



**G-77 and China Statement during the 65th Session of Working Group B,
26 August – 5 September 2025
delivered by H.E. Maurice Makoloo,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kenya**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group is pleased to see you, Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov, as Chairperson of Working Group B, conducting our work in this 65th Session together with the Vice-Chairs and Task Leaders. The Group assures you of its full cooperation.
2. The Group thanks Dr. Robert Floyd, the Executive Secretary, for his opening remarks and takes note of his report on verification related activities for the period from January – June 2025. We also take note of the documents prepared for this session by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS).

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group reiterates its full support for the CTBT and stresses the need for an early Entry into Force of the Treaty and its universalization, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
4. The Group looks forward to the upcoming Science and Technology Conference 2025 (SnT2025), that will take place from 8 to 12 September, at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. The Conference continues to be an effective platform for an exchange of knowledge and ideas with the broader scientific community.
5. The Group reiterates its principled position on the importance of sustaining a balanced approach, including in allocating resources and time, among the three Major Programmes of the verification regime, namely the International Monitoring System (IMS), the International Data Centre (IDC) and On-Site Inspection (OSI). To this end, it calls once more on the PTS to seek the necessary efficiencies in the process, to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty, upon Entry into Force, is balanced, coherent, and robust while furthering its efficiency.

Mr. Chair,

6. On specific verification related activities conducted by the PTS, as contained in the Executive Secretary's report, the Group stresses the importance of the PTS conforming with its mandate and would like to make the following remarks:

- a) The Group notes that the unauthenticated data availability of certified IMS stations remained high during the period and automated products of the IDC met the timeliness requirements.
- b) Regarding the IMS, the Group takes note of the activities undertaken by the PTS during the reporting period, in particular the progress achieved towards the installations and certification of remaining Stations in developing countries, which illustrates the strong political commitment and material contributions of developing countries to the work of this Organization.
- c) On the management of life-cycle costs, including post-certification activity (PCA) contracts for certified IMS stations, the Group takes note of the continuous efforts by the PTS to standardize and improve the services provided under PCA contracts, in particular by conducting a comprehensive assessment of these contracts. The Group reiterates its call on all States Signatories to cooperate with the PTS in a joint effort to lower life cycle costs, including those related to PCA.
- d) 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 to engage in construction, maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities fully in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
- e) The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority. The Group looks forward to the resumption of these consultations at the next session of the PrepCom with a view to finalize it at the earliest. We recognize that the PTS has reaffirmed that it continues to observe the decision of the Commission that no campaign will be initiated in the future without guidance.
- f) Regarding the International Data Center Progressive Commissioning, the Group would like to emphasize the importance of continued involvement of experts in conducting the experiments, including the participation of experts from developing countries. The Group looks forward to further briefings on the progressive commissioning of the IMS and the IDC, the validation and acceptance test plan and the experiments conducted and planned by the PTS, noting that the milestones for progressive commission are not time bound and are requirement-based.
- g) The Group notes that the PTS remains engaged with Namibia regarding the hosting of IFE in 2026.
- h) The Group takes note of the successful regional workshop on CTBT technologies for French-speaking NDCs that took place in Tunisia in support of the multilingualism efforts of the Commission.

7. The Group notes the various documents published thus far by the PTS on the long term IMS Sustainment Strategy, to support the Commission in its deliberations on the long term sustainment of the IMS network and has the following remarks:

- a) The difficult global macroeconomic circumstances have not abated and continue to negatively impact on States Signatories, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges in particular for developing countries. In this regard, the Group stresses the importance of maintaining a zero real growth policy while feasible.
- b) The Group renews its support to the PTS to ensure the operationalization of the Treaty's verification regime at entry into force and reiterates that the IMS at present remains provisional and testing in nature.
- c) The Group reiterates that capacity building for developing countries should be an integral component of the IMS Sustainment Strategy. The Group therefore calls on the PTS to incorporate, as part of its proposed IMS Sustainment Strategy, updated capacity building programmes that bridge the gap between equipment and personnel, and requests the PTS to provide a proposed list of capacity building activities pertaining to its implementation which should be regularly updated.
- d) 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.
- e) The Group requests the PTS to continue updating States Signatories on the long term IMS sustainment strategy and its funding needs.

Mr. Chair,

8. The Group takes note of document CTBT/PTS/INF.1646 and the efforts of the PTS to scale up capacity building events and resources and 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 and to maintain an adequate allocation of resources in the regular budget for capacity building programmes for all pillars of the verification regime. The continuous need for cooperation, technical assistance 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 upon the entry into force of the Treaty. 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.

Mr. Chair,

9. 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. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to capacity-building activities. In this regard, we

encourage Working Group B to contribute to improving such representation among its officers in accordance with the above-mentioned principles.

10. The Group requests the PTS to include in its next relevant report concrete actions for the realization of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in order to improve the current representation of developing countries in the PTS.

11. The Group welcomes the efforts of the PTS for improving and strengthening gender balance, including through increased support for the mentoring programme for early career women in STEM coming from geographical regions which are under-represented in CTBTO staff, the application and inclusion of gender consideration in the selection of TESP candidates, capacity building, training activities and conferences with the aim to actively boost women involvement in CTBT activities.

12. The Group welcomes the efforts of the PTS for improving and strengthening of multilingualism, including, developing technical documents and organizing regional meetings in CTBTO languages other than English and looks forward to continuing the work on this matter.

13. Finally, the Group looks forward to continue working constructively with you, the Vice-Chairs and the Task Leaders in order to achieve a fruitful outcome of this session.

Thank you.