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**Conference on Disarmament
Australian Statement
30 July 2019**

Mr President

The international community suffered a great loss with the passing of IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano. While the focus has been on his contribution to international security through his IAEA role, Mr Amano also served in the Conference on Disarmament – including during the negotiation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty.

My delegation offers our deepest condolences to Mr Amano's family, friends and agency colleagues and thanks him for his contribution to international security over many years.

Mr President

It is indeed an honour for the Conference on Disarmament to hear from Dr Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organisation.

The CTBT and its verification regime remain central to the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. This point was underlined repeatedly during discussions at the recent NPT PrepCom in New York.

The CTBT was the last treaty negotiated in the CD. We are interested in your perspectives on how the treaty is operating, and how we can help to strengthen it, and work towards entry-into-force.

It is always valuable to connect Geneva and Vienna communities and to think broadly about all the tools at our disposal – including the CTBTO.

While we are disappointed that the CTBT is not yet in force, it has created a powerful norm against nuclear testing. Its world class verification system is largely operational and has more than proved its worth. The IMS is a global collaborative endeavour we take pride in.

We also admire your work to educate and encourage youth to be active in this space – and to promote diversity.

Mr President

We need to remind ourselves of the importance of the CTBT, of its verification regime, and of the need to bring the Treaty into force.

We must invest the time and effort needed to ensure the CTBT's verification system is fully effective and complete - that all IMS stations are operational, and that the data the system generates is available to all member states.

Australia is proud that all 21 stations on Australian territory have been certified and we welcomed Executive Secretary Zerbo's visit last November during which that significant achievement was celebrated.

Mr President

Civil and scientific applications of the verification system extend the value of our important work beyond the international security domain and into areas that can benefit the daily lives of our citizens. It also helps to maintain the high levels of support for the verification system that in turn help to ensure that it remains in good health.

Australia welcomed the 2019 CTBT Science and Technology Conference which presented yet another opportunity to build links with the international scientific community.

Mr President

Following the success of the Meeting of the Group of Friends of the CTBT in New York last year we now look forward to this year's Article Fourteen Conference in September.

Entry into force of the CTBT is of utmost importance, and we continue to support the efforts of all Parties, as we strive towards that goal in a collaborative and constructive manner.

We congratulate Zimbabwe for ratifying the Treaty earlier this year.

And once again, we call upon all states yet to do so – particularly Annex 2 states – to ratify the CTBT without delay. We call upon the DPRK to sign and ratify the CTBT as part of its overall commitment to denuclearise.

Mr President

One of the ways Australia supports efforts towards entry-into-force is through the annual UNGA CTBT resolution at First Committee which we run with our partners New Zealand and Mexico. We encourage countries to support this year's resolution.

Thank you