



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

NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

**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 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, and congratulates Dr Robert Floyd on his recent appointment. You can count on Liechtenstein's continued and unwavering support in promoting the entry into force of and universal adherence to the CTBT.

As we mark 25 years of the CTBT, Liechtenstein acknowledges its central place in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, as well as its contribution to a de facto moratorium on nuclear tests. Violations of the norm against nuclear tests by the DPRK are serious violations of international law, in particular, relevant Security Council resolutions. The remaining Annex II States China, Egypt, 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,

In this period of pressure on the rules-based international order, we see signs of an increased readiness by a few States to undermine the broader multilateral framework. But we also see that support for multilateralism is strong amongst the UN membership, strengthened by the advocacy of civil society. Looking at the area of disarmament in particular, broad majority coalitions have taken forward important initiatives to strengthen the international rule of law. In this vein, Liechtenstein welcomes the entry into force of the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty (TPNW) in January 2021. As part of its comprehensive prohibition on nuclear weapons, it establishes a firm prohibition on nuclear testing, which helps us to establish a legally binding norm in full coherence with the CTBT, bringing the necessary means to verify compliance. Of course, the CTBT through its International Monitoring System has already succeeded in establishing a reliable instrument that helps to deter non-compliance. In order for it to assume full power, and in so doing fulfill its potential contribution to sustainable peace and security, we ask all remaining eight Annex II States to sign and ratify the treaty without any further delay.

I thank you.