**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Excellencies,**

**distinguished delegates,**

**honored guests**

Welcome back.

My name is Rajaa Gacem,

Associate External Relations Officer at the CTBTO,

it is my pleasure to introduce our session:

“Bridging Worlds: Future Leadership for a Safer World.”

The CTBTO stands at the intersection of science and diplomacy  //

**two fields** that achieve

their greatest impact

when they come together.//

It is in the same spirit that leadership grows strongest

when generations work side by side

and together

they pave the way for a safer future. //

With this in mind //

I have the honor to introduce a **very special video message** //

from a lifelong advocate for youth and women’s empowerment, //

a leader who once served as Chair of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission here in Vienna //

the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations,

and **Co-Chair** of the Ban Ki Moon Centre for Global Citizens//

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon. //

Let us now watch his message. //

→ [play video]

Our thanks to HE Ban Ki-Moon and the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens

for bringing this message here today. //

I now have the pleasure of giving the floor to Natalie Bonilla, //

CTBTO chief of capacity building and training section

who will **guide us** through today’s  panel //

and invite our **distinguished panelists** to join us on stage. //

I wish you all an **engaging** and **inspiring** discussion ahead.