
G77 Handover Ceremony
Mr Junan Zhang on behalf of CTBTO Executive Secretary Dr Robert Floyd

4 February 2025, 2pm

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Chair,

Thank you for opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of Dr Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

Dr Floyd asked me to pass on that he would dearly have liked to be here, for this important G-77 event but he is currently on duty travel in Moldova.

It is my pleasure to deliver his remarks, as follows:

I would like to start by expressing my sincere thanks to HE Ms. Laura Gil, Ambassador of Colombia and, Chairperson of the G-77, for this kind invitation.

It has been a privilege to work with Amb Gil and her team this year to celebrate the achievements of the G77, and to tackle important issues affecting the Group's Members.

Most notably, I commend Amb Gil for her engagement with us to take concrete steps towards strengthening the geographical representation of G77 members in the CTBTO, to ensure that our Secretariat reflects the diversity of our States Signatories.

This is an important issue and I thank Amb Gil for her support.

I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Maurice Makoloo, Permanent Representative of Kenya, on assuming the Chairmanship of the Group for 2025.

We at the CTBTO are greatly looking forward to working with you, Ambassador Makoloo, and offer you our full support in this important role.

This past year I was honoured to participate in the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the G-77.

It was a timely reminder of what this Group stands for and what makes it successful.

The strength of the G77 is that of partnership – of 134 diverse states coming together and finding consensus even when it may appear elusive.

By successfully building the largest and most significant negotiating bloc for developing countries, the Group gives a greater voice to every state, big or small.

We at the CTBTO, and in other multilateral fora in Vienna benefit from this spirit.

Cooperation between our organization and the G77 remains strong.

The G77 has already been at the forefront of efforts to universalize our Treaty.

Most G77 members have already signed and ratified the Treaty. Moreover, in the last 2.5 years there have been 9 new ratifications and 1 additional signature of the CTBT - 9 of these were G77 countries.

This is remarkable leadership. I thank you for this and continue to rely on your vocal support to achieve the remaining signatures and ratifications.

I am also thrilled to see G77 countries enthusiastically participating in our trainings and capacity building efforts across the world.

A significant number of our IMS stations are found in G77 countries.

In order to deliver on our mandate: to ensure any nuclear test - any time, any place – will be detected - we depend on the reliable functioning of these stations, and most importantly the dedicated and qualified staff operating them.

In the last year I have attended workshops in a number of G77 countries – most recently in Algeria, China, and the Gambia- and engaged with your experts.

It is wonderful to see the CTBTO community growing and taking skills and experience back to your countries. I am committed to expanding these efforts.

To conclude, my sincere thanks to the Group for your fervent support for the CTBT.

I look forward to our continued partnership under Amb Makoloo's leadership to achieve our shared goal of a world free of nuclear test explosions.