
**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force
of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**
New York, 26 September 2025

**PROGRESS REPORT ON
THE CO-PRESIDENCY BY PANAMA AND NORWAY
OF THE ARTICLE XIV PROCESS
FROM SEPTEMBER 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 2025**

1. Panama and Norway assumed the co-presidency of the Thirteenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (Article XIV conference) on 22 September 2023. Since then, both countries, as the Co-Coordinators for the entry into force of the CTBT, have led and coordinated international efforts for the promotion of the Treaty's entry into force and universalization. During their tenure, Somalia signed the CTBT, and Papua New Guinea ratified the Treaty. One State revoked its ratification. Today, the CTBT has 187 States Signatories, of which 178 have also ratified the Treaty.
2. During their tenure, Panama and Norway conducted many activities, individually or jointly, based on the Action Plan which set out the measures to be taken by the Co-Coordinators in support of implementing the Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty adopted at the 2023 Article XIV conference, including the following:
 - (1) Approaches by Panama and Norway to non-ratifying States.
 - Panama and Norway, individually and jointly, made invitations on numerous occasions, to the remaining Annex 2 and other non-ratifying States, at political and ambassadorial levels, throughout their tenure as Co-Coordinators to sign/ratify the Treaty. Further steps were undertaken in Panama City, Oslo and Vienna, as well as in New York and through diplomatic missions in various capitals. On these occasions, the Co-Coordinators highlighted the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT, called for the signature and ratification of the Treaty by non-signatory and ratifying States respectively, and for their increased engagement with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization's (CTBTO)

International Monitoring System, while bearing in mind the country specific context of each non-ratifying State.

- A letter was also sent from the Ambassadors of Panama and Norway to the Russian Federation regarding the withdrawn instrument of ratification of the CTBT in 2023, expressing our deepest concern.
 - Panama and Norway co-chaired the Article XIV conference in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (22 September 2023).
 - Panama and Norway also gave a briefing for the 2024 United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament and participated in the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs ‘Vienna Conversation Stories – Bridging the Divide: the role of networks in advancing inclusive disarmament processes’.
 - Panama and Norway, in cooperation with the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, hosted a discussion on ‘Priority Areas for Action ahead of the 2025 Article XIV Conference’ in Vienna.
 - The Foreign Ministers of Panama and Norway jointly sent letters to the Foreign Ministers of Somalia, Bhutan, Nepal, Tonga and South Sudan calling on the countries to sign/ratify the CTBT in July 2025.
 - Norway engaged bilaterally with Nepal, China and the United States of America on advancing their signature/ratification.
 - Panama through bilateral engagements encouraged Israel to sign and/or ratify the Treaty.
 - In their national capacities, Panama and Norway recalled in various international meetings and forums their support for the Treaty and the importance they attach to its entry into force. Panama and Norway repeatedly called for the prompt entry into force of the Treaty in their respective statements in all relevant fora. They actively participated in sessions of the Preparatory Commission and its Working Groups A and B and contributed to the maintenance and strengthening of the CTBT verification regime by facilitating the participation of experts in CTBTO meetings.
 - Panama, as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council, also called on Annex 2 States to make possible the entry into force of the CTBT in April 2025.
- (2) Panama and Norway took advantage of various international and regional conferences to recall the importance of achieving the goals of the CTBT and to promote its entry into force, hereunder at the International Day against Nuclear Testing and the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in 2024. Raising awareness among stakeholders and citizens.
- The Governments of Panama and Norway promoted the goal of a world without nuclear tests in official publications, on the web sites of their Foreign Ministries, and in presentations and speeches given to civil society by government officials.

3. Reflecting on the wide range of activities conducted throughout their tenure, the Co-Coordicators have made the following observations:
 - The vast majority of the international community has recognized that the entry into force of the CTBT is a practical and pragmatic way to advance nuclear disarmament as envisaged in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Furthermore, the Treaty plays a critical role in responding to the challenge posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by reinforcing the no test norm. Therefore, efforts shall be continued to finish this 'unfinished business'.
 - It is important to make continued political commitments and efforts to facilitate the signature and ratification of the CTBT by the remaining Annex 2 States. In particular, efforts should be made to approach these States at the highest political level where appropriate and practical, to engage decision makers and to encourage further signature and ratification of the Treaty.
 - Emphasis should be placed on making joint international efforts to address issues that present obstacles for the remaining Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the CTBT. In this regard, making efforts at a regional level can be instrumental and beneficial to creating an environment conducive to ratification.
 - Some non-signatory States, including those of the remaining Annex 2 States, might participate as an observer as a first step towards signature.
 - Enhanced efforts are encouraged by the remaining Annex 2 and other States that have not yet done so to establish International Monitoring System stations on their territories and transfer data to the International Data Centre. Continued international cooperation in capacity building for National Data Centres, particularly in developing countries, is needed to further strengthen the verification regime for the detection of nuclear testing.
4. Two years of Co-Coordicators' activities offered valuable lessons for future activities of the Article XIV process. While the drafting of and subsequent consultations on the Final Declaration towards the 2023 Article XIV conference were among the highlights of the Co-Coordicators' activities, these were just the beginning of their activities. Indeed, experiences and insights were accumulated through their persistent outreach and other promotional activities following the conference, particularly, through their close engagement with the remaining Annex 2 and other non-ratifying States. These activities are all the more important for the promotion of the Treaty and allow the Co-Coordicators to move the Treaty forward more actively and effectively.
5. In this regard, it is worth recalling that paragraph 2 of Article XIV of the Treaty provides that the Article XIV conference "shall examine the extent to which the requirement set out in paragraph 1 has been met and shall consider and decide by consensus what measures consistent with international law may be undertaken to accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate the early entry into force of this Treaty." Considering the goal and purpose of the conference stipulated in the Treaty, the conference should provide a useful platform for ratifying and signatory States to discuss and decide on practical and pragmatic ways to promote the ratification process by which to facilitate the Treaty's entry into force. As 29 years have passed since the opening of the Treaty for signature, it is high time to review practices up until now and thereby

revitalize the conference mechanism to fully advance its objective and renew international commitment to realizing the cause of the Treaty.

6. As Sweden and the Philippines have been elected co-presidents of the Fourteenth Article XIV conference in 2025, Panama and Norway reaffirm their commitment and readiness to work closely with the incoming co-presidents, as well as with other countries to further advocate the noble cause of a comprehensive and global test ban on a nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.