



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the Sixty-Seventh Session of Working Group A
22-23 May 2025
delivered by H.E. Mr. Maurice Maloloo,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kenya**

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Ambassador Evangelina Bernas, chairing the 67th Session of Working Group A and assures you of the Group's full support and cooperation.
2. The Group thanks the Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his opening remarks and notes his report on non-verification related activities for the period from September 2024 - March 2025 and extends its appreciation to the PTS for the timely issuance of documents for this session.
3. The Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and underlines the importance of all possible efforts to be made to achieve the universalization of the Treaty, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Madam Chair,

4. The Group takes note of the Annual Report (CTBT/ES/2024/5) on the programme of activities which reflects the achievements of the Commission attained in 2024. The Group further notes the financial statements (CTBT/PTS/INF.1729) and recognizes that the Commission received an unqualified opinion on its financial statements for 2024, as well as the Report of the 64th session of the Advisory Group.
5. With regard to the 2026-2027 Programme and Budget Proposals: Initial Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1722), the Group emphasises that global macroeconomic circumstances continue to negatively impact developing countries, adding to their financial burdens and posing new challenges. The Group reiterates its requests to the PTS to make every effort to maintain a minimal as possible price adjustment, to ensure that financial resources are put to best use, as well as to identify efficiencies and savings in the current and future budgets, stressing the importance of maintaining a zero real growth policy in the budget where feasible. Additionally, the Group has the following comments:
 - (a) The Group notes the proposed 2026 budget of \$ 163.33 million with an overall weighted average price adjustment of 2.5% and an increase of 17% compared to the previous budget,. The Group also notes that 82.6% of the 2026 Budget is allocated to verification activities;

(b) The effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities is a priority to the Group to enhance the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime. Capacity building activities should be funded in a sufficient, predictable and sustainable manner through the Regular Budget. The Group requests the PTS to continue providing information, documents and organizing briefings on this subject;

(c) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and appropriate allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection;

(d) The Group welcomes the decision of the resumed session of the 63th PrepCom to authorize the PTS to conclude negotiations with Namibia as the host country of the next integrated field exercise (IFE) in 2026;

(e) The Group reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual dimensions, as well as assessment mechanisms and notes the efforts of the PTS providing records of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, in all languages, on the ECS;

(f) The Group takes note of the six documents published by the PTS on the IMS long-term sustainment strategy including the most recent on the sustainment of auxiliary seismic stations (CTBT/PTS/INF.1735). While renewing its support to the PTS to ensure the operationalization of the Treaty's verification regime at entry into force, the Group recalls that the IMS at present remains provisional and testing in nature. The Group reiterates that capacity building aimed at meeting the needs of States Signatories, particularly developing countries, should be an integral component of the IMS Sustainment Strategy and requests the PTS to provide a proposed list of capacity building activities pertaining to the IMS sustainment strategy, which should be updated. The Group is also of the view that the Sustainment Strategy should be accompanied by the required flexibility in managing financial resources and sufficient PTS staffing;

(g) The Group welcomes the PTS's efforts in identifying other sources of funding to mitigate financial burdens on States Signatories and stresses the need to maintain an adequate allocation of resources for capacity building programmes for all pillars of the verification regime, especially for developing countries to ensure their full participation in the verification regime upon the entry into force of the Treaty. The Group expresses its concern over the low implementation rate of the Capacity Building Fund, noting that it has decreased from 14.2% in 2024 to 12.7% as of March 2025. The Group further encourages the PTS to maintain an adequate implementation rate of the Capacity Building Fund to meet the required needs of States Signatories.

Madam Chair,

7. The Group notes document CTBT/PTS/INF.1733 providing comparison of nominations for appointment of the Commission's External Auditor for 2026 and 2027. While the Group would welcome the appointment of a developing country to this position, we look forward to a consensual decision on the appointment.

8. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism, reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, and emphasizes the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security.

9. The Group takes note of the 2024 Human Resources Management Report and Equal Employment Opportunities document (CTBT/PTS/INF.1732). The Group continues to be concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS while recognizing the efforts made to improve this representation. The Group continues to encourage the PTS to increase gender representation at Professional and director level which now stands at 35.6% according to the most recent Non-Verification Report. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance at all levels of responsibility, including by encouraging the participation of young female professionals in the PTS.

10. Finally the Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation, timely and consensual conclusion of the work of this Working Group and all other subsidiary bodies of the PrepCom.

Thank you, Madam Chair.