



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the 66th Session of the Preparatory Commission,
15-17 June 2026,
delivered by H.E. Damos Dumoli Agusman,
Permanent Representative of Indonesia**

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 Raimonds Oškalsns on your appointment to this role and expresses its full support and cooperation. The Group also appreciates 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 conclusion of the Host Country Agreement between the PTS and Namibia and looks forward to the successful conduct of the integrated field exercise (IFE) in October 2026.

Mr. Chair,

7. The Group takes note of the report of the 69th 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 2027 Budget Update Proposals: Initial Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1766) and emphasizes that global macroeconomic circumstances continue to negatively impact developing countries, adding to their financial burdens and posing new challenges. The Group reiterates its request to the PTS to make every effort to maintain as 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.

(b) The Group takes note of the document CTBT/PTS/INF.1763 on the reorganization of the IMS and IDC divisions and welcomes 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 the process should fully preserve and safeguard the integrity, continuity, and effectiveness of the capacity-building programmes and requests the PTS to regularly update States Signatories on progress on the reorganization process.

(c) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and equitable allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the comprehensive 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 welcomes continued discussions on the IMS Sustainment Strategy in order to safeguard the long term integrity and functionality of the IMS. 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.

(e) The Group reiterates that capacity building for developing countries should be an integral component of any future IMS Sustainment Strategy to bridge the gap between equipment and personnel.

Mr. Chair,

8. The Group takes note of the report of Working Group B at its 66th session and thanks Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov for presenting the report and in this regard would like to reiterate the following points:

(a) 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 maintain an adequate allocation of resources in the regular budget for all capacity building programmes. 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.

(b) 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 66th 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.

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.