



# General Assembly

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## Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

### Report of the First Committee

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Szilvia **Balázs** (Hungary)

#### I. Introduction

1. The item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty” was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 73/86.
2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2019, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 2019, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 89 to 105. At its 11th meeting, on 21 October, the Committee decided, on the basis of the conference room paper before it,<sup>1</sup> on the final composition for the exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament, which was held at the 15th meeting, on 24 October. At its 3rd to 10th meetings, on 10 and 11 and from 14 to 18 October, the Committee held a general debate on the items. The Committee also held 11 meetings (11th to 21st), from 21 to 25 and from 29 to 31 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 22nd to 27th meetings, on 1 and from 4 to 8 November.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A/C.1/74/CRP.2/Rev.2, available at [www.un.org/en/ga/first/74/documentation74.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/74/documentation74.shtml).

<sup>2</sup> For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see A/C.1/74/PV.1, A/C.1/74/PV.2, A/C.1/74/PV.3, A/C.1/74/PV.4, A/C.1/74/PV.5, A/C.1/74/PV.6, A/C.1/74/PV.7, A/C.1/74/PV.8, A/C.1/74/PV.9, A/C.1/74/PV.10, A/C.1/74/PV.11, A/C.1/74/PV.12, A/C.1/74/PV.13, A/C.1/74/PV.14, A/C.1/74/PV.15, A/C.1/74/PV.16, A/C.1/74/PV.17, A/C.1/74/PV.18, A/C.1/74/PV.19, A/C.1/74/PV.20, A/C.1/74/PV.21, A/C.1/74/PV.22, A/C.1/74/PV.23, A/C.1/74/PV.24, A/C.1/74/PV.25, A/C.1/74/PV.26 and A/C.1/74/PV.27.



4. For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (A/74/110).

## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/74/L.24

5. On 14 October, the representative of New Zealand, on behalf of Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" (A/C.1/74/L.24). Subsequently, Albania, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 22nd meeting, on 1 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/74/L.24, as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 160 to none, with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America.

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 168 to none, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

India, Israel, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America.

(c) Draft resolution [A/C.1/74/L.24](#), as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 177 to 1, with 4 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte

d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

*Abstaining:*

India, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America.

### III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reiterating* that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure, and convinced that this is a meaningful step in the realization of a systematic process for achieving nuclear disarmament,

*Recalling* that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution [50/245](#) of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

*Stressing* that a universal and effectively verifiable Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and will be a major contribution to international peace and security,

*Stressing also* the vital importance and urgency of achieving the entry into force of the Treaty, as noted also in Security Council resolution [2310 \(2016\)](#) of 23 September 2016, and affirming its resolute determination, 23 years after the Treaty was opened for signature, to achieve its entry into force,

*Encouraged* by the signing of the Treaty by 184 States, including 41 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of the Treaty by 168 States, including 36 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, among which there are 3 nuclear-weapon States,

*Recalling* its resolution [73/86](#) of 5 December 2018,

*Recalling also* the adoption by consensus of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>1</sup> in which the Conference, inter alia, reaffirmed the vital importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and included specific actions to be taken in support of the entry into force of the Treaty,

*Welcoming* the Final Declaration adopted by the eleventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 25 September 2019, convened pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, and recalling the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted at the ministerial meeting held in New York on 27 September 2018,<sup>2</sup>

*Noting* the contribution of diverse participation in building and sustaining momentum for the universalization and entry into force of the Treaty, including through the Youth Group of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

*Welcoming* continuing progress in the development of the Treaty's verification regime, which advances the Treaty's primary non-proliferation and disarmament

<sup>1</sup> 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I, Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions.

<sup>2</sup> [A/73/838](#), annex.

objective, and the establishment of 298 certified facilities of the International Monitoring System network,

*Recognizing* the civil and scientific benefits provided by the Treaty's global monitoring system,

1. *Stresses* the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, in order to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the signatory States to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular its efforts to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty, and encourages their continuation;

3. *Underlines* the need to maintain momentum towards the completion of all elements of the verification regime;

4. *Urges* all States not to carry out nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, to maintain their moratoriums in this regard and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty;

5. *Reiterates its condemnation* of the six nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions,<sup>4</sup> urges full compliance with the obligations under those resolutions, including that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea abandon its nuclear weapons programme and not conduct any further nuclear tests, notes with encouragement the statement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning a moratorium on nuclear tests and efforts towards the dismantlement of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site, reaffirms its support for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, including through the Six-Party Talks, welcomes all efforts and dialogue to this end, including the inter-Korean summits and summits between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and encourages all parties to continue such efforts and dialogue;

6. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed or ratified, or that have signed but not yet ratified, the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

7. *Welcomes*, since the adoption of its previous resolution on the subject, the ratification of the Treaty by Zimbabwe, since each ratification is a significant step towards the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty;

8. *Encourages* further expressions from among the remaining States whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to enter into force of their intention to pursue and complete the ratification process;

9. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means;

<sup>3</sup> See resolution [50/245](#) and [A/50/1027](#).

<sup>4</sup> Including Security Council resolutions [1718 \(2006\)](#), [1874 \(2009\)](#), [2094 \(2013\)](#), [2270 \(2016\)](#), [2321 \(2016\)](#) and [2375 \(2017\)](#).

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”.
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