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| MISSJONI PERMANENTI TAR-REPUBBLIKA TA’ MALTA  GĦALL-ORGANIZZAZZJONIJIET INTERNAZZJONALI  VJENNA |  | PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA  TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  VIENNA |

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

***Statement by***

***H.E Natasha Meli Daudey***

***Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the UN and other International Organisations in Vienna***

***12th Session of the Article XIV Conference***

***23rd to 24th September 2021***

Distinguished Co-Presidents,

Malta associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add a few additional observations in my national capacity.

I start by thanking the former Co-Presidents, Germany and Algeria, for their work over the past two years, as outlined in Progress Report they have presented, and convey my congratulations to Italy and South Africa as the new Co-Presidents of the Conference. I assure you of Malta’s full cooperation and support in continuing the work already started.

I also congratulate Dr Robert Floyd, on his appointment as the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO and assure him of our support to carry out his mandate towards our common goals.

Co-Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Conference convenes as we mark an important milestone. 25 years ago, the CTBT gave us hope for a world free of nuclear testing. My country, and others, consider the CTBT an important building block towards nuclear disarmament. Today, we are closer than ever to reaching this goal with 185 State Signatories and 170 ratifying states, the latest being Cuba and the Union of Comoros. Yet we are not there yet. We are hopeful that this positive momentum will continue, and that remaining States joining our big family subscribing to a nuclear-testing free world. Despite the increasing pressure on multilateralism, we should be focused on what we can do to achieve universalisation.

The value of the CTBT has already been proven through networks like the International Monitoring System in detecting and identifying nuclear explosions anywhere on the planet. The civilian and scientific applications of CTBT technologies, such as in natural disasters and public health, continue to enforce the huge impact that such a Treaty affords. Let’s give it a chance to show us its full potential once it enters into force.

Co-Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malta calls on all States, and in particular the remaining Annex II States, that have not signed or ratified the Treaty, to do so without any preconditions or delay. We also call upon all States to refrain from taking actions that go against the spirit of the CTBT and in this respect condemn nuclear tests carried out by the DPRK.

Reaching our goal of entry into force cannot happen without financial and political assistance for the Treaty and the Organisation, and in this regard call upon all States to honour these commitments and ensure their political support.

We also take this opportunity to thank the CTBTO Youth Group, and Executive Secretary Floyd for his engagement with the Group, in ensuring that we remain true to our word about wanting a world without nuclear testing.

Co-Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we continue working towards the universalisation and the entry into force of the CTBT, let us also take stock of the great work that has been and is being done, and keep up the momentum so that we can finish what we started.

Thank you.