

**DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE ALGERIAN DELEGATION
AT THE 13th ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023**

**Distinguished Co-Presidents
Excellencies and dear participants,**

At the outset, the Algerian delegation congratulates Norway and Panama for their election to assume the Presidency of the Thirteenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT). And commends the efforts done by South Africa and Italy as the Co – Presidents of the 12th article XIV Conference.

My delegation congratulates and encourages the Executive Secretary, Dr. Robert Floyd and his staff for their sustained commitment to the entry into force of the CTBT and for their efforts in developing its verification regime.

Algeria has always been convinced that the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a triumph of multilateral diplomacy and a tangible proof of its efficiency in the field of security and disarmament through negotiation.

My Country, who ratified the CTBT 20 years ago, reaffirms once again its unwavering commitment and support for the objectives of the CTBT and its Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS), as well as the initiatives to reinvigorate the processes to get the Treaty into force at the earliest.

In this vein, Algeria welcomes the ratifications registered since 2021, confirming the Treaty's importance through the adherence of Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Sao-Tome and Principe, Dominica, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka bringing the number of ratifications to 178 out of the 188 signatory States.

Co-presidents,

My delegation believes that CTBT do represent one vital element in the field of nuclear disarmament which contributes in upholding the non-proliferation regime and which is considered as a valuable factor in the preservation of international peace and security.

Algeria maintains an excellent working relationship with the CTBTO and remains fully committed to the implementation of the Treaty. It is also pleased to note that much progress has been achieved since the treaty was opened for signature, more than a quarter of a century ago. Nevertheless, the convening of this Conference, for the thirteenth time, is another clear reminder, indicating that much more has to be done to achieve the Treaty's entry-into-force.

Co-presidents,

Algeria, who suffered a lot and still suffering from the horrors and catastrophic consequences, on both mankind and environment, due to the nuclear tests carried out on its territories, remains convinced that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against the dangers of these weapons of mass destruction.

My delegation regrets the fact that no progress has been made towards the signing and ratification of the CTBT by the remaining Annex 2 States. And reiterates its solemn appeal to all Parties that have not yet done so, particularly those of Annex II, to take concrete steps to ratify the Treaty without delay.

Co-Presidents,

As a State Party to the PELINDABA Treaty, Algeria is a fervent promoter of the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones aiming at establishing international peace and

security, on the one hand, and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, on the other.

For this reason, Algeria remains firmly committed to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the NPT Review Conferences as well as the pertinent UN resolutions.

Finally, my delegation would like to reiterate that Algeria is fully aware and convinced that the consolidation of multilateralism and international cooperation remain essential elements in providing universal and effective responses to global proliferation threats.

I thank you for your kind attention.