



European Union

**EU Statement at
Sixty-Eighth Session of Working Group A**

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

Vienna, 13-15 October 2025

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [.....].

We would like to thank the Executive Secretary, Dr. Robert Floyd, for his opening statement and report on non-verification related activities during the period April to August 2025. We also express our appreciation to you Chair, the Vice-Chairs, as well as to the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) for all the preparations and informal consultations prior to this Session. The EU also takes notes with appreciation of the report of the Advisory Group (AG) and supports the recommendations contained therein.

The entry into force and universalization of the CTBT remains a priority for the EU. We urge all States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the CTBT. We also consistently call upon the remaining Annex 2 States, who still need to sign and ratify the Treaty in order to bring it into force, to do so without any preconditions or further delay. In the meantime, it is crucial for international peace and security that all States fully observe the moratorium on nuclear test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, and refrain from any action contrary to the object and purpose of the Treaty. In this regard, we call on all concerned States to continue to honor their engagements.

We wish to congratulate the Article XIV Co-Chairs - Sweden and the Philippines – for the successful organisation of the Article XIV Conference, on 26 September, in New York. The EU and its Member States were pleased to address the Conference and adopt the Joint Final Declaration, in support of the CTBT's universalisation and entry into force.

Chair,

We welcome the final draft of the 2026-2027 Programme and Budget Proposals prepared by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS), based on scenario C, as agreed on in previous meetings. We take positive note of the optimization and reprioritization of activities and we encourage the PTS to continue such efforts. At the same time it is crucial that the Organisation's Budget enables the PTS to implement its programmatic activities. Ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of the verification regime, through an IMS Sustainment Strategy remains essential. In this regard, we support a positive recommendation by Working Group A to the Preparatory Commission.

The EU urges all States Signatories to pay their outstanding contributions and arrears without further delay. Paying assessed contributions is not optional, and the failure to do

so is inconsistent with the Resolution establishing the Preparatory Commission. We note with concern that the collection rate of assessed contributions as at 21 September 2025 was 56.6%, compared to 63.5% on the same date in 2024 [we take note of positive developments since then]. Thus, all efforts should be made towards the early payment of assessed contributions for the sake of the verification regime's efficient operation and the PTS's financial health.

Chair,

The EU has so far contributed over € 29.5 million in extra-budgetary contributions to the CTBTO. This reflects the strong commitment of the EU and its Member States to the Treaty and to its implementation. These funds are being used inter alia to improve the auxiliary seismic station network, to strengthen CTBTO on-site inspection capabilities, and to provide assistance to experts from developing countries through the Technical Experts Support Programme (TESP).

In conclusion, Chair,

We assure you of the EU's full support and cooperation, and stress that the Report of this Session should be factual and concise, focusing on the administrative and financial issues included on Working Group A's agenda.

Thank you.