

**Address by Mr Lassina Zerbo
Executive Secretary**

**Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

**Delivered on his behalf by Mr Oleg Rozhkov,
Director, On-Site Inspection Division**

***58th Regular Session of the General Conference of the
International Atomic Energy Agency
(Vienna, 22-26 September 2014)***

Mr President,
Director General Amano,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, Mr. President, allow me to express my congratulations on your election and to wish you a productive conference. I am honoured to speak on behalf of Dr Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) at this prestigious forum.

The CTBTO and the International Atomic Energy Agency share a common vision: that of a safe and secure world, free of the threat of nuclear weapons. We continue to share responsibilities towards creating such a world by contributing to the establishment of a global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. While the CTBT has not yet entered into force, it is already applied as a *de-facto* international norm, as illustrated by the response of the international community to the announced nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2006, 2009 and 2013, and by the operational readiness of the CTBTO on each of these occasions.

But it is not only this vision that we have in common. The very principles and methods that underpin our work bring us together. Multilateralism, verification and cooperation are words that resonate strongly on both ends of this building. Both our organizations enjoy large memberships –

which have in fact become very similar in composition –, and rely on science and technology to provide Member States with assistance and support. Such parallels place the CTBTO and IAEA in a privileged position to seek opportunities for enhanced cooperation, in particular with a view to optimising resources and, to the extent possible, avoiding duplication.

A case in point in this regard has been the need to continue strengthening global emergency preparedness and to develop an efficient disaster response system. With its 337 monitoring facilities and 250 communication assets, which are almost 90% complete, the CTBTO verification system has been able to both fulfil its verification-related role as well as contribute to human welfare in a crucial way.

The use of all four CTBT technologies in the monitoring and understanding of the tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident clearly illustrate the value of these assets. Cooperation between the IAEA and the CTBTO proved vital in the aftermath of these events.

The Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE), of which the CTBTO has been a member since 2012, is an essential mechanism to strengthen the coordination between relevant organizations, as well as communication with the public, with the aim of enhancing overall international emergency preparedness and response. As a member of the Committee, the CTBTO also co-sponsors the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations (JPLAN), an inter-agency framework coordinated by the IAEA to prepare for and respond to “an actual, potential or perceived radiation incident or emergency independent of whether it arises from an accident, natural disaster, negligence, a nuclear security event or any other cause.” Within this framework, the key responsibilities of the CTBTO are to gather and provide close to real-time radionuclide particulate and noble gas monitoring data including results on radionuclide air concentration and non-detections, and to arrange for advice or assistance on atmospheric transport and dispersion predictions relevant to its samples.

These are only some examples of how the CTBTO is able to make a tangible contribution to nuclear safety and security worldwide. The next field exercise of the Treaty’s on-site inspection component, IFE14, will be held later this year in Jordan, further strengthening the organization’s capacity to carry out on-site inspections when requested and approved by Member States. It will be the largest and most in-depth simulation of the Treaty’s on-site inspection procedures ever held, and will incorporate a thorough evaluation of readiness.

Whether in on-site inspection equipment, monitoring stations, data centres or communication infrastructure, it is the cutting-edge science and technology that give the Treaty’s verification regime its unique and proven value. For this reason, our biennial Science and Technology conferences continue to strengthen the relationship of the CTBTO with the broader scientific community. Last year’s conference SnT2013 was attended by over 750 experts from around 100 countries – including,

with the exception of the DPRK, scientists from the Annex 2 countries that have yet to ratify the Treaty for its entry into force. Planning for next year's event, SnT2015, is now underway

A portion of the SnT2013 was devoted to the issue of emissions of the radioactive noble gas xenon by radiopharmaceutical plants, which is of interest to Member States of both the IAEA and the CTBTO. The readings from these emissions are very similar to those of a nuclear explosion and therefore may affect the detections by the CTBTO's noble gas network. The CTBTO has developed a unique expertise in characterizing the worldwide Xenon background, Options to better identify and mitigate xenon emissions are also jointly discussed at the regularly held Workshop on Signatures of Medical and Industrial Isotope Production (WOSMIP).. In order to respond to the interest of Member States, the CTBTO would like to intensify its cooperation with IAEA on this topic.

In order to build and maintain the necessary awareness and capacity in the technical, scientific, legal and political aspects of the Treaty and its verification regime, the CTBTO has invested heavily in training and education activities. By offering specialized courses and utilizing online learning and new media, the CTBTO is expanding the pool of expertise among its stakeholders and increasing active engagement on the critical issues underpinning the Treaty. This innovative approach has further strengthened the organization's technical capacity-building and training activities that enable Member States to collect, transmit, receive and use CTBTO data.

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With the political, technical and financial support of its 183 Member States, the CTBTO Preparatory Commission has established a state-of-the-art verification system that is unprecedented in its global reach. This system has proven its worth, whether in its primary role by detecting this century's only nuclear tests announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with ever-increasing accuracy, or by allowing its products to be used for civil or scientific purposes – such as in the case of the Fukushima disaster.

In the wider context of our joint endeavour towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, on the basis of our shared principles and practices, through our mandates to best serve our Member States by protecting them and their investments in our respective organizations, we see opportunities for greater cooperation. Indeed, it will only be by sustaining the exchange of information and ideas, and continuously improving the coordination of activities among experts and organizations in the nuclear field, that we will succeed in building the world that we all envision – safe, secure and free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.