



**CTBTO**  
PREPARATORY COMMISSION

COMPREHENSIVE  
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN  
TREATY ORGANIZATION

## **Article XIV Conference Speech**

**Dr Robert Floyd, CTBTO Executive Secretary**

**26 September 2025**

*Co-presidents (FM LAZARO and FM STENERGARD), Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,*

Welcome.

We like to mark significant anniversaries!

They're opportunities to step back. To reflect.

Where have we come from?

Where are we heading?

Has the journey been worthwhile?

This year has seen several momentous 80<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

First the anniversary of the Trinity test. The world's first nuclear explosion. Then just weeks later, the only two times that nuclear weapons were used in war. The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I had the privilege to attend the commemorations in Japan.

Simple things in the museum tell stories you'll never forget. A tiny charred child's tricycle. A boy's lunchbox.

How can we make sure that these devastating weapons are never used again?

Part of the answer lies in putting an end to testing. Once and for all. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) aspired to ban testing.

Its preamble seeks to stop '*All test explosions ... for all time*'.

But back then, neither the science nor the diplomacy was ready. UNDERGROUND testing continued. More than a THOUSAND of them. Many far larger than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki blasts. It had to stop.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty opened for signature on 24 September 1996. 29 years ago – almost to the day.

In the 50 years leading up to September 1996, there'd been some 2000 - two THOUSAND - nuclear explosions. From 24 September 1996 through to today? Less than *one dozen* test events. In our current century, only ONE state has tested.

Has any other Treaty brought about such a dramatic, drastic and unambiguous change for the better?

Why is it that this Treaty works?

A happy marriage between diplomacy and science!

The Treaty set up a global network of over 300 monitoring stations. The IMS. These stations gather seismic data. Hydroacoustic data. Infrasound and radionuclide data. They stream it to Vienna around the clock. A nuclear test explosion cannot go undetected. But the IMS enhances our security not only by detecting tests. We saw this just last year. Following earth tremors in Northern Iran, rumours of a nuclear test flashed around the world!

The CTBTO showed *beyond any doubt* that those tremors had occurred naturally. No nuclear test had taken place. The rumours and the risks abated. In addition, the Treaty is open and transparent! All the data gathered by the CTBTO in Vienna is available to the Treaty's State Signatories, and also to the scientific community. Supporting tsunami warning. Recording asteroid strikes. Monitoring earthquakes. Studying volcanoes.

This CTBTO verification system is a global asset unlike any other. It's credible and respected *because it works*.

The CTBT is an unambiguous success. An unambiguous force for global good.

Today we're here because despite that success, entry into force still eludes us. We're so close to universalisation. We're getting ever nearer, despite the

challenges, or maybe because of the challenges the world faces today. Just nine states - *just NINE* states that could sign this treaty but haven't done so.

Today we make the case for finishing the job. We look to the next year, the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of our precious treaty. We call for action. We call for those states in Annex Two to think long and hard about what they might contribute and gain by signing this treaty.

The global acclaim. The message of their dedication to peace and security for all. And we again call on all possessor states to restate their moratoria on testing. Assure the world that the days of testing are behind us. And will stay behind us.

In this next twelve months, as the NPT review conference draws near, let's think of ambition. What we can achieve together. What a step closer to universalisation and entry into force could mean for our collective security.

Let's say that at that Review conference. Loudly!

Another key date approaches. *14 January 2026*. Just 110 days from now! If – when! – we get to 14 January without a nuclear test, the world will set a new record. The longest period without one single test since that very first test in 1945! What a way to start our Treaty's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year! And what a record. The kind the world could really use right now.

Anniversaries prompt us to think about where we've come from. How far we've travelled. Where we're heading. This journey has taken us 80 years so far – with no further use of a nuclear weapon in war since Nagasaki in 1945.

It's up to us to keep on the right path.

To make that journey worthwhile.

*Thank you*