

2021 Statement The Netherlands - CTBT Art XIV

- Today marks a day that calls for celebration as well as a moment to reflect on serious concerns. Celebration because we note that it has been 25 years since the presentation of the draft CTBT. In 1996 Dutch ambassador Ramaker served as Chairman of the CTBT negotiations. He is now 81 years old and hopes to see the CTBT enter into force during his lifetime.
- NL is a stalwart supporter of the treaty. It is a cornerstone of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime. The treaty makes it increasingly difficult for states to obtain and further develop nuclear weapons, ultimately leading to a nuclear weapon free world.
- A further cause for celebration is the fact that, over the course of 25 years, the Preparatory Commission has fully developed and prepared the organization for its future work, despite the fact that the Treaty is still not in force. I would like to commend the organization for that.
- The organization can take pride in the fact that the International Monitoring System (IMS) swiftly detected those tests that were conducted. The advanced system of verification ensures that no nuclear test can evade the eyes and ears of the international community. The Netherlands remains a proud contributor to the IMS.

- Another reason for celebration is the fact that the CTBT continues to welcome new members in its midst. With Cuba being the latest signatory state and the Comoros the latest member state.
- However, there is also reason for concern. 25 years after its presentation the treaty has still not entered into force. We urge the Annex 2 states to sign and ratify the treaty.
- A final reason for concern are the increasingly polarizing discussions at the PrepCom which distract from the organization's important technical mission.
- But the Netherlands remain optimistic and forward looking. At every opportunity we will urge those states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT.
- In the meantime we urge these States to uphold the nuclear test moratorium.

We will continue to support executive secretary Rob Floyd and his organization in their mission and in working towards a world free from nuclear weapons.