

Statement by Mr Genxin Li
(Director, Legal and External Relations Division)
on behalf of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
Handover Ceremony of the Chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter
17 February 2015

Mr Chairman,
Madam Ambassador Yparraguirre,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Executive Secretary has asked me to convey his apology for not being able to make it to this 2015 Handover Ceremony of the Chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter. I am therefore honoured to represent, on his behalf, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

At the outset, I would like to thank Her Excellency Ambassador Lourdes Yparraguirre for her kind invitation to attend this ceremonial event and congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Armin Andereya Latorre on his new responsibilities. Please be assured that the CTBTO is committed to giving the highest attention to the G-77 and its members through the meetings of our Policymaking Organs. As always, we stand ready to engaging and working with you in the most constructive and open manner.

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the G-77 and China – fifty years of global cooperation and multilateralism towards a more prosperous and safer, more secure, world. The CTBT was also developed to address some of the same concerns that brought this group together in 1964. As a pillar of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, the CTBT ensures that nuclear weapons remain forever silent. As such, it also safeguards States' efforts towards development against the tragic consequences of nuclear testing.

Moreover, the same verification system that is tasked with monitoring the test-ban also has civil and scientific applications that can assist countries in areas such as disaster risk reduction and environmental monitoring. Combined with our integrated capacity-building and training services, these assets and capabilities can play a significant role in strengthening the national institutions and know-how of G-77 countries.

Mr Chairman,
Madam Ambassador Yparraguirre,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The operational readiness of the CTBTO in fulfilling its mandate and providing assistance to States was demonstrated more clearly than ever by the successful outcome of the Integrated Field Exercise that was held in Jordan – a G-77 country – at the end of last year.

Now more than ever, we stand ready to work with you towards our shared objectives, and look forward to seizing upon any opportunities that may arise to further enhance the productive and cordial partnership between the G-77 and China, and the CTBTO.