

**Statement by the Provisional Technical Secretariat
of the Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)**

**2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster
Risk Reduction, 17 – 18 November 2014, Geneva**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). At the outset, let me join with my colleagues from the United Nations system in underlining the importance of an integrated, multi-dimensional, approach to disaster risk reduction and in acknowledging that the UN General Assembly has called for disaster risk reduction to be an institutional priority for the UN as a whole.

The UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, endorsed by executive heads of 29 UN entities in April 2013, was a significant step towards achieving this. Indeed, it is a pleasure to see many of the core elements of the Action Plan rightly reflected in the zero draft of the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. While the CTBTO was not among the initial adopters of the Action Plan, our membership in the Inter-Agency Committee for Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE) provides us with a strong connection to a key coordination mechanism for risk governance contained therein. We look forward to cooperating more closely with UN partners on the aims of the Action Plan in future.

In our submission to the open-ended informal consultative meetings earlier in this Preparatory Process for Sendai, the CTBTO highlighted the value that its International Monitoring System (IMS) can bring in the area of emergency preparedness and response. The IMS is a network of 337 seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound and radionuclide facilities throughout the world and is linked to an International Data Centre based in Vienna, Austria.

While created to monitor and provide information on potential nuclear tests, this earth observation system has proved to contribute strongly to tsunami warning, information on dispersal of radionuclides following disasters such as that in Fukushima in 2011, and emerging possibilities such as volcanic ash advisory to civil aviation. The civil and scientific applications of the CTBTO International Monitoring System continue to grow, thereby maximizing the return on investment by our Member States.

We believe that the use of CTBTO data can reach its optimum potential in the disaster risk reduction context by ensuring that the Post-2015 Framework (a) recognizes the value of complementary earth observation systems such as the IMS, (b) articulates the importance of smoother coordination and integration of such systems at national, regional and global levels, and (c) provides the basis for solid implementation and follow-up, including in terms of country-level capacity building.

It is heartening to note that the zero draft has made progress on each of these issues. Where the first is concerned, we encourage Member States to retain, or even strengthen, the

language under Section IV, Priorities for Action, in para 23 (a) and (b), which recognizes the importance of developing science-based methodologies for risk modelling and assessment, monitoring and early warning, and which advocates maintaining *inter alia* in-situ and remotely-sensed earth observations. I would be pleased to speak with any interested delegations on how this draft paragraph could be further strengthened.

Language throughout the zero draft recognizes the importance of coordination and integration, which is in turn strongly linked with implementation and follow-up under Section VI, International Cooperation and Global Partnership. This is to be welcomed. For the CTBTO, it is important that any strategic coordination mechanism that arises out of the implementation of the Framework (i) be based on and connected to learning from existing networks, such as IACRNE; and (ii) be broad enough to encompass all relevant parts of the United Nations system and other international organizations, beyond those who currently subscribe to the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; and (iii) have a tangible link to capacity-building activities in pursuit of the expected outcome and goal contained in Section II of the zero draft.

As is always the case, any framework is only as good as its follow-up, and the CTBTO stands ready to put its knowledge, expertise, and unparalleled global monitoring capabilities at the service of the effort of countries and communities to achieve resilient and sustainable development.

Thank you.