

**Statement by H.E. Elina Kalkku
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations
Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

New York, 22 September 2023

Distinguished Co-Presidents,
Excellencies,
Esteemed participants,

In addition to the EU statement, I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity, as Finland is a longstanding member of the group “Friends of the CTBT”.

The CTBT has been open for signatures for over a quarter of a century and this process should now be completed. Ratification by the Annex 2 States remains the key to the CTBT’s entry into force and we call on the remaining eight states to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay.

Universalisation amongst non-Annex States is important for strengthening the norm against nuclear testing. We welcome the latest ratifications by Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, as well as signature by Somalia earlier this month. Pending entry into force of the CTBT, maintaining moratoria on nuclear testing remains crucial. I congratulate Dr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO for his tireless work regarding the universalization of the Treaty.

Our common goal is a world free of nuclear weapons. Concrete actions towards this end must be taken in the NPT Review Process. The significance of the CTBT must be recognized in the deliberations of the Review Process and all international meetings related to nuclear disarmament.

The CTBT has a uniquely strong verification regime. The International Monitoring System provides independent and reliable information ensuring compliance with the Treaty. This is a great achievement of the CTBTO. The long-term sustainability of the network must be guaranteed. Finland as the host one of the IMS's primary seismic stations will continue its support to the network also in the future.

Distinguished Co-Presidents,

Finland is a strong advocate of the Treaty. The CTBT is a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and Finland will continue working towards its swift entry into force.

Thank you