



# General Assembly

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## Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

### Report of the First Committee

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Martin **Ngundze** (South Africa)

#### I. Introduction

1. The item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty” was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution [71/86](#) of 5 December 2016.
2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, 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 1st meeting, on 28 September 2017, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 52 (b) and 90 to 106. At its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 2 to 6 and on 9 and 10 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items. At its 9th meeting, on 10 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on the follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and the presentation of reports. At its 10th meeting, on 11 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Committee also held 14 meetings (10th to 23rd), from 11 to 13, from 16 to 18, on 20 and from 23 to 26 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 24th to 28th meetings, on 27, 30 and 31 October and on 1 and 2 November.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see [A/C.1/72/PV.2](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.3](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.4](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.5](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.6](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.7](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.8](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.9](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.10](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.11](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.12](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.13](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.14](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.15](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.16](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.17](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.18](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.19](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.20](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.21](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.22](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.23](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.24](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.25](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.26](#), [A/C.1/72/PV.27](#) and [A/C.1/72/PV.28](#).



4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization ([A/72/180](#)).

## II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.1/72/L.42](#)

5. At the 12th meeting, on 12 October, the representatives of Australia, Mexico and New Zealand, on behalf of Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" ([A/C.1/72/L.42](#)). Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 24th meeting, on 27 October, the Committee voted on draft resolution [A/C.1/72/L.42](#), as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 164 to none, with 11 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, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, 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, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, 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, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South

Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 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, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Brazil, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mauritius, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America.

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 167 to none, with 7 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, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, 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, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, 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, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 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, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Israel, Mauritius, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America.

(c) Draft resolution [A/C.1/72/L.42](#), as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 174 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, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, 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, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, 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, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, 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, 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, 21 years after the Treaty was opened for signature, to achieve its entry into force,

*Encouraged* by the signing of the Treaty by 183 States, including 41 of the 44 whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of the Treaty by 166 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 [71/86](#) of 5 December 2016,

*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 20 Years CTBT Ministerial Meeting, held in Vienna on 13 and 14 June 2016, which brought together leaders and policymakers to review and reinvigorate efforts to achieve the entry into force of the Treaty,

*Welcoming also* the Final Declaration adopted by the tenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 20 September 2017, 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 21 September 2016,<sup>2</sup>

<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/71/736](#).

*Noting* that the group of eminent persons, established to support the article XIV process, met in Vienna on 14 June 2016, where they called for new thinking and further engagement with the leadership of the remaining eight annex 2 States with the aim of facilitating their respective ratification processes,

*Noting also* the establishment in early 2016 of a youth group open to all students and young graduates who are directing their careers towards contributing to global peace and security and who wish to actively engage in promoting the Treaty and its verification regime,

*Welcoming* continuing progress in the development of the Treaty's verification regime, which advances the Treaty's primary non-proliferation and disarmament objective, including the completion in June 2017 of the hydroacoustic part of the International Monitoring System,

*Recognizing* the civil and scientific benefits provided by the CTBT 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 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. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September 2017 and 6 January and 9 September 2016, as expressed by the Security Council in its resolutions [2375 \(2017\)](#) of 11 September 2017, [2321 \(2016\)](#) of 30 November 2016 and [2270 \(2016\)](#) of 2 March 2016, recalls Council resolutions [1718 \(2006\)](#) of 14 October 2006, [1874 \(2009\)](#) of 12 June 2009 and [2094 \(2013\)](#) of 7 March 2013, urges full compliance with the obligations under the relevant resolutions, including that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea shall not conduct any further nuclear tests, and reaffirms its support for the goal of complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, including through the Six-Party Talks;
6. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;
7. *Urges* all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

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

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;

10. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution [70/73](#) of 7 December 2015;<sup>4</sup>

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

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<sup>4</sup> [A/71/134](#) and [A/71/134/Add.1/Rev.1](#).