



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the Sixty-Ninth Session of Working Group A
18-19 May 2026,
delivered by H.E. Damos Dumoli Agusman,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Indonesia**

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Ambassador Evangelina Bernas, chairing the 69th 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 2025 - March 2026 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/2025/5) on the programme of activities in 2025 and notes that the 2025 Financial Statements of the Commission are compliant with International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and received an unmodified (unqualified) opinion from the External Auditor. The Group further takes note of the Report of the 66th session of the Advisory Group.
5. With regard to the 2027 Budget Update Proposals: Initial Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1766), 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. The Group takes note of the decision of the 65th Session of the PrepCom on the Zero Nominal Growth budget and reiterates 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 2027 budget of \$ 139.3 million with an overall weighted average price adjustment of 2.2%, which is a decrease from the previous budget. The Group also notes that 79.6 % of the 2027 Budget is allocated to verification activities;

(b) In a context of a zero nominal growth budget, the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities remains paramount to the Group in enhancing 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, particularly for developing countries to ensure their full participation in the verification regime upon the entry into force of the Treaty. The Group requests the PTS to continue providing information, documents and organizing briefings on this subject;

(c) Given the impact of the ZNG budget, the Group welcomes the PTS's efforts in identifying other sources of funding to mitigate financial burdens on States Signatories.

(d) 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;

(e) The Group takes note of the document CTBT/PTS/INF.1763 on the reorganization of the IMS and IDC divisions and welcomes the PTS' assurances that it will not impact the mandate and financing of capacity building activities and programs in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty. The Group further highlights that the implementation of this process should fully preserve and safeguard the integrity, continuity, and effectiveness of the capacity-building programmes and requests the PTS to report regularly to States Signatories on the implementation of the reorganization process.

(f) The Group looks forward to the conduct of the Integrated Field Exercise (IFE) in Namibia later this year, which will strengthen the on-site inspection capabilities of the CTBTO's verification regime.

(g) 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;

(h) The Group welcomes continued discussions on the long term IMS Sustainment Strategy. 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. Recognizing the importance of the long term sustainment of IMS stations, the Group further emphasizes that strengthening and enhancing training and capacity building activities constitute a strategic investment that may result in efficiencies and should be an integral component of the implementation of any future IMS Sustainment Strategy.

Madam Chair,

6. The Group welcomes the appointment of the Office of the Auditor General of Kenya as External Auditor of the Organization for the period of 2026-2027. While noting the discussions regarding the procedure for the appointment of the External Auditor, the Group commends the inclusive and transparent efforts of the Chair of WGA that led towards a consensual decision by the Commission and further recalls that the evaluation and selection of candidates for the post of external Auditor remains the sole prerogative of States Signatories, in accordance with the current applicable procedure.

7. 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.

8. The Group takes note of the 2025 Human Resources Management Report and Equal Employment Opportunities document (CTBT/PTS/INF.1768). 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 higher level which now stands at 37% 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.

9. 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.