

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade  
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### **BARBADOS SIGNS COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY**

The Barbados Government has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which could be beneficial to the country's national emergency management programme *inter alia* through access to weather and disaster monitoring data in respect of Barbados and the Caribbean region in general, as well as access to technology and data that could help avert or assist in resolving man-made disasters such as plane crashes,

Charge d'Affaires at the Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations at New York, Ms. Gayle C. Francis-Vaughan, signed the agreement on Monday, January 14, at the UN headquarters.

The CTBT is an international treaty that prohibits all nuclear weapon testing. It provides for the setting up of an International Monitoring System (IMS) comprising very sensitive, highly technological equipment designed and strategically placed at various points across the globe to detect evidence of nuclear explosions using seismic, hydro-acoustic, infra-sound and radionuclide technology. This technology also imports a number of civil and scientific applications that are of great relevance to Barbados and the wider Caribbean region. The scientific applications include the ability to detect and provide

warning of natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and the escape of certain gases or chemicals into the atmosphere.

Against the background of the recent earth tremor, access to disaster monitoring data has become a high priority for the Government. (END)