**2021 ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE**

**Intervention by the delegation of Brazil**

Mr Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO),

Ladies and gentlemen Foreign Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen, Permanent Representatives to the United Nations,

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

As we mark the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, it is my pleasure to come here today to convey the message that Brazil remains an emphatic supporter of the Treaty as an indispensable tool of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr Chair,

This year`s conference takes place at a time of increasing international tension in different quarters, highlighting the need to work towards reinforcing the political momentum in support for the CTBT and its entry into force.

We are confident that your recent appointment as Executive-Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty Organization will breathe new life into efforts towards this objective.

As you are aware, Brazil took an active part in the negotiation process that led to the adoption of the CTBT and was one of the first countries to ratify it, in 1998.

Rest assured, Mr Chair, of the unequivocal support of Brazil in your quest to fulfill the mandate bestowed upon you.

Also, allow me to thank the co-presidents of this conference, from Italy and South Africa, for their role in steering the negotiation process in Vienna, which led to the adoption of the agenda and declaration of this conference.

Mr President,

The only way to consolidate the total, long lasting and verifiable ban of nuclear tests is the entry into force and effective universalization of the CTBT. In order to reach that goal, we need to engage further with those States that have not signed the Treaty or have done so but not ratified it. We call upon all nations included in Annex II to do so without any delay.

The main rationale for the CTBT lies on its contribution to nuclear disarmament, the very reason ratifying States joined the Treaty in the first place.

Brazil believes that attempts at reinterpreting the letter of the Treaty to erode this rationale or exclude nuclear disarmament from its priorities run counter to the principles it enshrines.

Moreover, the entry into force of the CTBT, important as it is, should be followed by a multilateral effort aimed at developing and implementing effective measures for nuclear disarmament providing for the transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

Yet, countries possessing nuclear weapons have well-funded, long-term plans to modernize their nuclear arsenals. More than half of the world`s population still lives in countries that either have such weapons or are members of nuclear alliances. In this sense, we recall the unique responsibility of Nuclear Weapon States towards a global regime on

non-proliferation.  
Mr President, ladies and gentlemen,

Brazil has historically advocated for nuclear disarmament. The adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the General Assembly of this organization, in 2017, with full support from Brazil, is an unequivocal evidence of our credentials on the matter. The TPNW conveys a strong message about the incompatibility between nuclear weapons and the international order based on the principles of international humanitarian law and of human rights.   
Let`s finish what we started.   
Thank you.