

**CTBT Artikel XIV-konferanse, New York, 22. september 2023.**

**H.E. Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway**

Thank you, Minister.

Let me start by thanking Panama for the excellent cooperation in preparing for this conference.

The world's first certified seismic station to detect nuclear tests was established in a Norwegian forest, close to where I grew up. Today, more than 300 such certified facilities comprise a global system to detect possible nuclear tests.

It is commendable that we have this proven, robust and global verification system - one that is able to conduct real time monitoring of nuclear test activities. Anywhere on Earth!

Norwegian scientists provided key contributions for almost 20 years prior to the start of the CTBT negotiations.

This scientific work was of great benefit to the negotiations of the Treaty. Norway also engaged strongly through sustained political, scientific and technical efforts in the establishment of the Treaty.

The CTBT and its international monitoring is a key component of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. Through our co-presidency with Panama, Norway will work for the entry into force and universalization of the CTBT.

Pending the Treaty's entry into force, the norm on moratoria on nuclear testing must be strengthened. Such moratoria cannot, however, replace a legally binding commitment. We call on all states to sign and ratify the CTBT.

We are pleased to see that eight states have ratified the Treaty since our last conference in 2021. But more ratifications are needed, in particular by the remaining Annex II states.

Norway has actively promoted nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for decades.

Our co-presidency of this conference is part of our efforts to strengthen the

global disarmament and non-proliferation regime and uphold international norms and laws.

Norway will continue to take initiatives that deliver concrete results and contribute to our common aim of a world without nuclear weapons.