

**AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**Statement by Senator the HON Marise Payne**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women**

Excellencies

Australia is proud of its historical and continued activism in support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

We have advocated for a comprehensive and permanent ban on nuclear test explosions since the 1980s and, in 1996, spearheaded the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution to establish the CTBTO.

Even before its entry into force, the CTBT has material effect. It constrains the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons – thus contributing to our shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Australia hosts the third largest number of facilities in the CTBT’s International Monitoring System (IMS) and contributes actively to the development of other aspects of the treaty’s verification regime.

Australia continues to work actively to encourage and support those States that have not yet signed or ratified the treaty to do so.

The CTBT enjoys overwhelming international support. I am delighted that, since we last met in this format two years ago, Cuba and Comoros have joined the treaty, which has now been ratified by 170 States and signed by 185.

Australia places great value also on the civil and scientific benefits the CTBT verification regime offers. For example, our region benefits from real time tsunami warnings that rely on data from IMS stations.

Despite all these benefits however, we cannot all enjoy the full promise of the Treaty until its entry into force. Australia continues to encourage all States, particularly the so-called annex 2 states, to ratify the treaty as soon as possible, and we stand by to assist in any way we can.

We are all looking forward to the tenth Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference next year. We must take up the opportunity the RevCon provides, and live up to the promise of the NPT, to set a path forward for practical efforts to advance nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Let us work together to bring the CTBT into force and solidify the path toward a world free of nuclear weapons.