

**Statement to the 63rd regular session of the
General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
19 September 2019**

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to express my congratulations on your election, Madam President, and to wish you, the IAEA Member States and the Secretariat, a productive conference. I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty Organization.

At the outset, I would like to join others in conveying our deepest sympathy to the International Atomic Energy Agency for the passing of its Director General, Yukiya Amano.

While this is a great loss for the international community, we know that Mr Amano's legacy as an exemplary diplomat and respected leader will remain.

It was largely during his term that the IAEA and CTBTO came to work more closely together, addressing some of the pressing issues facing the international community.

Indeed, while the mandates of the two organizations are distinct, the CTBTO Preparatory Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency have always had much in common: we both work towards the creation of a safe and secure world, free of the threat of nuclear weapons. We both contribute to the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

The principles and methods that underpin our work also bring us together. Multilateralism, verification and cooperation have formed the basis for many of the Agency's accomplishments. Both our organizations enjoy large memberships and rely on science and technology to serve and support our Member States.

Over the years, these common objectives and common approaches have led us to work side-by-side in certain areas. One notable example is in the field of nuclear safety. Having cooperated closely with the IAEA following the Fukushima Daiichi accident, we became a formal member of the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE) and Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan (JPlan).

More recently, the CTBTO has become a participating organization in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and has developed its collaboration with a number of scientific and academic institutions and mechanisms alongside the IAEA.

This collaboration was made possible by building on the civil and scientific applications of CTBT International Monitoring System technologies – in this particular case, the CTBTO's ability to detect atmospheric radioactivity and, in combination with meteorological data and atmospheric transport modelling, help predict the travel path of a given emission of radionuclides.

Such applications of CTBT technologies have brought both organizations together on a number of occasions for the benefit of our respective Member States.

This includes cross-participation of staff in each other's technical meetings – from last year's IAEA Scientific Forum on climate mitigation, monitoring and adaptation, to the CTBTO Science and Technology series of conferences, the most recent of which was held in June at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna.

Madam President,

The recent observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests reminds us all of the horrors of atomic bombings and the harm caused by over seventy years of nuclear testing. But it also serves to once again highlight the level of commitment of the international community when it comes to banning nuclear test explosions – a commitment that has underpinned the CTBT since its opening for signature in 1996.

With 184 States Signatories and 168 ratifying States, the CTBT is close to universality. Its verification regime is robust, with over 90 per cent of International Monitoring System facilities installed, and a solid track record in providing Member States with data and data products through our International Data Centre. The inauguration in June this year of our Technology Support and Training (TeST) Centre in Seibersdorf further underlines our maturity and readiness.

However, the fact remains that, despite an investment of well over one billion dollars into global security through the establishment of a verification regime that has proven its worth, the CTBT is not yet in force. Its full benefits will not be realized until the eight remaining States listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty complete their respective ratification procedures.

Next week, on 25 September 2019 in New York, under the co-presidency of the Foreign Ministers of Germany and Algeria, the biennial Article XIV Conference will offer a timely opportunity to consider collective measures aimed at advancing the Treaty's entry into force. Let us not miss this opportunity to ensure that the international community does not have to wait any longer for a return on its investment – a return that is both scientifically proven and politically achievable.

Madam President,

The IAEA and CTBTO share a common physical home here in Vienna, but also much more besides. In our pursuit of nuclear non-proliferation, both IAEA safeguards and CTBT verification require political will and technical tools to succeed. While the IAEA emphasizes 'Atoms for Peace and Development', the broader benefits the CTBTO can bring through capacity building and data use are increasingly recognized.

Such parallels place the CTBTO and the IAEA in a unique position to seek opportunities to work together in the future. Building on the legacy of Mr Amano, strengthened cooperation will bring us closer to the world that we wish to bequeath to our children – a world that is safe, secure and free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.