**Article XIV Conference CTBT**

**24 September 2021**

**STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Switzerland congratulates Italy and South Africa on assuming the co-presidency of this Conference and the role of Co-Coordinators for the entry into force of the CTBT. We also thank the former Co-Coordinators, Algeria and Germany, for their commitment and the many activities conducted during their tenure.

This month marks the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the CTBT. This Treaty, negotiated in Geneva at the Conference on Disarmament, has established a global norm against nuclear testing.

This norm is an important element of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and contributes to international peace and security.

Let me also emphasize that nuclear testing not only poses a risk to international peace and security, but also has serious short- and long-term consequences for the health of affected populations and the environment.

At a time when a global pandemic illustrates humanity's vulnerabilities to environmental and health risks, it is crucial that we work together to maintain and reinforce this norm against nuclear testing.

25 years after the conclusion of the negotiation of the CTBT, it is high time for the Treaty to enter into force. Switzerland reiterates its call on all States, especially the eight Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay.

We welcome the ratification of the Treaty by the Union of the Comoros and Cuba this year. These ratifications represent a further step towards the universalisation of the CTBT.

Switzerland also wishes to underline the importance of the continued commitment of all States Signatories to pursue the completion of the International Monitoring System. It is essential that this instrument of the Treaty is fully operational. We are proud to contribute to the IMS by hosting an auxiliary seismic station.

Let me conclude, Mr. Chairperson, by congratulating Dr Robert Floyd on his assumption of the position as Executive Secretary of the CTBTO. We look forward to cooperating with him and to renewing our joint efforts to achieve an early entry into force of the Treaty.

Thank you.