Joint Statement
by H.E. Mr. Murat Nurtleu, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Dr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Astana and Vienna, 29 August 205

1. On this International Day against Nuclear Tests, established by the United Nations General Assembly at the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, we reaffirm our commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear tests, and strive to strengthen our efforts to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force.

2. Kazakhstan's historic decision to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site on 29 August 1991 sent a powerful political message and played a crucial role in broader global efforts that led to the adoption of the CTBT in 1996. Since then, Kazakhstan has consistently supported the Treaty and the build-up of its verification regime.

3. Over the past years, important progress has been made towards the universalization of the CTBT. Today, the Treaty has received 187 signatures and 178 ratifications and we continue to work towards universalization and entry into force, building on the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders. Each additional commitment to the Treaty serves to reinforce the powerful norm that has been established against nuclear testing.

4. We also welcome continued progress towards the completion of the CTBT's verification regime. With 307 facilities worldwide (293 monitoring stations and 14 radionuclide laboratories) now certified, the network is over 90 per cent complete. The CTBTO International Monitoring System (IMS) is a unique global asset, contributing to peace and security, while also providing civil and scientific benefits for all. Kazakhstan's practical contribution to strengthening the CTBT verification regime is evident in the five stations it hosts as part of the IMS.

5. We also look forward to the next On-Site Inspection Integrated Field Exercise (IFE26), the largest practical exercise planned by the CTBTO, and the third of its kind after IFE08 in Kazakhstan and IFE14 in Jordan. On-Site Inspection will be a vital component of the verification regime after the Treaty's entry into force, providing definitive confirmation as to whether a nuclear test explosion has occurred.

6. We reaffirm the CTBT's role as a key pillar of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The CTBT represents an effective and practical measure in our pursuit of a world free from nuclear weapons tests. As a consistent supporter of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Kazakhstan successfully chaired the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT in 2024 and the third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in March 2025.

7. Today, we extend an invitation to all States to participate in the high-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly to commemorate the International Day against Nuclear Tests, scheduled to be held at UN Headquarters in New York on 3 September 2025.

8. We call upon all States to uphold and, where possible, reaffirm their existing moratoria on nuclear testing. Those States that have not yet signed and/or ratified the CTBT are encouraged to promptly do so. We urge the remaining Annex 2 States that are crucial for the Treaty's entry into force to demonstrate their commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament by taking this significant step.

9. We welcome the messages of the President of the UN General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, and encourage all interested stakeholders, including diplomats, academia, media and non-governmental organizations, to raise awareness about the catastrophic dangers and risks of nuclear testing.

10. This is a crucial moment. In 2025 we mark several significant 80th anniversaries: the entry into force of the UN Charter, the first nuclear test, and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We must reflect on the lessons of the past and reaffirm our collective resolve to build a more peaceful and secure future. We also look forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of the CTBT's opening for signature next year. As we strive toward a world free of nuclear weapons, let us continue to work together to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force and to ensure a permanent and legally binding end to nuclear testing.