
Remarks delivered by
Mr Xiaoning Wang
Director, Legal and External Relations Division

on behalf of
Dr Lassina Zerbo
Executive Secretary, Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the G-77 Vienna Chapter

11 September 2018

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Dr Lassina Zerbo.

Dr Zerbo has asked me to extend his regret for not being able to attend this ceremony and to convey his most sincere congratulations on this auspicious occasion.

For twenty years now, the G-77 Vienna Chapter has conveyed the vision of a well-coordinated group of countries dedicated to promoting South-South cooperation towards development – thus contributing to a more prosperous and peaceful world.

This vision resonates strongly within the CTBTO – an organization whose day-to-day activities are based on multilateralism and cooperation, and whose mission is wholly dedicated to making the world safer and more secure.

Building on these convergences, it does not come as a surprise that the G-77 Vienna Chapter has been an active and reliable partner of the CTBTO over these two decades. This is as true in the context of our policy-making organs as it is in the programmatic activities organized by the Secretariat.

We share a vast portion of our respective memberships, and a significant number of CTBTO staff members hail from G-77 countries and China – at all levels and in every field of work, including the Executive Secretary himself. The level of engagement by G-77 countries and China is also reflected in the composition of the Group of Eminent Persons and the CTBTO Youth Group.

To develop further our trustful relationship in an organized and systematic manner, Dr Mohammad Daryaei has been recently appointed as Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary and is exclusively tasked to advise the Executive Secretary on issues related to the Group of 77 and NAM.

Moreover, to achieve wider geographical participation, the Commission continues to implement a project to facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in its official technical meetings – the vast majority of which come from G-77 countries.

Data analysts and station operators from G-77 countries and China regularly take part in our training and capacity-building events. Policy experts from member countries also attend and actively contribute to our outreach events, such as the CTBT Science Diplomacy Symposium that was held in May and June 2018 and included a substantial number of participants from the G-77 and China.

Such engagement by the G-77 countries and China has allowed the CTBTO to better tailor its outreach and cooperation activities, and thus to better serve an important segment of our constituency.

Significant progress has been made over the last few years in further enhancing the capabilities of the Treaty's verification regime – in particular with regard to the sustainment and build-up of the International Monitoring System. Support by G-77 countries and China has been key in this regard.

As an illustration of this commitment, I should note the exceptional support by our partners in Ecuador in the inauguration of the country's two CTBT stations in the Galápagos, which greatly enhance global coverage by the IMS.

The engagement by G-77 countries is also visible in the political sphere. The last few ratifications were concluded by countries belonging to the Group, including the last ratification by an Annex 2 State; similarly, it is anticipated that the next deposit of an instrument of ratification will also be by a member of

the Group. Such commitment is not only encouraging – it is also key to advancing towards entry into force.

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Through its active engagement over the last twenty years, the G-77 Vienna Chapter and the countries that it represents have made an impactful contribution to both the Treaty and the work of the CTBTO.

In turn, we have striven to make a tangible contribution to the very fabric that brought together the countries that signed the *Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries* in 1964.

By banning nuclear test explosions, the CTBT brings us closer to our shared aspiration of a nuclear-weapon-free world – one that is safer and more secure. By doing so, the Treaty helps create the conditions for increased cooperation and prosperity.

On behalf of the Executive Secretary, I would like to once again express our most sincere congratulations on this twentieth anniversary of the G-77 Vienna Chapter, and reiterate our continued readiness – especially in such troubled and uncertain times – to working closely with the Group of 77 and China towards broadening and deepening an already fruitful cooperation.

Thank you.