

GEM DECLARATION JUNE 2019

At the sideline of the International Science and Technology Conference, (SnT 2019), a meeting was held between the participating members of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna.

Under this annual coordination meeting the participants reaffirmed their commitment to advance a world free of nuclear testing, bearing in mind the severe human and environmental consequences 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.

The GEM participating in this Conference collectively:

1. Express their unwavering commitment to promoting the CTBT, recognizing the importance of the treaty in the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture;
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 2019-2020 plan of action adopted at the conference;
6. Urge the international community to make full use of the CTBT verification expertise and knowledge in the process of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula;
7. Emphasize the role of civil society, academia and youth to develop tailored strategies for increased regional support for the CTBT and its universalization;
8. Stress the important role that GEM and CYG can play in promoting the CTBT ;
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. Recognize the contribution of the CTBT and its verification regime to human health and protection of the environment by enforcing a comprehensive ban on nuclear explosions, thereby contributing substantively to the advancement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;
11. Encourage further promotion of the science diplomacy nexus through concrete CTBTO capacity building projects and further research and coordination with relevant peace and development agencies;
12. Expressed their appreciation for the CTBTO well-established series of SnT conferences that provides a forum for scientists, industry leaders and policymakers from around the

world to exchange knowledge and share advances in monitoring and verification technologies of relevance to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. These conferences facilitate better connection between policy and science and the articulation of new ideas and technologies that are essential for promoting global peace and security .In this context call upon States to support through voluntary contributions capacity building projects focusing on the next generation of policy and scientific leaders.