Remarks at the opening of the exhibition “Art and Technology”, at the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Mr. KIM Won-soo

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

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Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo,

H.E. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission,

H.E. Lazăr Comănescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania,

H.E. Erlan A. Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a privilege to be here at the opening of this wonderful collection of art and photography. These beautiful works allow us to visualize the CTBTO’s capabilities through the global reach of the IMS, complemented by artwork from around the world that highlights what the CTBT means to global citizenry.

My heartfelt congratulations to Lassina for putting these marvellous works together.

I am also very proud that he has asked that the winners of the United Nations Poster for Peace Contest be included in this exhibition. It is very befitting they are here as a reminder of the crucial link between the CTBT and the broader disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

The contest commemorated the seventieth anniversary of the first United Nations General Assembly resolution, adopted on 24 January 1946, which established the goal of eliminating atomic weapons. The contest attracted 4,149 entries from 123 countries and our website received over 200,000 page views from more than 180 countries.

One of the things we noted was how enthusiastic and engaged young people were in this contest around the world. Young people brought their passions, their unique perspectives and their artistic talents to show a world living up to the aspiration expressed in that first General Assembly resolution.

Our Poster for Peace Contest winners were first exhibited in New York in May of this year. In the words of the Secretary-General, it was a wonderful celebration of creativity, with an important purpose: to reaffirm the United Nations’ historic commitment to nuclear disarmament.

Two weeks later, the exhibit moved to Geneva. And now, it is a pleasure for me to share these imaginative and inspirational posters here in Vienna. The exhibit will also move to Asia, Africa and South America. Our intention is to display them through our regional centres.
And that is why we are here today, to celebrate how creativity and imagination can inspire us to realize a world in which nuclear testing is a memory of the past and we are free from the scourge of nuclear weapons.