

KAZAKHSTAN CONFERENCE DECLARATION

On the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, which is observed each year on 29 August, a joint meeting between the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) and the Youth Group (CYG) of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) took place in Astana, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Under the banner of the 2018 CTBTO GEM–Youth International Conference “Remembering the past, looking to the future”, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to advance a world free of nuclear testing, bearing in mind the human and environmental legacy of nuclear weapon test explosions, and their resolve in enhancing cooperation to promote the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty’s (CTBT) long awaited entry into force.

Kazakhstan Conference participants collectively:

1. Express their gratitude to the Government of Kazakhstan for its unwavering commitment to promoting the CTBT, recognizing the closing of the Semipalatinsk test site as a milestone in global non-proliferation and disarmament history;
2. Recognize that the CTBT constitutes the most effective and practical non-proliferation and disarmament measure within grasp of the international community;
3. Call upon all States to continue their support in advancing the entry into force of the Treaty as the most practical step towards nuclear disarmament, notably during the upcoming 2020 NPT Review Conference;
4. Recall United Nations Security Council Resolution 2310 (2016) which urges all States that have either not signed or not ratified the Treaty, particularly the eight remaining Annex 2 States, to do so without further delay and encourages all States Signatories to promote the universality and entry into force of the Treaty;
5. Commit to place the CTBT on the agenda of the world’s most important events and to conduct tailored outreach work in line with the 2018-2019 plan of action adopted at the conference;
6. Invite the international community to consider making use of the available expertise and monitoring technologies of the Commission worldwide including in the Korean Peninsula;
7. Emphasize the role of parliamentarians, civil society, academia and youth to develop tailored strategies for increased regional support for the CTBT and its universalization;
8. Stress the important role of youth in promoting the CTBT and, in particular, the activities of the CYG;
9. Recognize the overarching objective of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and highlight the importance of first achieving the key precondition for this - a world without nuclear testing;
10. Note the potential contribution of the CTBT and its verification regime to Disaster Risk Reduction and the advancement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;

11. Encourage further promotion of the science diplomacy nexus through concrete CTBTO capacity building projects;
12. Decide to pursue close coordination and collaboration between the CTBTO Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) and the CTBTO Youth Group (CYG);
13. Recognize States support through voluntary contributions for capacity building projects focusing on the next generation of policy and scientific leaders and encourage further such contribution.