

**Statement by Dr Lassina Zerbo,
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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

**50th Anniversary of the Group of 77 and China
23 June 2014**

Mr Chairman,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Ambassador Azeez,

It is an honour for me to participate in the formal launch of the fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Group of 77 and China. My appreciation to his Excellency Ambassador Azeez as Chair of the G-77 Vienna Chapter for the kind invitation and organizing this celebratory event.

Today, we kick off the festivities that mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the G-77 and China here in Vienna. By doing so, not only do we celebrate 50 years of global cooperation, but we are also reminded how **multilateralism can be used as a tool for development**.

Last week, the G-77 members and China met in Bolivia, for a Special Summit. Leaders adopted the declaration entitled “For a New World Order for Living Well”, in which they stated the goal to eradicate poverty as main objective for the post-2015 development agenda.

I am well aware of the many challenges on the road towards the eradication of poverty. In light of the current efforts to re-frame the global development agenda beyond 2015, the declaration is a clear signal to the rest of the world.

The diverse monitoring infrastructure and inclusive verification regime of the CTBT create opportunities for **the CTBTO to make a contribution beyond its mission of verifying the silence of nuclear weapons**.

Through its **integrated capacity-building and training programme**, the organization helps States make the best use of data collected by the monitoring stations around the globe and transmitted by the International Data Centre. By helping States acquire the necessary hardware, software and expertise, including the establishment of an appropriate communications infrastructure and by making available, at no cost, all the training necessary to help States assume their verification responsibilities under the Treaty, **we build communities of professionals**. These experts not only verify the CTBT, but also have a potential of becoming natural **partners of governments and business in pursuit of economic development** by applying their knowledge of earth structure to projects in resource explorations and mining.

Through the civil and scientific applications of the Treaty's verification technologies, the CTBTO can assist countries in areas such as **disaster risk reduction and environmental monitoring**. I was particularly pleased, in this regard, to read that the importance of climate change was raised by the leaders of the G-77 and China. While the effects of climate change are to be felt all around the world, recent reports suggest that many of the G-77 members are among the most affected countries. For them, it is central to gain a good understanding of how they will be affected and to take steps preparing themselves the best they can.

Just as capacity-building and training is a key enabler for the sustainment of the CTBT and its robust verification infrastructure, the **CTBT itself becomes a key enabler for development** through its focus on enhancing national institutions and know-how of the G-77 countries. I am confident that this role will continue to evolve with the new development agenda.

And let us not forget: **security and stability are *sine qua non* conditions for development**. As a pillar of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, the CTBT is key to ensuring that the scourge of nuclear testing and its tragic consequences do not hinder States' efforts towards development.

It is my sincere ambition that we seize upon any opportunities that may arise to deepen the partnership between the G-77 and China, and the CTBTO. We stand ready to engage and work with you.