



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AURELIA FRICK

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Co-Presidents,

I would like to congratulate Belgium and Iraq on their election to the Presidency of this Article XIV Conference and thank the Executive Secretary for his important work. The Conference takes place against the background of a serious deterioration of the security situation on the Korean peninsula. The sixth nuclear test conducted by the DPRK on 3 September 2017 is a grave violation of international law and runs counter to the international consensus against nuclear testing that is shared by all but one country. This consensus is to a large extent the product of the CTBT regime. Even if the Treaty has not entered into force, it constitutes a powerful normative framework and, with its sophisticated global verification system, a strong deterrent to nuclear testing. Still, the current status of the CTBT cannot be a permanent substitute to a *de jure* commitment never to test nuclear weapons again. Those Annex II States that have not ratified the CTBT are responsible that the Treaty continues to be prevented from unfolding its full potential. By changing course and becoming party to the treaty these States could contribute to confidence-building at a time when such measures are urgently needed and in short supply.

The CTBT continues to be an important building-block for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the ultimate aim of our collective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. This role has been recognized by a large majority of the international community when they agreed on a Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. The explicit prohibition of testing contained in the Ban Treaty will strengthen the CTBT regime and its comprehensive set of core prohibitions will complement and complete the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. Liechtenstein has signed the Ban Treaty today alongside many other States that share the view that action in this field is more urgent today than ever. Liechtenstein will continue to advocate and offer its cooperation for new and substantial steps towards the entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture of which the CTBT remains a central part.

I thank you.