Mr. Chairman!
Excellencies!
Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure to welcome you in Vienna.

As you can imagine, Austria is proud to host the CTBT.

We consider it to be a core element in our efforts
to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

As Secretary General Ban Ki-moon once said
"there are no right hands for the wrong weapons".

Certainly, too little has happened so far.
But we see a growing new momentum for concrete progress on
this issue.

The Humanitarian Pledge that emerged from the Vienna
Conference in December 2014 has now been formally endorsed
by 128 States.

And a growing number of states favour the start of negotiations
on a global prohibition of nuclear weapons.

**Austria strongly supports the elaboration of such a treaty as
a matter of urgency!**
Excellencies,

It won’t surprise you that we also strongly believe that the world has to close the door on nuclear testing once and for all!

20 years after its adoption, it must bring into force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty!

The CTBTO has demonstrated over and over again that it is useful. Examples reach from tsunami-warnings to the recent nuclear tests by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The fact that the treaty still cannot enter into force because 8 ratifications are still missing is a shame!

And it is damaging to global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. The CTBTO is the only effective mechanism for the detection of nuclear explosions.

Excellencies,

Let me end

• by thanking you, Executive Secretary, and your team for your efforts in promoting the Treaty

• and I can assure you that Austria will continue to push for concrete progress on this crucial issue for all of us.

Thank you for your attention!