

**Ambassador Wood's Remarks to the  
Conference on Disarmament Plenary  
Presentation by Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization  
Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 10:00a.m., 2 hours, Virtual Plenary**

Thank you Mr. President and Congratulations on assuming the Presidency of the CD. Let me assure you of my and my delegation's support for you and your team. I would also like to thank you for sending out the schedule for the duration of your Presidency. It is extremely helpful.

Thank you also for convening this session.

Dr. Zerbo, Lassina, thank you, for your presentation today and thank you for your seventeen years of service at the CTBTO Preparatory Commission at the end of July – including your eight years as Executive Secretary. The United States applauds your contributions to advancing the important work of permanently banning nuclear explosions.

As you know, President Biden has long been a supporter of the CTBT and this Administration appreciates the important work that the Commission does. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat and its vital work in building up the treaty's verification system.

In line with the goals of the CTBT, the United States continues to observe its zero-yield nuclear explosive testing moratorium and calls on all states possessing nuclear weapons to declare or maintain such a moratorium.

Advanced Stockpile Stewardship tools enable the United States to ensure a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent without requiring a return to nuclear explosive testing. Maintaining the international norm against nuclear explosive testing remains in the United States' interest.

Thank you very much Mr. President.