

**His Excellency Mr Abshir Omar Jama Huruse**  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Somalia*

Mr Executive Secretary, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good Morning,

It is a great pleasure and an immense honor to address you today at the Science and Technology Conference SnT23, representing Somalia in this esteemed gathering. As we convene for this momentous occasion, I am reminded of the resilience and determination that brought us here after the global pandemic cast its shadow upon us.

I am filled with admiration for the convergence of over a thousand brilliant minds – scientists, researchers, technology experts, academics, diplomats, government officials, civil society members, and aspiring youth. This collective pursuit of knowledge and progress in the field of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is truly inspiring. Today, we gather not only to celebrate intellect but also to embrace the harmony of science and diplomacy, united for the noble cause of global peace and security.

Throughout this conference, as we delve into the complexity of CTBT's science and technology and explore its robust verification system, let us take a moment to reflect upon the profound impact of this Treaty on our world. The CTBT stands as a cornerstone and an indispensable component of the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, safeguarding our collective well-being.

Its uniqueness lies not only in its objectives but also in its cutting-edge verification system. With a state-of-the-art global network of 304 certified monitoring stations, no nuclear explosion goes undetected, providing essential reassurance to the nations of the world. The value and significance of the CTBT resonate across continents and cultures, as demonstrated by its remarkable membership of 186 states, including 51 African nations.

In Somalia, we uphold a principled stance in support of international peace, and our unwavering commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons remains steadfast. We stand tall, guided by these noble principles, and work tirelessly towards a more peaceful and harmonious world.

Let it be known that our resolute statements and positions in international fora, as well as the treaties we are bound by, including the 1996 Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (The Treaty of Pelindaba), demonstrate Somalia's unwavering dedication to international peace and security, and unwavering commitment to the core principles of the CTBT.

Despite the unique national circumstances that have tested our resilience, we have triumphed over adversity and now stand poised to fulfill our duties.

I would be remiss if I did not express my deepest gratitude to Dr Robert Floyd and his dedicated team. Their tireless advocacy and unwavering efforts have brought the CTBT closer to Somalia. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Executive Secretary for his official visit to Mogadishu last

February and for extending the gracious invitation to my delegation to partake in this significant conference.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I stand before you to reaffirm Somalia's unwavering commitment to playing a constructive role in curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

We unequivocally condemn any testing of nuclear weapons, recognizing their devastating potential and the dire consequences they entail.

As Somalia embarks on a momentous journey of liberation from terrorist elements, stabilization, reconciliation, and socio-economic development, we remain cognizant of our international responsibilities.

We understand that signing and ratifying the CTBT is not merely a symbolic gesture but a testament to our unwavering dedication to global peace and security. Rest assured, we shall fulfill the needful. And as we undertake our internal processes, the principles and processes of the CTBT shall guide our efforts in the days and months to come.

In our pursuit of progress, Somalia recognizes the indispensable role of science and technology. We are deeply enthusiastic about establishing a CTBT National Data Centre in Somalia at the earliest opportunity.

We wholeheartedly embrace the potential that CTBT data and technologies hold for various civil and scientific applications, facilitating our national development endeavors. We eagerly anticipate the provision of essential equipment and training to harness the transformative power of science.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I stand not only as a representative of Somalia but also as a voice for Africa and the world. Our continent, Africa, has endured the tragic consequences of nuclear test explosions in the past. It is our shared responsibility to declare in unison, "never again."

We stand united, determined to ensure that the harmful effects of nuclear tests are forever banished from Africa's shores and beyond.

Let us remember that our collective shield against nuclear threats lies in bolstering the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

I commend the CTBT's role in safeguarding our planet for the current and future generations. We bear a collective responsibility, here and now. Therefore, I call upon Nuclear Weapon States to maintain the moratorium on nuclear testing, expedite the entry into force of the CTBT, and ardently strive towards complete and irreversible disarmament.

In conclusion, I extend my deepest appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of this conference. Let us harness the power of science and technology, fortified by our

unwavering commitment, to forge a world free from the specter of nuclear weapons. Together, we shall build a future characterized by peace, security, and prosperity.

Thank you.