



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the 64th Session of the Preparatory Commission,
24 – 26 June 2025,
delivered by H.E. Maurice Makoloo,
Permanent Representative of Kenya**

Mr. Chair,

1. Since this is the first time the Group takes the floor under your Chairpersonship, the Group takes this opportunity to congratulate you, Ambassador Yacouba Cisse on your appointment to this role and expresses its full support and cooperation. The Group also thanks you for the informal consultations in preparation for this meeting.

2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary for his opening remarks and takes note of his reports and expresses its appreciation to the Provisional Technical Secretariat for preparing documents and making them available for this session in a timely manner.

Mr. Chair,

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 complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

4. The Group would like to reiterate that the CTBT and the NPT are mutually reinforcing legal instruments of the international disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. We reaffirm the central role of the NPT, as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and the envisaged role of the CTBT, in furthering nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation both vertical and horizontal.

5. The Group continues to express its serious concern on any possible planning and preparation for nuclear test explosions. Any nuclear test explosion would not only break the global moratorium, but severely undermine the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and international peace and security. The Group calls upon all States to observe nuclear test moratoria and to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to general, complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.

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

Mr. Chair,

7. The Group takes note of the report of the 67th session of Working Group A and thank Ambassador Evangelina Bernas for presenting it, and for her exemplary leadership as Chair of Working Group A. The Group would like to emphasize the following points:

(a) The Group takes note of the 2026-2027 Programme and Budget Proposals: Initial Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1722) and emphasizes that global macroeconomic circumstances continue to negatively impact developing countries, adding to their financial burdens and posing new challenges and therefore would welcome the consideration of a zero real growth policy and highlights the importance of maintaining this approach while feasible. The Group also takes note of Working Group A recommendation for the IMS Sustainment Strategy and funding scenarios.

(b) The Group welcomes the PTS' information on its holistic and integrated approach on capacity building activities in relation to the IMS Sustainment Strategy, reiterates that capacity building aimed at meeting the needs of States Signatories, particularly developing countries, should be an integral and fundamental component of the Strategy and requests the PTS to provide a proposed list of capacity building activities pertaining to it, which should be regularly 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.

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

(d) 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.

Mr. Chair,

8. The Group takes note of the report of Working Group B at its 64th session and thanks Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov for presenting the report and in this regard would like to reiterate the following points:

(a) The Group stresses the importance of maintenance and recapitalization of IMS and emphasizes that IMS at present remains provisional and testing in nature, while highlighting the need to adhere to the provisional operation and maintenance guidelines, and relevant decisions thereafter. .

(b) The Group emphasizes the importance of capacity building and capability sustainment through a wide range of training tools and activities for developing countries in areas relevant to the Treaty. The continuous need for cooperation, technical assistance, technology sharing and support for projects, such as the NDC4all initiative and the Technical Experts Support Programme (TESP),

provides the assurances that all State Signatories attain the competence to effectively and equally participate in the verification regime. Additionally, the Group renews its request to the PTS to increase the funding for capacity building from the regular budget. The Group is of the view that this ensures the wider and equal participation of all State Signatories in the technical, scientific and policy-making organs of the Organization.

(c) Reaffirming the provisions of the Establishing Resolution and the independent nature of the PrepCom, the Group would like to reaffirm that any activities related to the funding, maintenance, and provisional operation of the IMS stations must respect the mandate of the PTS, and any related action or decision by the PrepCom, should fully respect the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including those on the territorial integrity of the States. In view of this, the Group highlights the importance that engaging in construction, maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities must be fully in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

9. The Group also takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 64th session and the recommendations contained therein. The Group appreciates the Advisory Group's efforts and expertise in providing necessary observations, conclusions and recommendations on issues related to the administrative, budgetary and financial matters.

Mr Chair,

10. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security.

11. 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 situation. 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, and that further steps be taken to bring geographical representation to equitable levels.

12. 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.

13. Recognizing the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, the Group affirms the paramount importance of youth participation in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, as well as in the PTS activities.

14. The Group encourages the PTS to coordinate with the other Secretariats of the Vienna based International Organizations (VBOs), to ensure that major meetings do not coincide, as well as to avoid an overlap, to the extent possible, with major sessions of the VBOs and any major public holiday.

15. The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next session of the PrepCom.

16. Finally, the Group of 77 and China looks forward to a constructive deliberation, consensual and timely conclusion of the work of this session of the Preparatory Commission.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.