



CTBTO
PREPARATORY COMMISSION

COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN
TREATY ORGANIZATION

**Statement delivered at
12th Ministerial Meeting of “Friends of the CTBT”**

Dr Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary

**United Nations, New York
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Excellencies, colleagues, friends.

This is our Treaty’s 30th birthday month! Birthdays make you think...

In the year I turned 30 (some time ago!) there were 47 nuclear weapons tests. Almost one a week. In our previous century? Over 2000 tests.

This century? Just a handful. What a change for the better. Has any other Treaty had such dramatic and unqualified success?

What’s new since our last Friends meeting in 2024? We’ve edged closer to universalisation. 188 states have signed the Treaty. 179 have ratified it. Tonga joined the Treaty family just 2 months ago. South Pacific universalisation is complete. A mighty international convergence of view.

We’ve improved the already amazing International Monitoring System. 308 facilities are now working. Hydroacoustic station HA8 North returned to operation this year following a complex repair effort after more than a decade offline. IMS segment in LAC is complete.

Every day we take in some 36 gigabytes of almost real-time data. All that data is available to every CTBT state signatory. Transparently. Equally. Fairly. And above all our detection capability keeps improving.

When the IMS was conceived, it was envisioned to detect explosive nuclear weapons tests with a yield of some 1000 tons of TNT equivalent. Today’s IMS detection goes down to 500 tons! Just 1/30th of the power of the bomb that devastated Hiroshima.

One major piece of our work remains unfinished: the Treaty is yet to enter into force, which would allow for additional measures, Confidence building, Consultation and clarification, and On-Site Inspections.

We need to be ready for that happy day!

Our Integrated Field Exercise 2026 in Namibia comes up next month. 200 national experts and PTS staff practising On-Site Inspection procedures and equipment. A major and all-important effort.

All this doesn't pay for itself! Assessed Contributions. Generous voluntary contributions. States Signatories here today have helped us make many technical improvements and to sustain the IMS. Thank you for that support.

No-one in this building needs telling. The international scene is stressed. Even dangerous. Certainly confusing. But in that confusion one thing is as clear as it can be. Going back to nuclear weapons testing will make everything MUCH worse. Our Treaty is a force for good. For peace. For common sense.

Let's keep it that way! Today. And for the next 30 years.

Thank you.