

**CTBTO National Data Centres Workshop**  
**Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, 9-13 May 2016**  
**Official Opening**  
**Remarks by Deputy Director Rosie Keane**

Council Chair, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join you today for the opening of this important and historic workshop. I am here representing the Government of Ireland in my capacity as Deputy Director of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Our Director, Helena Nolan, regrets that she is unable to join you today. She is currently representing Ireland at the ongoing Open-Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations in Geneva.

I would like to thank the CTBTO Provisional Technical Secretariat and the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies for inviting me to speak today. The Government of Ireland is very pleased to join you in hosting this event and to demonstrate our continued support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-

Ban Treaty and for the CTBTO. I hope you will find this week's discussions useful and that you will enjoy your visit to Ireland.

Since its inception, Ireland has been a strong and consistent supporter of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We see it as an essential element in the global nuclear non-proliferation regime built around the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. By prohibiting all nuclear weapons test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, the Treaty will impede the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons. It is therefore essential that we achieve an end to nuclear testing, this would be an important step along the path to a world without nuclear weapons.

From our earliest days at the UN, Ireland has been passionately committed to disarmament and non-proliferation. As the first state to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968, we have a deep and abiding commitment to the full implementation of the Treaty. The so-called "Irish resolutions" in the UN General Assembly paved the way for the NPT which of course could not have been achieved

without the personal conviction and diplomatic skill of the then Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank Aiken.

Our commitment to nuclear disarmament was underlined in June 2008 when Ireland jointly established the New Agenda Coalition. Ireland and our partners Egypt, Brazil, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa are pleased to have introduced fresh thinking and drive into the multilateral disarmament discussion. Together we will continue to build upon this momentum in order to reinforce our message across the different multilateral fora in which we operate.

Ireland continues to pledge its unwavering support for the full implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. At the UN General Assembly last year, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, Mr Charles Flanagan, while reaffirming Ireland's abiding commitment to the full implementation of the NPT, called on all States to "*re-double our efforts to ensure not just that others refrain from developing nuclear weapons but that such weapons are never used again under any circumstances and that a process is started now to put all nuclear weapons beyond use for good.*"

Ireland commends the significant progress which has been made on nuclear non-proliferation. We warmly welcomed the agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, on Iran's nuclear program in 2015 and we look forward to its full implementation. We firmly believe that this represents a significant achievement for the non-proliferation pillar of the NPT.

However, despite significant achievements in relation to non-proliferation, progress has unfortunately been much slower on nuclear disarmament and the outcome of last year's NPT Review Conference was deeply disappointing. Today there are at least 17,000 nuclear weapons posing a threat to our very survival. We cannot accept this status quo. Ireland wants real momentum injected into the nuclear disarmament pillar of the NPT. To quote the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, *“there are no right hands for the wrong weapons”*.

Nevertheless, it was heartening to see so many NPT States Parties united in agreeing to a humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons at the NPT Review Conference. Our understanding of the catastrophic

humanitarian impact associated with any use of nuclear weapons, has developed considerably in recent years and in this regard I would like to pay tribute to Mexico, Norway and Austria for the conferences that they have hosted which has shone a spotlight on the humanitarian impacts of a nuclear detonation. Ireland also values the role played by civil society in helping to broaden and deepen our understanding, in particular we would like to recognise the invaluable work carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

As I mentioned earlier, the Director of my unit is currently at the Open-Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations. The Working Group meets under the auspices of the UN, with a strong mandate from a UN Resolution which attracted the support of 138 countries, including Ireland. The cross-regional support which this resolution achieved, demonstrates clearly the ambition of the vast majority of UN Members who wish to work towards a general agreement on our shared goal of nuclear disarmament.

