

JOINT STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE A3+1
Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Delivered by

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to the United Nations**

**Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction:
25th Anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

United Nations Security Council

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Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the A3+1, namely Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

We thank Under-Secretary-General Nakamitsu and Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Dr. Robert Floyd for their comprehensive briefings. We are also particularly pleased to have one of our very own young women, Ms. Maggie Wanyaga of the CTBTO Youth Group, brief us today on the scientific aspects of the Treaty.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a critical component of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and as such, remains a vital instrument in our quest to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. As we recognize the 25th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding the global norm against nuclear testing.

The Caribbean and Africa have, through meaningful action and partnership, remained unwavering in our call for the total elimination and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing. Through the Tlatelolco Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin

America and the Caribbean and the African Treaty of Pelindaba, our regions have rigorously pursued and reinforced the objectives of the CTBT.

Underscoring the contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones across the world to the overall objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the A3+1 welcome the convening of the United Nations Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, pursuant to UN General Assembly Decision 73/546. We encourage all invited States to constructively participate in the forthcoming sessions of the Conference.

A world without nuclear weapons is fundamental for the fulfillment of the legitimate aspirations of humanity such as peace, security and development. Nuclear explosions not only threaten human lives but have disastrous long-term environmental consequences. They can substantially undermine biodiversity and completely destroy land and marine ecosystems. Full implementation of the CTBT is therefore a global imperative.

Mr. President,

The existence, development and testing of nuclear weapons threatens international peace and security and this threat is heightened by rising geopolitical tensions and fragmentation across the multilateral system. Nuclear science and technology ought only to be employed for safe, secure and peaceful uses. Indeed, the exploration of these technologies can assist in our collective pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We therefore recognize and respect the sovereign rights of States to do so, guided by the oversight of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We laud the professional and all-important work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to promote and ensure compliance with the Treaty's provisions, in particular through the Treaty's verification regime. The CTBTO's continued efforts bolster our confidence that no nuclear explosion will escape detection. We further commend and support the CTBTO's activities aimed at enhancing the national capabilities of signatories and promoting international cooperation.

The CTBT has received overwhelming support from the international community, as seen by the 185 states which have so far signed, and the 170 which have ratified the instrument. We are however concerned about the positions of Annex 2 States whose ratifications are required for the

Treaty's entry into force. We strongly urge all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay to strengthen the norm against nuclear testing. We recall Security Council Resolution 2310 (2016) and implore States to remain fully committed to the preservation of the agreement to end nuclear testing, maintain moratoriums and continue to explore all avenues, *including through regional agreements and legislation*, to completely eliminate nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

Nuclear disarmament must remain a high priority on the agenda of the international community. The CTBT, along with other indispensable instruments such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) are essential to realize our collective vision of a safer world that is nuclear weapons free. Today, let us recommit ourselves to this goal to safeguard the future of humanity.

I thank you.