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Devastation to Education: Leveraging Nuclear Tourism to Support the CTBT Entry into Force

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) represents a cornerstone in global efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons testing. However, achieving its universalization and entry into force remains a challenge. This presentation explores the concept of nuclear tourism as a transformative tool to raise public awareness about the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons testing. By organizing educational visits to historic nuclear test sites, such as the Semipalatinsk Test Site in Kazakhstan, related facilities, museums, and nearby communities, nuclear tourism can vividly illustrate the long-term harm inflicted on human health and the environment. These immersive experiences, particularly impactful for younger generations, can foster a global movement against nuclear weapons testing. Amplified public awareness and opinion may exert pressure on policymakers to support the treaty's universalization, strengthen its norms, and counter any resurgence of nuclear testing by nuclear-armed states. By turning sites of devastation into powerful educational platforms, nuclear tourism offers a unique avenue to advance the CTBT's mission and promote a nuclear-weapon-free future.

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