

**Rafael Grossi**

*Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency*

Thank you very much.

Good morning, it's a great pleasure to be here with my good friend Executive Secretary Robert Floyd who with whom I have been working for many many years on issues that are so important and go to the heart of international peace and security.

It is of course not a surprise that, not myself but the IAEA should be here joining this important SnT conference which has become one of the most expected and more important events in the city of diplomacy, in Vienna, because of the importance of the message, because of the importance of the issues that are discussed here.

The IAEA and the CTBTO share more than the vicinity in the halls of the Vienna International Centre, we are together the power of together, we are together part of an architecture, a family of efforts that we put together as an international community to try to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The moderator was reminding us that I used to be an ambassador to the CTBT but before that I was a negotiator of the CTBT in the halls of the Conference on Disarmament at the Palais de Nation in Geneva, so I am acutely aware of the essential importance of this instrument without which the non-proliferation system that we have is simply incomplete. So we need, as my friends at the CTBTO say, to finish what we started and this must happen. In this summer of 2023 which is not an easy one. I am just back from a combat zone where the IAEA is trying to prevent a nuclear accident at this Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, so we know that all the efforts and the importance of the role international organizations like the CTBTO and the IAEA can play in this regard. So ladies and gentlemen it is reassuring for all of us to hear from Executive Secretary Floyd and from his team of experts, the world's most brilliant seismologists, radionuclide experts and hydroacoustic experts, that they have everything in place to make sure that no nuclear test will go undetected. Above and beyond this, science and technology at the service of non-proliferation, must be strengthened, and this is the basic message, and this is the message that we from the IAEA are bringing here to our friends, to our colleagues of the CTBTO as they would say: "above the noise that is the truth", and they are there to prove it.

Thank you very much and I wish you all an excellent conference. Thank you very much.