

**REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AT THE RESUMED  
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANNOUNCED NUCLEAR TEST BY  
THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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1. On 3 September at 03:30 (UTC), our verification system detected an unusual seismic event in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Subsequently, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced that it had conducted a nuclear test.
2. Immediately an open-ended technical briefing was held, during which you were briefed about our initial findings.
3. I condemn the announced nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Any nuclear explosive test is a blatant violation of the already established international norm against nuclear testing.
4. I call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease nuclear testing, to honour the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to seek peaceful settlement of its disputes through negotiation.
5. Over the last 20 years, the international community has made a great political and financial investment in the CTBT and its verification regime. We should preserve such an investment and its remarkable achievements by bringing the Treaty into force. Any further delays in entry into force of the Treaty pose serious risks to international peace and security. The recent nuclear test is yet another strong reminder that time is of the essence.
6. As I mentioned yesterday, our response to this and previous nuclear tests reinforces the need for testing and validation of the components of the verification regime. While discussing issues at the subsidiary bodies of the Commission we have to see the bigger picture and the larger interest of States Signatories in having a strong and robust verification regime.