



**G-77 and China statement during the Fifty Third Session of the  
Preparatory Commission, 25-27 November 2019,  
to be delivered by H.E. Ambassador Omar Amer Youssef,  
Permanent Representative of Egypt**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. At the outset, the Group avails itself of this opportunity to welcome, H.E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan of Malaysia, as Chairperson of the ongoing Session of the Preparatory Commission and to assure him of its full cooperation and support. The Group also welcomes the nomination of H.E. Mrs. Faouzia Mebarki, Permanent Representative of Algeria, as Chairperson of the upcoming Session of the Preparatory Commission.
3. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Executive Secretary, Dr Lassina Zerbo, for his opening remarks and takes note of his reports on the verification and non-verification related activities. The Group appreciates the Provisional Technical Secretariat's (PTS) efforts in preparing documents and making them available for this Preparatory Commission Session in a timely manner. The Group takes note of the Executive Secretary's opening statement in which he highlighted certain issues and provided updates on his written reports.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The Group welcomes the decision of the Government of Cuba to sign the CTBT, and recalls that the last ratification by the Republic of Zimbabwe brought the total number of ratifications to 168. This gives palpable signs of the Group of 77 and China members of its commitment to achieve the universalization of the Treaty and achieve complete nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
5. We strongly believe that more and stronger efforts should be undertaken to achieve the universality of the Treaty. The Group stresses the need of an early entry into force of the CTBT, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
6. The Group welcomes the convening of the eleventh conference on facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty, which took place in New York on 25 September 2019 and takes note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Conference. The Group appreciates the efforts undertaken by Algeria and Germany as co-facilitators, and thanks the PTS for organizing this event.
7. The Group wishes to express its full support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and its importance within the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and for international peace and security by constraining the development of nuclear weapons. The Group stresses that the effectiveness of the CTBT is strongly linked to achieving the universality and full implementation of NPT, which is the

cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime. In this regard, the Group looks forward to participating in all discussions and work in preparation for the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Group reiterates that the Vienna spirit and the principle of consensus should prevail in any decision-making process.
9. The Group takes note of the report of Working Group A (WGA) at its fifty-sixth session and its recommendations. We would like to thank the Chairperson of WGA, Ambassador Nada Kruger of Namibia, for leading the consultations that preceded the session, as well as all her efforts on conducting the meeting in order to achieve consensus in diverse issues.
10. Regarding the cash surplus of the 2016/2017 budget, the Group stresses that any decision to surrender the cash surplus must reflect a balance between the priorities of different States Signatories. In this regard, any such decision by the Preparatory Commission on utilising the available surplus must ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to capacity-building to support efforts to expand the engagement of different States Signatures, and in particular developing countries, in capacity-building activities.
11. The Group takes note of the report of the Fifty-Third Session of Working Group B (WGB) and its recommendations, and thanks Mr. Joachim Schulze for the introduction of the report.
12. The Group notes with appreciation progress made by the PTS in implementing 2018-2019 verification related programme. The Group strongly emphasizes the importance it attaches to capacity-building and training and to the various activities carried out by the PTS in this field as a means of improving the ability of States Signatories, in particular developing countries, to fully participate in the Treaty's verification regime. We request the PTS to provide the possibility of E- Learning in all its capacity-building and training courses.
13. In these orders of ideas, we recall our expressions that savings should not compromise the capacity building activities of the Organization, especially for developing countries, as well as to recognize the importance of the technical cooperation and increased capacity building of the Commission, especially for experts and scientists from developing countries. The Group expresses its support for the pilot project, which facilitates the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions. The Group is convinced that such participation contributes to capacity-building in our countries.
14. The Group takes note of the 2020-2021 Programme and Budget final draft, and that it incorporates comments and views of the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, while calling for a balanced approach to develop and resource allocation among all elements of the verification regime of the Treaty. In this context, the Group reiterates its position that capacity-building activities should be funded in a sufficient manner through the Regular Budget.
15. The Group takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its Fifty-Third Session and its recommendations and thanks Sir Michael Weston for the introduction of the report.

The Group reiterates its appreciation to the efforts and expertise of the Advisory Group in providing observations, conclusions and recommendations to Working Group A and the PTS on issues related to the associated administrative, budgetary and financial matters.

Mr. Chairman,

16. Under the Agenda item 8 “Developing guidelines for holding extraordinary session of the Preparatory Commission”, the Group is looking forward to finalising the discussions on these guidelines bearing in mind that according to the Rules of Procedure, it is upon the Commission to decide on the convening of sessions of the Commission. In this regard, the Group has taken note of the proposal on guidelines for non-scheduled sessions of the Commission presented by Chile on behalf of a Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries and its revised version.
17. On Human Resources Management, the Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance among the staff of the Organization, particularly, at the Professional and higher levels, as important considerations in the recruitment process. The Group takes note of the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, including the achievement of gender balance at the director level of the PTS. The Group takes this opportunity to thank Ms. Margarete Barbosa Sobral, Director of Human Resources, and wishes her success in her future endeavours, and also wishes to welcome the reappointment of Mr. Wang Xiaoning as Director of Legal and External Relations Division.
18. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve and maintain equitable geographical distribution and gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility, including director level.

Mr. Chairman,

19. Finally, the Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation and timely conclusion of the work of this Session of the Preparatory Commission.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.