



**10th Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT (High-level Meeting)**

**Statement by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu  
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

As Delivered



New York  
21 September 2022

Your Excellency, Prime Minister Kishida,  
Your Excellency, Foreign Minister Wong,  
Executive Secretary Floyd,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I wish to express my gratitude for the invitation extended to him to address this important meeting. He regrets that, due to prior commitments, he was unable to attend the meeting in person.

It is a great pleasure to be here with the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. I thank the governments of Australia and Japan for organising today's event, and especially welcome the high-level participation exemplified by His Excellency Prime Minister Kishida. I also wish to thank all the Friends of the CTBT for their continued support and commitment.

This meeting is a fitting way to cap the 25th anniversary year of the Treaty's adoption by the General Assembly. This year has seen remarkable advances towards the universalization of the CTBT. Four States – Dominica, the Gambia, Timor-Leste, and Tuvalu – joined the treaty in 2022. Another two States are about to deposit their instruments of ratification, bringing the number of newly ratifying States to six.

This excellent outcome is a result of the energetic efforts by Executive-Secretary Floyd, who, shortly after assuming office, set himself an ambitious goal of reaching five new ratifications in the 25th anniversary year. That goal is about to be achieved. Equally important, universalization of the CTBT has now been achieved in the Latin American and Caribbean and Southeast Asian regions in the past year, with the ratifications of Dominica and Timor-Leste respectively.

These developments should be a positive influence for the remaining Annex II States to finally sign and/or ratify the CTBT, enabling its entry into force.

Excellencies,

It is abundantly clear that, even without its entry-into-force, the CTBT has already made a meaningful impact, in upholding a global norm against nuclear testing, and in putting in place an effective international monitoring system that benefits all people, including those in the Least Developing Countries. I applaud Dr. Floyd and his outstanding staff for their continued work towards these ends. I would also like to highlight the role of Friends of the CTBT in creating positive momentum for the Treaty's entry-into-force, in order to allow its full potential to be realized.

That is a long-overdue task, more than a quarter century in the making, and one which we owe to all the people who were affected by past nuclear testing and their legacies, and to the future generations who have the right to live in a world free of threats of nuclear war, or intentional use or accidental explosion of nuclear weapons.

We will be going into a new review cycle of the NPT. We must re-establish momentum towards our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

As always, the United Nations stands ready to do everything possible to help its Member States achieve this critical goal.

I thank you very much for your attention.