

Media statement by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

(in response to media reports quoting remarks by U.S. Lieutenant General Robert P. Ashley)

29 May 2019

The CTBTO's International Monitoring System (IMS) is operating as normal and has not detected any unusual event.

The CTBTO has full confidence in the ability of the IMS to detect nuclear test explosions according to the provisions of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The CTBT verification regime is already working and effective, with over 300 monitoring stations deployed around the world and sending data.

At the same time, the Treaty can only be fully implemented after its entry into force, when the prohibition becomes legally binding for all States Parties. This is also true of the final verification measure of the Treaty, the provisions for on-site inspections, which would allow for on-site visits at short notice if requested by any State Party.

(For further comments on this story by Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo, see <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-defense/u-s-believes-russia-conducting-low-level-nuclear-tests-official-idUSKCN1SZ1O0?il=0>)