

High Representative Nakamitsu
Executive Secretary Zerbo
Distinguished panellists
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

My sincere thanks to the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for arranging today's virtual event. The series of NPT webinars organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs during the COVID-enforced postponement of the Tenth NPT Review Conference have been both well-received and effective in maintaining momentum. They have allowed States Parties to engage with experts and other stakeholders, such as civil society and the youth, on the issues most vital to the Treaty. I am very glad to see the CTBTO Provisional Technical Secretariat taking up the cause, and I thank the personal commitment by Executive Secretary Zerbo in that regard.

Before I start my remarks, let me express my sympathy and solidarity with those on the en3t0 and solidarity with67-Bdaand500

As I have consistently said at events such as this, it is not my responsibility to dictate the substance of any outcome from the Review Conference. That is entirely the prerogative of States Parties. It is, however, my role to facilitate an outcome that is balanced across all three of the NPT's pillars – nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The CTBT is integral to both pillars one and two of the NPT. As an integral element of a world free of nuclear weapons and as an essential roadblock to the development of nuclear weapons, it is both a disarmament and non-proliferation measure. It is an effective brake on the qualitative and quantitative improvement of nuclear weapons.

is in the security interests of all States to prevent any use of nuclear weapons and bring about their elimination.

It is, therefore, in the interests of all States to both realize an in force CTBT and ensure a fully implemented and robust NPT. I believe the