



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the Sixty-Eighth Session of Working Group A
13 – 15 October 2025
delivered by H.E. Mr. Yacouba Cisse,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire**

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Ambassador Elena Freije, chairing the 68th 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 April 2025 - August 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.
4. The Group welcomes the convening of the Science and Technology Conference 2025 that took place in Vienna from 8 - 12 September 2025, and of the 14th session of the Art. XIV Conference, under the Co-Presidency of the Philippines and Sweden, that took place in New York on 26 September 2025.

Madam Chair,

5. The Group takes note of the Report of the 65th session of the Advisory Group and the recommendations contained therein.
6. With regard to the 2026-2027 Programme and Budget Proposals: Final Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1722/Rev.1), 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 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 takes note of the updated 2026-2027 programme and budget proposals.

(b) The effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities remains a priority to the Group to enhance the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime. Capacity building activities should continue being funded in a sufficient, predictable and sustainable manner through the Regular Budget. The Group takes note of the document CTBT/PTS/INF.1746 and welcomes the efforts of the PTS to scale up capacity building events and resources. 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 reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual dimensions,

(e) The Group renews its support to the PTS to ensure the operationalization of the Treaty's verification regime at entry into force, highlighting the fact that at present the IMS remains provisional and testing in nature. 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.

(f) The Group welcomes the PTS's efforts in identifying other sources of funding to mitigate financial burdens on States Signatories.

Madam Chair,

7. The Group takes note of the ongoing process for the appointment of the Commission's External Auditor for 2026 and 2027 and looks forward to a consensual decision on the appointment of the Office of the Auditor General of the Republic of Kenya based on the majority support received from States Signatories.

8. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism, and 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 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. 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.