

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!