



**United Nations Office
for Disarmament Affairs**

**Remarks at the 2025 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
Article XIV Conference**

**Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

As delivered



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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express my sincere gratitude to Norway and Panama, who served with distinction as Co-Presidents of the 2023 Conference and as Co-Coordiators of this year's Conference.

I also wish to warmly congratulate and thank the Co-Presidents of the 2025 Conference, the Philippines and Sweden, for their leadership and invaluable contributions in guiding our work.

My thanks also go to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Organization, Executive Secretary, Dr. Robert Floyd, and the Provisional Technical Secretariat. They deserve our deepest appreciation for their unwavering dedication in upholding and strengthening the norm against nuclear testing, one supported by an advanced and effective verification regime.

The CTBT is an integral part of the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. It embodies a simple but vital truth: nuclear tests must never be allowed – not even one.

The devastation already inflicted by nuclear explosions has made that truth undeniable. Any test – anywhere, under any circumstances – brings catastrophic human and environmental consequences. The Treaty offers humanity a framework to ensure such tragedy never happens again.

With 178 ratifications and 187 signatories, the CTBT enjoys near-universal support. This achievement is powerful evidence of the world's shared conviction that the era of nuclear testing must end. I warmly welcome and congratulate Papua New Guinea on its ratification of the treaty since our last Conference in 2023, bringing us closer to our common goal.

At the same time, we must still confront the reality: nearly three decades after its adoption, the CTBT has not entered into force.

While the normative value of the CTBT is inarguable, this continued delay blocks the establishment of a legally binding prohibition on nuclear testing, leaving the door ajar to practices that the international community has already rejected. It also prevents the Treaty's verification system from being fully operationalized, limiting its true value. This cannot continue.

The CTBT's verification regime, built around the International Monitoring System (IMS) and the International Data Centre (IDC), represents a remarkable technical and diplomatic achievement. These mechanisms provide absolute assurance that no nuclear test can evade detection. States' continued investment in and support for this regime demonstrates its importance to global security.

But this technical progress needs commensurate binding legal authority. We cannot accept the conduct of nuclear tests. Nor can we accept threats of renewed testing, as a means of coercion. Such actions are not deterrence, not diplomacy, not science – they are a reckless gamble with our future. Nuclear tests bring only devastation, and it is this shared understanding that gave birth to the CTBT.

Excellencies,

The humanitarian consequences of nuclear testing are indiscriminate and enduring. Tests have poisoned lands and waters, displaced entire communities, and caused intergenerational harm that persists to this day. Survivors live with those wounds, and future generations inherit their burden. We cannot claim ignorance; their voices remind us that our responsibility is both moral and urgent.

I therefore call on all States to uphold their commitments to a world free of nuclear weapons and tests by signing and ratifying the treaty immediately and without conditions. In particular, I urge those States listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty – whose ratifications are essential for its entry into force – to heed this call, for our common security.

Until that long-overdue day, the global moratorium on nuclear testing must be upheld, reaffirmed and strengthened. As the Secretary-General has warned, we must “stop playing with fire” and “silence the bombs before they speak again.”

Distinguished delegates,

The very fact that we are gathered for an Article XIV Conference is a reminder of the work that remains to bring the Treaty into force. The true measure of success will be the day when those Conferences are no longer necessary.

The United Nations remains firmly committed and ready to support Member States to ensure that the promise of the CTBT is realized. Together, we can banish nuclear tests to history – never again to scar our present, and never again to threaten the future.

We owe nothing less to the survivors of nuclear testing, to our children, and to generations yet to come.

Let us act now – let us bring the CTBT into force!

I thank you very much for your attention.