



## **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

### **Statement**

By

Mr. Mohammad Reza Ghaebi  
Deputy Permanent Representative

before

**the Plenary Meeting of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session  
of the Working Group B (PrepCom-CTBT)**

25 March – 5 April 2019  
Vienna, Austria

*Please, check against delivery*

*In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the way you are leading the activities of the WGB. Our appreciation also goes to the vice chairs, the Task leaders, and the PTS, especially to Executive Secretary, Mr. Lassina Zerbo, for all their commendable efforts. Rest assured of my delegation's full support in discharge of your mandate.

I would like to associate myself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China, delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt, and to raise some points in my national capacity.

1. As it was stated in the previous sessions, we are of the view that the PTS has been mandated to carry out some specific activities to bring the verification system to the provisional operation status at the entry into force of the CTBT. In this regard, taking a balanced approach toward the different components of the verification regime as well as to develop, prepare, and technically test the required mission capabilities is necessary; however, these capabilities should only be functional after the entry into force of the CTBT.
2. While appreciating the PTS and the Task Leaders for preparing different documents and drafting proposals for operational manuals, it should be noted that the principle envisaged in paragraph 6 of the Article 2 of the Treaty should always be upheld as our guiding principle, and I quote "the organization shall conduct its verification activities provided for under this Treaty in the least intrusive manner possible consistent with the timely and

efficient accomplishment of their objectives.” It is noteworthy that any deviation from the above-mentioned manner could result in prescribing new rights and obligation beyond the provisions of the treaty and protocol.

3. My delegation emphasizes that the main objective of the PTS, as established by the Preparatory Commission to assist it in its activities, is to act strictly within its mandate according to the establishing resolution. However, we have witnessed some trends that are intended to focus on certain objectives beyond the treaty, its protocol and establishing resolution. For instance, non-verification scientific and civil applications may sound very charming and appealing objectives; nevertheless, we are here for the CTBT’s cause, with a specific mandate and purpose. Accordingly, let us not forget that any civil and scientific applications should be solely in the services of strengthening the CTBT's verification regime in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty and its Protocol.

4. As with regard to the application of geospatial information system and the establishment of Operation Support Centre (OSC) for a possible On-Site Inspection, we do understand that the main purpose for such initiatives may be intended to increase the operational functionality of the IT, however, the evolution of the relevant structures should be necessarily consistent with the provisions of the treaty and its protocol.

Specifically, with regard to the geospatial information system, four important requirements must be observed in accordance with the treaty and its protocol:

- a) Any input to that system should meet the requirements of the treaty and its protocol, especially those of sections (e) of paragraphs 60 and 61 of Part II of the protocol;

- b) The inputs and outputs of this system need to be validated, verified and authenticated;
  - c) The process of validation and verification should be approved by the State Signatories in the Preparatory Commission;
  - d) This system should meet the requirements of the ‘need to know’ principle and must not go beyond the specified responsibilities of the relevant personalities.
5. Furthermore, my delegation would also like to reiterate that the basis for any equipment procurement for training and field exercises should be confined to those specified in the very famous paragraph 69 of part II of the protocol and consistent with the Revised OSI Strategic Plan of 2006.

**Mr. Chairman,**

6. As with regard to the IDC products, my delegation reiterates that the related software should be open-source, and the software and production methods should be accessible to all State Signatories. In this context, the availability and accessibility of those methods and software as well as the commendable PTS capacity building efforts should be in such a way that enables the State Signatories’ NDCs to reproduce the IDC products.
7. Regarding the activities in Phase 5b of IDC progressive commissioning and taking into account the responsibility of the WGB in overseeing the tests in the VATP in order to validate the readiness of the IDC, a comparative study should be done by WGB in fulfilling the provisions and technical requirements in the treaty and its protocol as well as the IDC and IMS operational manuals, to ensure that there is no gap in the VATP. As we have witnessed, the technical and evaluation reports of the previous experiments have proven some inefficiencies in performing methods of

each validation test. To address this, and after the completion of the first round of Experiments, due attention should be paid to the drawing up of a follow-up roadmap for the continuation of the progressive commissioning experiments. My delegation encourages WGB to consider this issue.

**Mr. Chairman,**

8. On the issue of using mobile systems, my delegation's position is not a matter of judgment on the intention of the PTS and its leadership, but it is, indeed, a matter of observing a discipline envisaged by the Treaty, the Protocol, and the Establishing Resolution, as well as the decisions of the State Signatories in the Preparatory Commission. On this account, my delegation believes that: first, the number of systems and stations are well defined by the Treaty; second, any request for the use of such systems, which should be specifically for the purposes of calibration or recertification of the existing Treaty-defined systems and technologies, should be considered and mandated by the Preparatory Commission on a case by case; and, third, these systems should not be considered as part of the IMS and IDC data and products.
9. One last point, Capacity building for the State Signatories is of utmost importance. In this regard, as envisaged in paragraph 11 of Part I of the Protocol, and I quote “[f]urther laboratories may be certified by the Technical Secretariat to perform the routine analysis of samples ...”, voluntary participation of other non-IMS laboratories in the Proficiency Test Exercises and Inter-Comparison Exercises should be seen as a necessary step in building up the abovementioned capacity in other State Signatories. Therefore, my delegation appreciates the PTS for all its

efforts in this regard, and requests the PTS to facilitate such participation in the future events.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to thank you again for your leadership and reassure you of its full cooperation.

**I thank you Mr. Chairman.**