



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE CTBTO YOUTH GROUP

**13 June 2016
Vienna, Austria**

Members of the CTBTO Youth Group, established earlier this year at the “Science and Diplomacy for Peace and Security: the CTBT@20” symposium, collaborated over the past three weeks and met over the past two days to finalize their joint research projects. They discussed the status of the CTBT, assessed ways to push the Treaty towards entry into force, and considered regional and international security issues relevant to the CTBT.

Members of the CTBTO Youth Group issue the following statement:

“As youth, we are the future leaders of the world, the ones who will inherit and live in the world left behind for us, and the bearers of the hopes and dreams for our children and their children after them.

Twenty years after the opening of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) for signature, we regret that this Treaty, which would establish a legally binding, comprehensive prohibition on nuclear explosive testing, has yet to enter into force.

For so many years, the international community has not been able to secure entry into force of the CTBT despite the diplomatic energies invested into the process. We believe that a change in approach is necessary and recognize that each of the remaining Annex II countries (China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Pakistan, and the United States) has concerns that should be recognized and addressed. We trust in the power of constructive dialogue based on the principle of equality to address and resolve these differences.

We affirm our shared vision for a world free of nuclear weapons. To that end, we hold the CTBT to be a critical next step towards nuclear disarmament and an important component of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

As members of the CTBTO Youth Group:

1. We welcome the support of all countries for the CTBTO Youth Group and look forward to continued engagement with government representatives and international civil society experts.
2. We extend an open invitation to our fellow youth interested in promoting the CTBT, nuclear non-proliferation, and disarmament to join the CTBTO Youth Group.
3. We urge states that have not yet signed and ratified the CTBT, especially those remaining Annex II countries, to revitalize their efforts towards ratification so that the CTBT may enter into force as soon as possible. Specifically, we call upon remaining Annex II countries to lead in ratifying the CTBT independently of other countries’ efforts to build momentum for CTBT ratification by countries that have not yet ratified. We believe that renewed efforts towards entry into force should be made through constructive engagement and genuine dialogue in the spirit of mutual respect.
4. We resolve to do our utmost in promoting the CTBT and its verification regime. We will engage our peers in open dialogue, participate in the education of the general public, encourage scientific research and collaboration, and contribute to the work of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission and the future CTBTO.”