The Working Group is an inclusive process open to participation by all states. Ireland welcomes the contribution of a range of viewpoints in a genuine and frank debate. The Working Group also benefits from the active involvement of civil society and academia who bring fresh thinking and expertise to the discussion. Ireland consistently supports broad inclusive participation in these discussions and in particular we have consistently highlighted the vital role women must play in disarmament negotiations. Ireland will continue to play its part in this important Working Group. We are confident that the recommendations agreed there will support global efforts towards multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we mark the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the CTBT, we should recognise the benefits which we have garnered from the Treaty's adoption and in particular the contribution made by the CTBTO Provisional Technical Secretariat. The ongoing development of the CTBTO International Monitoring System is of vital importance to the global efforts to work towards a world without nuclear

weapons. The system has been described as one of the “*most ambitious projects ever to monitor the earth*”. The science you are doing, on the ground, plays a major role in supporting international efforts towards a world free of nuclear weapons. The IMS will also bring wider civilian benefits in being able to detect seismic or tsunami activity, as was demonstrated in 2011 with the tragedies in Japan. In this way this important disarmament and non-proliferation initiative delivers wider benefits for the global population.

Ireland believes that there is a clear intersection between disarmament and development. We were proud to have co-facilitated the final negotiations of the Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation of which is critical for the future of our planet and its people. The Sustainable Development Goals are a tangible manifestation of the capacity of the UN to deliver positive outcomes in very challenging circumstances. In this context, we must recall that the potential of a nuclear detonation, on purpose or by accident, can only add to the threat to human security and the safety of the planet. If we want the best future for our people, we must work constructively together to secure the peace,

safety and security of our world. The best way to do that is to fulfil our joint obligations and start implementing the NPT as originally intended.

The Sustainable Development Goals negotiation process has underscored the very positive role that civil society groups and people around the world can play. Ireland would like to see that positivity, inclusivity and urgency in the nuclear disarmament debate. We hope that in the upcoming review cycle, NPT States Parties will draw inspiration from the Sustainable Development Goals process and from the negotiations which forged a historic climate accord in Paris. But we must recall that those agreements exist under the shadow of a potential nuclear detonation, which puts all our most important goals at risk. Ireland calls on all parties to look beyond narrow interests and doctrines, and to prioritise instead, the advancement of human development globally.

Ladies and gentlemen,



It is heartening looking around this room to see participants from so many States who have signed or ratified the Treaty, which is such an essential component of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. And we welcome the commitment by other states to adhere to the principles of the CTBT. While this level of universalisation and adherence represents a strong international norm against nuclear weapons testing, we cannot afford to wait any longer for its entry into force.

The provocative nuclear test explosion carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in January, further underlined the urgency of the CTBT. The data generated by the IMS network of seismic stations provided vital information to States both in the region and globally. And the analysis of the data carried out by CTBTO empowered the international community to introduce new restrictive measures in response to this provocation, including the adoption of the UN Security Council of Resolution 2270.

Ireland is gravely concerned by ongoing developments in the North Korean nuclear weapons programme. The test carried out in January is a real threat to peace and security in the Korean Peninsula, and the entire North East Asia region. Furthermore the test was a flagrant violation of the DPRK's international obligations not to produce or test nuclear weapons.

These provocations draw into sharp focus the urgent need for engagement on nuclear disarmament by all stakeholders. Ireland calls on the North Korean authorities to cease all nuclear testing and re-engage with the Six Party Talks on the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, immediately and without pre-conditions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, I would like to speak briefly about an aspect of Ireland's rich scientific heritage that has help shaped the modern world and indeed is the very reason why we are all here today.

I am sure most of you will be aware of Ireland's connection to modern seismology. Dubliner Robert Mallett is recognised as

the father of seismology and indeed it is he who coined this term. His work, supplemented by countless others, has brought us to a point today where seismic events on the other side of the planet – both natural and man-made – can be detected and measured, and the data generated analysed to an extraordinary degree. I know you are all working to further develop this important area of science and through your research, our understanding of our world has deepened. I hope this week you shall have fruitful exchanges, share your experience and knowledge and perhaps even find opportunities for future cooperation.

Finally I would like to conclude by thanking you all for your work and for the invaluable contributions that you have made. I want to wish you every success going forward and hope that you enjoy your experience in Ireland.

Thank you very much.