitments. China has used decoupling – a method to decrease the effectiveness of seismic monitoring – to hide their activities from the world. China conducted one such yield producing nuclear test on June 22 of 2020.

[Eds . . .]

Statement by Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO

[6 February 2026]

The CTBTO’s International Monitoring System (IMS) is capable of detecting nuclear test explosions with a yield equivalent to or greater than approximately 500 tonnes of TNT, including detecting all six tests conducted and declared by the DPRK. Below 500 tonnes is roughly 3 percent of the yield of the explosion that devastated Hiroshima.

Mechanisms which could address smaller explosions are provided by the Treaty but can only be used once the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty enters into force. That is why it is important that the nuclear arms control framework includes the entry into force of the CTBT. The need is more urgent now than ever.

Regarding reports of possible nuclear tests with yields in the hundreds of tonnes, on 22 June 2020, the CTBTO’s IMS did

not detect any event consistent with the characteristics of a nuclear weapon test explosion at that time. Subsequent, more detailed analyses have not altered that determination. Any nuclear test explosion, by any state, is of deepest concern.

Chinese Press Conference on US accusations

[11 February 2026]

[Eds . . .]

The U.S. accusation of Chinese nuclear explosive tests is completely groundless. China opposes the U.S.'s fabrication of pretexts for its own resumption of nuclear tests. China urges the U.S. to renew the commitment of the five nuclear-weapons states to a moratorium on nuclear testing, uphold the global consensus on the ban on nuclear testing, and take concrete actions to safeguard the international nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime.

China is committed to peaceful development, follows a nuclear strategy that focuses on self-defense, and maintains long-term consistency in its nuclear policy. We will continue playing a constructive role in safeguarding international peace and security.

[Eds . . .]

Statement by Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO

[17 February 2026]

At the specific time of 9:18am UTC, on 22 June 2020, the CTBTO's International Monitoring System (IMS) detected two very small seismic events, 12 seconds apart. The location of these events was in the vicinity of 40.65N; 89.22E and 41.08N; 89.63E.

The IMS is currently capable of identifying events consistent with nuclear test explosions with a yield equivalent to or greater than approximately 500 tonnes of TNT. These two events were far below that level. As a result, with this data alone, it is not possible to assess the cause of these events with confidence.

Verification mechanisms which could address disputed claims or smaller explosions are provided by the Treaty but can only be used once the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty enters into force.

NORSAR Press Release: Preliminary Seismic Assessment of the 22 June 2020 Event near Lop Nor

[19 February 2026]

In response, NORSAR undertook a review of available seismic data from the region. As part of this work, NORSAR conducted a systematic scan of the full 24-hour period of 22 June 2020. This analysis was carried out in the days following the 6 February public statement and prior to the subsequent U.S. announcement on 17 February 2026 identifying a specific time of interest. Through this independent screening process, NORSAR identified a small seismic event occurring at approximately 09:18 UTC as the only signal on that day potentially compatible with a source in the Lop Nor region. The later U.S. statement referring to the 09:18 UTC event is consistent with the timing identified through NORSAR's independent analysis.

The 09:18 UTC event is clearly recorded at a high-sensitivity seismic array in Kazakhstan, located approximately 740 km from the Lop Nor test area. The direction and timing of the signal are compatible with a source in that region. However, the signal is clearly observed at only one primary array. Other regional stations did not record strong supporting signals, and a nearer Chinese station shows only weak observations.

As a result, the precise epicentral location cannot be tightly constrained.

The event has an estimated local magnitude in the range of approximately 2.5–3.0. U.S. officials have referred to a magnitude of 2.75, which lies within this range. Small differences in reported magnitude are expected due to methodological and observational uncertainties, and it is scientifically appropriate to express the estimate as a range. If interpreted as a normally coupled underground explosion — meaning no measures were taken to reduce seismic signals — a magnitude in this range would correspond approximately to an explosive yield in the range 3 to 15 tonnes of TNT equivalent. If significant seismic decoupling were employed, the true yield could in principle be substantially larger, potentially in the several hundred tonne range and, under idealised conditions, above one kiloton. These yield figures represent illustrative scenarios based on modelling assumptions rather than direct measurements. The signal shows relatively strong compressional (P) waves compared to shear (S) waves, a feature that can be consistent with explosive sources. However, this characteristic alone is not diagnostic. Natural earthquakes can produce similar patterns, particularly when observations are limited to a single high-quality station. Further analysis is ongoing, including detailed waveform comparison and correlation studies to assess how unusual the 09:18 UTC signal is relative to background seismicity in the region.

Based on the currently available seismic data, NORSAR cannot confirm or refute the allegation that a nuclear test took place on 22 June 2020. The observed signal is compatible with a small event in the Lop Nor region and exhibits characteristics that can be associated with explosive sources. However, those characteristics are not unique to explosions, and the data do not rule out that the event could have been a small natural earthquake. Limited station coverage prevents definitive source identification at this stage.