



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ARTICLE XIV CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARTIN FRICK

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Distinguished Co-Presidents,

Liechtenstein welcomes this Article XIV Conference as an opportunity to send a strong political signal for the urgent entry into force and the universalization of the CTBT, in line with our common goal towards a world free of nuclear weapons. Liechtenstein commends the important work already done by the CTBTO and its Executive Secretary, which is in itself a strong case for realizing the full potential of the treaty by bringing it into force.

The CTBT has been devised as a key building block in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and has significantly contributed to a de facto moratorium on nuclear tests that is increasingly under pressure. Violations of the norm against nuclear tests have been so far restricted to the DPRK, whose test activities are serious violations of international law, in particular, relevant Security Council resolutions. Today, however, we witness extremely concerning developments pointing to a possible broader recurrence of test activity as part of a new nuclear arms race. This makes the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT abundantly clear and calls into serious question all those who have argued that the treaty extends sufficient normative power even without being in force. At the same time, it makes these conferences increasingly relevant as fora to hold signatory States accountable for their duty not to defeat the object and purpose of the CTBT even in the absence of its entry into force. The remaining Annex II States Egypt, China, Iran, Israel, and the US that still have to ratify the treaty as well as the DPRK, India, and Pakistan that have not even signed it yet, bear the responsibility that today we lack a legally binding

instrument against nuclear tests when we most urgently need it. This state of affairs runs counter to the will of the overwhelming majority of the international community.

Distinguished Co-Presidents,

This is a period of increased pressure on the rules-based international order and we see an increased readiness by a few States to undermine the broader multilateral framework. But we also see that support for multilateralism is strong in the UN membership, and in civil society in particular. Broad majority coalitions have taken forward important initiatives that will help strengthen the international rule of law. As a matter of fact, in the area of disarmament international norms have developed in this manner most of the time. The Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty (TPNW) is the result of a broad political movement and it will, as part of its comprehensive prohibition of nuclear weapons, also establish a firm prohibition of nuclear testing. The TPNW will thus help to establish a legally binding norm in full coherence with the CTBT, which brings with it the necessary means to verify compliance. Hence, the two regimes have the potential to mutually reinforce each other and can thus provide a good example of how multilateralism can work despite the recalcitrance of a few.

Thank you