



*Permanent Mission of Portugal  
to the United Nations*

*Check against delivery*

Statement by Portugal

---

**Conference on “Article XIV” of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty  
(CTBT)**

22 September 2023

Mr./Mme. Chair,  
Excellencies,

As many have underscored today, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an **effective multilateral tool** of the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament agenda, as it bans all nuclear explosions, whether for military or for peaceful purposes.

In order to strengthen the NPT regime, it is essential that the CTBT **enters into force**, as foreseen in its Article XIV [fourteen]. Since the Treaty cannot formally enter into force until it is ratified by 44 specific States listed in **Annex 2**, we particularly urge them to sign and ratify the instrument.

Portugal is a committed supporter of the ten Actions under the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament entitled 'Securing Our Common Future', namely Action 4 (Bring the CTBT into force) and Action 7 (Conclude a treaty banning fissile materials for nuclear weapons). Both of them would contribute to **consolidate confidence and security-building** in a weakened security and defense system, characterized by a dangerous erosion of the non-proliferation and disarmament architecture.

At the **European level**, Portugal is firmly engaged with the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction [2003], the EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy [2016] and the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence [2022]. This broad framework favors and demands Portugal's support to the activities of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, to strengthen the capabilities of the Treaty's **monitoring and verification system**, as well as its universalization.



*Permanent Mission of Portugal  
to the United Nations*

Indeed, we strongly believe that the universalization and early entry into force of the CTBT will significantly enhance the **implementation of the NPT** and the commitments made in its review process. But it will also contribute to further work on nuclear disarmament verification, to new steps in the area of risk reduction, and to the start of negotiations of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) at the Conference on Disarmament.

Ratifying the CTBT will provide **greater leverage** over security dilemmas and enhance international peace and security. At the same time, it will ensure a legal barrier against nuclear testing, henceforth limiting the development of new types and new designs of nuclear weapons.

For this reason, we congratulate the last **eight State parties** that ratified the CTBT, during 2022 and 2023, especially the three members of the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries: São Tomé and Príncipe, Equatorial Guinea and Timor-Leste;

Lastly, let me stress that we stand with our EU partners and NATO allies in unequivocally condemning the DPRK as the only State to have conducted (six) **nuclear tests** in the 21st century;

In this regard, we urge Pyongyang to cease all nuclear tests, as well as launches that use ballistic missile technology and related activities, as required under multiple UNSC Resolutions, by abiding by **international law** and re-engaging in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community.

Dear Colleagues,

Promoting universal adherence to the CTBT is a matter of priority, and we call on all States that have not yet done so, to keep the momentum and to **sign and ratify the CTBT**, without preconditions or further delay. This will constitute a significant step towards enhancing international peace and security.

I thank you.