



**CTBTO**  
PREPARATORY COMMISSION

COMPREHENSIVE  
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN  
TREATY ORGANIZATION

**Statement delivered at  
11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of “Friends of the CTBT”**

**Dr Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary**

**24 September 2024**

Chair, Foreign Minister Wong,  
Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Delegates,

Friends share good times. Friends also speak frankly to one another.

First, on sharing good times.

The CTBT is one of the world’s great treaties. It has transformed global security since 1996.

Before 1996, more than two thousand nuclear weapon tests, many far bigger than the bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This century, fewer than one dozen test events, and by one state only.

Why has the Treaty been so successful?

The CTBT is smart. It has first class science at its heart.

The CTBT is fair. States know that we’ll detect any test fast, accurately, without fear or favour.

The CTBT is transparent. The data is available to all States Signatories and our National Data Centres 4 All initiative ensures that no one is left behind.

As a result, more countries are signing and ratifying, nine in the past 30 months. We now have 187 signatories and 178 ratifications. Our most recent signatory state is Somalia. Our most recent ratifying state is Papua New Guinea.

Good times indeed!

But what of speaking frankly as friends do?

Let’s face it. These are worrying times, even dangerous times. Imagine that this very evening our monitoring system detects an explosion, and it looks like it’s a nuclear explosion.

Now imagine the state where that explosion occurred flatly denies that it was nuclear - accusations fly, risks and tensions grow fast.

Only a CTBTO On-Site Inspection, could actually give the answer - conclusive and evidence based, shared equally with all. No doubts. No risk of misinterpretation. Smart, fair, and transparent.

But today friends we can't run such an On-Site Inspection because for all of the success of the CTBT, the CTBT has not yet entered into force.

As things stand, there's no way out from this potentially disastrous scenario. With global tensions so high, isn't that situation almost reckless?

My message today: it's great to meet with friends. Friends buoy us up. Friends carry us forward. That's what we need today, for the last big push to press the case for this vital contribution to international peace and security, the entry into force of the CTBT.

The world needs that today.

Thank you.