

STATEMENT

80TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2025 CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
(ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE)

STATEMENT AS CO-CHAIR

to be delivered by

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SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

26 September 2025, 10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York

Madame Co-chair, Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Good morning.

I am honored to co-chair this year's Article XIV (fourteen) Conference together with my esteemed colleague, Foreign Minister Stenergard.

I also take this opportunity to thank Panama and Norway for their commendable leadership as Co-Presidents of the previous Conference.

I warmly welcome Papua New Guinea as the newest ratifying state of the CTBT.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the only two incidents that nuclear bombs have ever been deployed.

An estimated 140,000 people in Hiroshima and another 74,000 in Nagasaki perished during these bombings, the catastrophic humanitarian cost and health consequences of which we still feel to this day.

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive-Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). It is regrettable though that three decades hence, the Treaty has not yet entered into force.

These anniversaries must drive States Signatories to act in concert and allow this Treaty to enter into force, one more crucial step towards a world without nuclear weapons.

The Philippines was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the CTBT. Our co-presidency of this Conference is a manifestation of our unrelenting commitment.

A consistent champion of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the Philippines' commitment to a nuclear-free world is enshrined in our country's basic law.

We are a party to key multilateral and regional instruments, including the CTBT, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone Treaty.

We are proud to contribute to the CTBT's unique global network of more than 300 International Monitoring System stations. The Philippines hosts three stations in Rizal, Cavite and Davao.

We recognize the accomplishments achieved by the CTBT. These include the establishment of a global norm against nuclear testing; the build up of a robust verification regime to monitor and detect nuclear explosions; and, the use of CTBT data for civil and scientific applications such as tsunami warnings.

Excellencies,

The Article XIV Conference is mandated to find effective measures to accelerate the entry into force of the CTBT.

We therefore reiterate our call for the remaining Annex II States to sign and ratify the treaty without delay and preconditions.

In the face of simmering geopolitical dynamics and intensifying nuclear rhetoric, our efforts should even be more unrelenting and united towards this goal.

Under our co-presidency, the Philippines and Sweden will work tirelessly in the next two years to promote the entry into force and universalization of the CTBT.

We will take concrete and actionable steps, including through the implementation of the measures mentioned in the Final Declaration of this Conference.

Distinguished delegates we count on your help and support in doing our part to achieve our shared dream of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.