OPENING REMARKS
OF AMBASSADOR OF ALGERIA, HE FAOUZIA MEBARKI,
AT THE VCDNP HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON STRENGTHENING THE CTBT
AND ITS VERIFICATION REGIME
VIENNA, JANUARY 28TH, 2021

Dr. Lassina ZERBO, the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO,
Colleagues Ambassadors,
Dear participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with a great pleasure that I take part today in the virtual High-level event on strengthening the CTBT and its Verification Regime, organized by the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-proliferation which is one of the main activities of the Co-Chairs' Action Plan of the article XIV Conference of the CTBT. I thank the VCDNP, headed by the Executive Director Elena SOKOVA, for its valuable contribution to the implementation of this activity as well as for her commitment in promoting the international action on disarmament and non-proliferation.

It is also an opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, Dr. Lassina ZERBO, for his commitment and leadership in serving the CTBTO and promoting the entry into force of the Treaty, particularly through contributing to convening similar events.

I cannot embark upon, without warmly welcoming efforts by Germany represented by my friend Ambassador Gerhard KUNTZLE to the implementation of activities set out in the Article XIV Conference Co-Chair’s Action Plan. I regret that the scheduled Action Plan events could not be carried out as planned due to the very challenging sanitary circumstances that marked the previous year. I look forward to resume the implementation of the remaining ones as soon as the general situation improves.

Ladies and gentlemen,

By our participation in this event, we reaffirm our clear and solid attachment to the CTBT and its early entry into force, as it constitutes the milestone of the nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation as well as a key element for the preservation of the international peace and security.

It is a matter of fact, that the conclusion of the CTBT was a triumph for multilateral diplomacy and a strong proof of its efficiency in the domain of security and disarmament through negotiations. Regrettably, we are about to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Treaty for signature, but it still not yet entered into force.
This bitter truth imposes on all of us to explore any opportunity to intensify our individual and collective efforts for the early entry into force of this Treaty which remains a priority for the International Community that was reaffirmed through the NPT review Conferences.

In this regard, Algeria has been unstinting in its special appeal towards all Parties, particularly the Annex II countries, who did not yet sign or ratify the CTBT to do so as soon as possible. The importance and the relevance of this international instrument have been confirmed as an international norm in the responsible behaviour of States in the nuclear domain, especially with the 168 ratifications among the 184 States Signatories.

In this vein, our today discussion is also an opportunity to reiterate the African countries commitment in the issues related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and particularly to the CTBT. The entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty in 2009, making Africa a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, bears witness of this interest. Furthermore, we remain firmly attached to the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle-East, according to the relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions as well as the NPT Review Conferences outcomes

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

No one can doubt in our commitment to promoting the role of the CTBT and its entree into force. Nevertheless, our belief is that said efforts should not lead to neglect the achievement of the many other goals of the Treaty or even less considerable endeavors by all stakeholders, in particular States Signatories and the PTS.

On this subject, we welcome the remarkable progress made in setting up and developing the three pillars of the CTBT Verification Regime. Furthermore, we express our satisfaction for the certification of 300 stations and laboratories among the 337 planned in the Treaty; 3 stations more since the 11th Conference on Article XIV, held in New York on 25 September 2019.

As a developing country, Algeria attaches a particular importance to the issue of capacity building, within experts of States Signatories, in the different technologies related to the Verification Regime and thus to help developing countries, mainly from Africa, to upgrade their capacities in a manner to optimize their benefits from civil and scientific applications which could tremendously serve the achieving of Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Anissa HAMMADI, Operations Officer of the Algiers National Data Centre and one of the very active Algerian experts in the field is pleased to further present the topic in the second session of event.

Without having faced the hard impact of measures taken on the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, I am pleased to point out that the Co-chairs of the Article XIV Conference, Algeria and Germany, are determined to continuing the implementation in 2021 of their programme which is also focused on Youth mobilization for saving humanity of apocalyptic effects of nuclear tests.

**I thank you for your attention.**