



## European Union

### Statement on the occasion of the resumed 54th Session of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission

9 September 2020

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. [The following countries align themselves with this statement: ...]

Madam Chair,

2. Thank you for convening today's meeting. Let me assure you that the EU and its Member States remain strongly committed to the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, fairness, merit and objectivity that should guide the procedure for the appointment of the CTBTO Executive Secretary, as agreed by the PrepCom in the Annex II on the Appointment Process. We look forward to the implementation of the steps contained in the PrepCom's decision, the next being the nomination phase between 16 September - 9 October.

3. The principle that all States Signatories shall pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions is an important principle of multilateral cooperation, which applies to the Preparatory Commission and across the UN System. These contributions are assessed relative to each State Signatory's capacity to pay. The EU and its Member States welcome with appreciation the continuing positive trend of an increasing number of States Signatories settling their arrears, thus automatically regaining their voting rights, reducing the number of countries without voting rights to 66. We applaud these efforts and hope this trend will continue.

4. Thank you also, Madam Chair, for circulating the applications of States Signatories for the restoration of their voting rights under the stipulations of paragraph 5b of the Annex to the Resolution Establishing the PrepCom CTBT/MSS/RES/1.

5. The EU and its MS are carefully analysing each application individually and on its own merits. In doing so, we take a constructive and consistent (ES) approach, guided by the following three considerations:

We acknowledge that in a number of cases non-payment may be attributable to conditions strictly beyond the control of the State Signatory in question.

We deem it important that "the fullest possible information on various factors that might support the application that failure to discharge its financial obligations had been attributable to conditions beyond the control of the 'State Signatory' be provided, as foreseen in para 5b of the Annex to the Resolution Establishing the PrepCom.

We are convinced that we all see the need to preserve the Organisation's financial health by avoiding any disincentives for paying the assessed contribution. The EU and its MS reaffirm their longstanding position that the CTBTO must be given sufficient financial resources to carry out its mandate. We cannot expect the Organisation to do more, while unilaterally withholding contributions. All States Signatories should therefore fulfil their legal obligations to bear the expenses of the Organisation and should pay their assessed

contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Any decision adopted now should not be interpreted as deviating from this important principle.

6. We look forward to the forthcoming discussion. Thank you, Madam Chair.