



COMPREHENSIVE  
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN  
TREATY ORGANIZATION

To Speakers of Parliament of  
the State Parties

Geneva, 18 September 2019

Dear Madam Speaker,  
Dear Mr. Speaker,

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. The use of these weapons would have unacceptable human, environmental and economic consequences, and the risk of proliferation is a threat to all. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a cornerstone element for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which requires unremitting active support and dedicated contributions by all States. In an increasingly volatile geopolitical context, we are writing to ask for **your support to put an irrevocable end to nuclear test by ensuring the urgent entry-into-force of the CTBT, an indispensable step to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.**

The CTBT prohibits nuclear weapon test explosions by everyone and everywhere, with a legally-binding and technologically verifiable regime. The implementation of the CTBT will make it considerably more difficult for countries to develop nuclear weapons for the first time, or for countries that already possess them to develop more powerful ones. It would also prevent the devastating and harmful effects on the lives and health of people, animals and the environment caused by nuclear testing. It is both a non-proliferation instrument and a catalyst for disarmament that can enhance transparency and confidence.

In September 1996, the CTBT, after being adopted by a large majority, exceeding two-thirds of the General Assembly's Membership, began its long journey towards becoming a globe spanning, legally binding Treaty. As of today, the Treaty is almost universal. It has been signed by 184 states and ratified by 168. The CTBT verification system is operational and exceeding all expectations in terms of coverage and detection. Among the mandatory 44 states ("Annex 2 States") that need to ratify the CTBT to allow for its entry-into-force, 36 have taken this step. Yet, eight of the "Annex 2" States have not given final approval to the Treaty, preventing its entry-into-force.

In 2014, the IPU adopted a landmark resolution on parliaments' role in achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world which urged parliaments to work with their governments to promote a nuclear weapons free world through a nuclear test free world and use all available tools to monitor the implementation of commitments to disarmament. A review of the implementation of this resolution will be organized by the IPU Standing Committee on Peace and International Security during the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly in Belgrade, Serbia, next October.

Your country is already a Party to the Treaty, and we congratulate you on this outstanding move towards a nuclear weapon free world. As a parliamentarian, you represent the people of your country, who seek peace, development and security. As member of the institution of state that has legislative, oversight and budgetary powers, you have important responsibilities in making sure that the provisions of the Treaty are fully translated to national laws, budgets and programs and we thank you for your achievements and continuous attention in this regard.

As a parliamentarian, you also have key leverage through regional and international inter-parliamentary dialogue to call for and engage parliamentarians of States which have not yet done so to urgently sign and ratify the CTBT. You can engage and build coalitions with other parliaments or cluster of parliaments, the media and the civil society, all the forces that share the goal of a more secure and peaceful world. The IPU, alongside the CTBTO, is committed to assisting you should a need arise for advice or support.

To counter the world's biggest threat, the nuclear weapons' threat, and ensure sustainable security for now and future generations, we must combine our efforts to finish what we started and ensure the universalization of the CTBT as soon as possible. CTBT is a decisive and urgent step to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong  
IPU Secretary General

Lassina Zerbo  
CTBTO Executive Secretary