

His Excellency Mr Mayen Dut Wol

Undersecretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan

Thank you, Moderator

Dear Executive Secretary, Dr. Robert Floyd, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Esteemed Scientists, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour for me today to address this year's Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Science and Technology Conference. Today, our presence here is a testimony of our commitments towards promoting science and technology in favour of global peace and security. I am convinced that promoting science and technology can help us achieve Sustainable Development Goals and enable us in the Global South, particularly in Africa, to improve our economies and the wellbeing of our people. I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of my acting Foreign Minister, the Honourable Deng Dau Deng Malek.

First and foremost, I wish to note my appreciation to Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his friendship and kind invitation to this important event. Dr. Robert Floyd's visit to Juba, South Sudan on the 15th February 2023 marks the first visit of the CTBTO to our country and we were very grateful to have him. We appreciate the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and we support its objectives and goals.

The Government of South Sudan, just like many other African countries' governments, recognizes the critical role of science and technology as universal enablers for addressing peace and security, poverty eradication and inequalities, health, environmental conservation, climate change impact, digitalization, and the Sustainable Development Goals. For that matter, the African Union adopted the Science, Technology and Innovation for Africa Strategy 2024 (STISA 2024) in 2014.

It's important to highlight that the conference's theme, "CTBT Science and technology: Benefitting us all", is in line with the African Union Science, Technology and Innovation for Africa Strategy 2024 which was launched in 2014.

H.E. President of the Republic of South Sudan Salva Kiir and the Government of South Sudan together with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Member States remain keen on peace and security in our region and Africa. South Sudan is committed to international peace in all its forms, and we acknowledge the value of the CTBT and related treaties for global peace.

In addition, South Sudan is ready to work alongside the international community. Together, we can build a future where the devastating impact of nuclear tests is forever eradicated. Furthermore, we are resolute in our commitment to foster partnerships and collaborations that facilitate exchange of expertise, training, and resources and in this regard, we would be interested in pertinent technical cooperation support to strengthen capacity building of our national experts including in areas of CTBTO comparative advantage. By empowering our scientists, researchers, and technicians, we can actively contribute to global efforts in nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In conclusion, South Sudan is keen to sign and ratify the CTBT Treaty as a commitment to international peace and security in the nearest time. The recent accession of South Sudan to the

Biological Weapons Convention on February 15th, 2023, is a manifestation of the South Sudan government's commitment in promoting peace and security at the global level and support related treaties for world peace.

Thank you for your attention and I urge you all to keep sharing knowledge going forward, because there's still much we can learn from each other.

I wish you a productive conference and let's keep moving forward together.

Thank You.