



**Statement of the G-77 and China  
during the Sixty-Sixth Session of Working Group A  
16 – 18 October 2024  
delivered by H.E. Ms. Laura Gil,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Ambassador Evangelina Bernas, chairing the 66th Session of Working Group A and assures you of the Group's full support and cooperation.
2. The Group also thanks the Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his opening remarks and takes note of his report on non-verification related activities for the period from April 2024-August 2024.
3. The Group also extends its appreciation to the PTS for the timely issuance of documents for this session.

Madam Chair,

4. 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 general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Madam Chair,

5. The Group takes note of the 2025 Budget Update Proposals: Final Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1695/Rev.1). The Group reiterates its request to the PTS, to make every effort to maintain a minimal as possible price adjustment and to ensure that financial resources are put to best use, taking into account the importance of a zero percent real growth policy in the budget. Additionally, the Group has the following comments:

- (a) The Group notes the amount of \$ 134.8 million with an overall weighted average price adjustment of 2.4% to be financed via assessed contributions and encourages the PTS to continue identifying efficiencies and savings in the current and future budgets. The Group also notes that 80.5% of the 2025 Budget is allocated to verification activities;
- (b) The difficult global macroeconomic circumstances has not abated and continue to negatively impact on States Signatories, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges

in particular for developing countries. In this regard, the Group welcomes the consideration of a zero real growth policy and highlights the importance of maintaining this approach while feasible;

(c) The effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities is a priority to the Group to enhance the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime, and capacity building activities should be funded in a sufficient, predictable and sustainable manner through the Regular Budget. The Group requests the PTS to continue providing information, documents and organizing briefings on this subject inter-sessionally;

(d) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and appropriate allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection;

(e) The Group is of the view that the Secretariat should continue convening necessary Expert Meetings to define the projects and elaborate the exercise plan based on challenging scenarios to be held in the future, in preparation for the integrated field exercise (IFE) 2025;

(f) The Group requests the PTS to further develop the OSI e-Library, based on the lessons learned from exercises, in addition to providing access to the OSI e-library to the authorized experts from States Signatories;

(g) 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.

(h) The Group notes documents CTBT/PTS/INF.1717 and CTBT/PTS/INF.1685 regarding the financial and technical approaches to the IMS long-term sustainment strategy. While stressing the importance of ~~long-term~~ maintenance and recapitalization of the IMS infrastructure to ensure a fully functional verification regime, the Group recalls that the operation of the IMS remains provisional and testing in nature, pending the entry into force of the Treaty. The Group is of the view that the sustainment strategy should be accompanied by sufficient PTS staffing and ~~adequate~~ capacity building for State Signatories.

6. The Group welcomes the PTS's efforts in identifying other sources of funding to mitigate financial burdens on States Signatories and stresses the need to maintain an adequate allocation of resources for capacity building programmes, especially for developing countries to ensure their full participation in the verification regime upon the entry into force of the Treaty. The Group further encourages the PTS to maintain an adequate implementation rate of the Capacity Building Fund to meet the required needs of States Signatories.

Madam Chair,

7. 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. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom, its

subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to the Staff of the Organization, especially, at the Professional and higher levels, as important considerations in the recruitment process. The Group takes positive note of the efforts of the PTS in promoting work opportunities in the Commission and is encouraged that applications from the Global South have increased.

8. The Group remains concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS. The Group looks forward to further discussing the issue of equitable geographical representation in the upcoming WGA and regularly thereafter, and therefore, while noting that the PTS continues to provide updated data, requests further steps to make progress in addressing the current persistent low representation of developing countries in the PTS and to make all necessary efforts to bring geographical representation to equitable levels.

9. The Group recognizes the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, and encourages to continue improving gender representation at Professional and director level which stands at 38% according to the most recent Non-Verification Report. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility. In this regard, we would like to encourage the PTS to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals in the PTS.

10. The Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation, timely and consensual conclusion of the work of this Working Group and all other subsidiary bodies of the PrepCom.

Thank you, Madam Chair.