



STATEMENT

BY H.E. SAMUEL ŽBOGAR

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Distinguished Co-presidents, Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. Executive Secretary, Ministers, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Slovenia aligns with the statement, which will be delivered by the EU. I want to make a few points in my national capacity.

Co – presidents,

We have commonly agreed on international rules and inclusive global institutions such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO). The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a critical tool in the realm of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and it is more important than ever in maintaining peace and security.

We must preserve them. We must strengthen them. But they are currently facing significant challenges.

In the east of Europe, the unprovoked and illegal war by Russia – a nuclear weapon state – against its neighbour, Ukraine, is shaking the security of our

region. Threats to use nuclear weapons and the announcements of Russia's readiness to conduct nuclear tests increase the stakes.

Illegal and provocative missile tests by the DPRK raise tensions and endanger safety. According to the available data, underground nuclear tests might be in preparation, which is a matter of utmost concern.

Against a background of increasing international strain on the non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, all State Signatories must contribute to improving the overall strategic context for disarmament, non-proliferation in particular, by avoiding further erosion of the rules-based international system.

We must complete the task of our predecessors by facilitating the Treaty's entry into force, effectively implementing the Treaty, and making it universal.

We need to continue our collective efforts to press for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and for strengthening the existing moratoria on nuclear test explosions.

Co-Presidents,

This year is an important milestone for my country as we have been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2024-2025 term.

Slovenia as an incoming non-permanent member of the UN Security Council is fully committed to upholding and enhancing the universality and effective implementation of Treaties and Conventions in disarmament and non-proliferation field.

The CTBT certainly presents a prominent case for the importance of multilateralism. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) has provided the international community with something no single country could accomplish all by itself. It has established a truly global, state-of-the-art monitoring system, which not only demonstrably detects nuclear explosions but can be used for civil and scientific purposes as well.

For Slovenia, the CTBT remains one of the key elements of the international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. It is more than ever vital for the international community to ensure its prompt entry into force. In this connection, I would like to welcome the recent ratification by Sri Lanka and signature by Somalia.

Before concluding, I want to emphasize that Slovenia is grateful for the work of Dr. Floyd, the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, and the Secretariat in obtaining more signatures and ratifications for the Treaty. Slovenia also supports the efforts to achieve gender equality within the organization. Women and girls, as catalysts for progress, will play a significant role in driving CTBT forward.

Co-Presidents,

Slovenia has been and remains a strong supporter of the CTBTO. Thus, let me call upon all States that still need to do so to sign and ratify the CTBT, particularly those whose ratification is required for the Treaty to take effect.

Thank you.