



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARTIN FRICK

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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 universalization of the CTBT, in line with our common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. This is more relevant than ever, given the Doomsday Clock now at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest to global catastrophe it has ever been, especially due to the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Liechtenstein commends the important work already accomplished by the CTBTO and its Executive Secretary. We appreciate the central position of the Organization and its members in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and their contribution to a de facto moratorium on nuclear testing.

The DPRK's failure to comply with the norm against nuclear testing constitutes a serious violation of international law, in particular the relevant Security Council Resolutions. The remaining Annex II States – China, Egypt, Iran, Israel and the United States, which have not yet ratified the treaty, and the DPRK, India and Pakistan, which have not signed it – bear the responsibility for the absence of a legally binding instrument against nuclear testing today, at a time when the number of conflicts around the world is increasing. This disengagement disregards the interests of the

overwhelming majority of the international community and prevents the world from becoming a safer place.

Distinguished Co-Presidents,

In this period of pressure on the rules-based global community, we see signs of increased willingness by a few states to undermine the broader multilateral framework. But we also see strong support for multilateralism among the UN membership, strengthened by civil society advocacy. Liechtenstein welcomes the signature and ratification of the CTBT by Dominica, the new ratifications by Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu, as well as the ratifications by Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands, and signature by Somalia and South Sudan this year, which are a testimony to this.

Looking at the area of disarmament in particular, broad majority coalitions have taken forward important initiatives to strengthen the international rule of law. Through its International Monitoring System, the CTBT has already succeeded in establishing a reliable instrument to deter non-compliance. In order for the CTBT to enter into full force and thus fulfill its potential contribution to sustainable peace and security, we urge all eight remaining Annex II States to sign and ratify the treaty without further delay.

I thank you.