Address by the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Mr. Tibor Tóth

Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference
Vienna, 2 May 2012

Ambassador Woolcott
HRSG Kane,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address this first Prep Com, leading the way to the 2015 NPT Review Conference. I sincerely hope that this meeting can pave the way to a successful preparatory cycle, building on the successes of the 2010 Review Conference.

We in the Commission have a stake in your success. The promise of a universal nuclear test ban is entrenched in the NPT. History shows that the CTBT is an indicator of the state of health of the NPT and the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We will save no effort to support your endeavours.

The CTBT has always played an integral role in the NPT review process. The NPT RevCon failed in 1980 largely due to the issue of the CTBT. In 1995, the NPT’s indefinite extension was secured through a package deal with the CTBT at its heart. In 2000, the CTBT featured prominently in the 13 Steps adopted by states’ parties. Steps 1 and 2 are related to maintaining the test
moratoria and achieving the early entry into force of the Treaty. The 13 Steps were a watershed in the Treaty's history. For the first time, a forward looking practical approach was adopted. Specific benchmarks were agreed to gauge progress.

The 2010 RevCon came as a success on the optimism generated by the resurgence of multilateralism. Key players reengaged on the CTBT. A forward looking approach was adopted, building on the previous commitments and culminating in a Disarmament Action Plan, which once again featured the CTBT prominently and set certain benchmarks on progress.

Since 2010 there has been notable progress: Indonesia ratified, leaving us only 8 steps away from the Treaty's entry into force. The Treaty also moved towards universality with the ratification of Trinidad and Tobago, the Central African Republic, Ghana, Guinea and Guatemala. The IMS is 85% complete, and has proved its reliability and versatility in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Crisis.

However, entry into force still eludes us. Determined efforts are needed to achieve this noble and practical objective. Achieving substantial progress on the Treaty's entry into force leading to the 2015 RevCon is one of the most practical ways to sustain the credibility and viability of the NPT regime.

While pursuing the entry into force of the CTBT and devising immediate steps towards nuclear disarmament, we should not lose sight of the bigger picture. The future of the NPT, CTBT and the non-proliferation and disarmament regime is dependent upon the active and informed involvement of a broad range of stakeholders.

Sustained efforts are needed to stimulate interest and understanding of the non-proliferation and disarmament verification machinery. We need to build and maintain the scientific base of expertise in support of the Treaty's monitoring regime.

Inspiring the next generation of experts in monitoring and verification technologies will require expanded collaboration between the CTBTO Preparatory Commission and a broad spectrum of stakeholders: governments, academic and research institutions, and civil society.

The Commission has offered hundreds of training opportunities in technologies associated with the verification system for researchers and scientists. The Commission is providing assistance in the legislative and constitutional issues arising from the Treaty. The Commission is also working closely with member states to set up their National Data Centres.

Since its establishment, the Commission has trained more than two thousand technicians and professionals. In 2012 the Commission is expanding the scope of its training and outreach activities. The Commission is actively
implementing its Capacity Development Initiative which was launched in 2010. It is a multidisciplinary, free of charge training programme based on modern, innovative and cost-effective methods. To date, hundreds have been trained on the political, legal and technical issues of the CTBT and its verification regime. This approach has enjoyed early success, equipping a growing cadre of specialists, with emphasis on women, to effectively address the verification challenges of the future.

The CTBTO is also engaging international organizations on implementing the recommendations of the UN Secretary General Report on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education, which was referenced in Action 22 of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

I am convinced that such broad cooperation is crucial to sustaining the CTBT, and the broader nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Training and education for the future generations is the way to ensure that the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime remains relevant, robust and sustainable in the long run.

Thank you.