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**Message from the Executive Secretary  
of the Preparatory Commission for the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)**

**H.E. Mr Tibor Tóth**

**OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting, Dublin, Ireland  
6-7 December 2012**

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It is my distinct honour to attend the Nineteenth Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Since its inception, the OSCE has served as an important forum for States to address a range of regional and global security issues in a multilateral setting. The OSCE's role remains crucial in strengthening international peace and security, and will continue to play a leading role in 21<sup>st</sup> century global affairs.

As Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), I represent the Treaty and the Organization whose mission is to outlaw nuclear weapons tests and verify their silence. Today, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) enjoys growing political support, and its verification system operates at the cutting edge of scientific knowledge. OSCE Participating and Partner States have been instrumental in our success, demonstrating a shared sense of mission among our respective institutions.

Both the OSCE and the CTBT were born of the Cold War, built upon the steadfast recognition that multilateralism is an essential tool in facing global threats and challenges. The OSCE and CTBTO Preparatory Commission are bound in spirit and history, committed to shared approaches to cooperative security that are at the forefront of progress towards disarmament and arms control.

All OSCE Participating States have signed the CTBT, Treaty ratifications are nearly all-encompassing across the OSCE, and about two-thirds of our budget comes from OSCE Participating States. It is clear that the OSCE is a crucial stakeholder for the political, scientific and technical progress of the CTBT, including capacity-building. In this regard, I am grateful for the voluntary and in-kind contributions from OSCE Participating and Partner States, which have been indispensable in the steady progress towards CTBT universalization and entry into force, and fundamental to the build-up of the CTBT verification regime.

*CTBT Verification Regime*

The CTBT International Monitoring System (IMS) is being set up to monitor the Earth for any sign of a nuclear explosion. The system operates around the globe and around the clock, built upon 1 billion dollars and 10,000 scientists' years of investment. To date, over 85% of the facilities making up the IMS are certified and operational.

The system has been subjected to a number of stress tests. In the process of detecting the needle in the haystack – the nuclear test - the system registers over 30,000 events a year – the vast majority of them are earthquakes. The system accurately and reliably detected the announced nuclear tests by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in 2006 and 2009, clearly demonstrating its capabilities. Within an hour of the tests, CTBTO Member States received information about the location, magnitude, depth and time.

The system also offers a wide range of civil and scientific applications, which can be used to gain better understanding of the Earth, climate change, volcanic ash clouds, and whale migration patterns. In addition, CTBT monitoring data has been contributing to tsunami early warning since 2006. The system was also tested by a most tragic earthquake, tsunami and a nuclear accident in Japan, and contributed to the early warning of the tsunami generated by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. The Commission provided the most up-to-date and accurate information to all the member-states and signatories of the Treaty, enabling them to make informed decisions.

The activities of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission demonstrate that politically and scientifically complex multilateral verification is possible, and that it does work. The On-Site Inspection (OSI) verification mechanism, to be implemented after entry into force of the Treaty, continues to be a priority for the Organization. The next Integrated Field Exercise, to simulate a large-scale OSI, to be held in 2014 in Jordan, will test and train the organization’s on-site inspection capabilities in an all-inclusive way.

#### *Engaging policy-makers and scientists*

The Commission has undertaken a number of efforts to engage stakeholders around the globe. In that context, I wish to draw your attention to a major scientific conference taking place next year entitled *CTBT: Science and Technology 2013 Conference*. To be held on 17-21 June 2013 in Vienna, this Conference will further consolidate engagement between the CTBTO and the global science community.

In addition, there is a continued urgency to invest in the next generation of disarmament and non-proliferation specialists by increasing the awareness and understanding of the international non-proliferation framework. This urgency sustains the Commission’s Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) launched in 2010 with the objective of training and educating the next generation of experts on the CTBT. This strategy is based on the recognition that building and maintaining the necessary capacity to deal with the technical, scientific, political, and legal challenges facing the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament regime is of critical importance.

#### *The CTBT: Global Support, Not Yet Part of Global Law*

Today, 183 countries have signed the Treaty. Ten years ago, there were only 50 ratifications. Today 157 states have ratified, representing a threefold increase. The CTBT is a powerful multilateral instrument that has solidified the no-test norm and increased transparency among the world’s nations.

This support is rooted in the fact that the CTBT verification system has repeatedly proven its effectiveness. What lies behind this political determination is a vision to bring an end to nuclear weapons; a strong desire to establish an international norm against nuclear testing; and a firm political will to advance the Treaty’s entry into force. But for this to occur, the signature and ratification of the remaining eight Annex 2 States is still required. Indonesia, one of the Annex 2 States, led by example and ratified the Treaty in February 2012.

In this regard, I call upon all OSCE Participating and Partner States to continue their advocacy for CTBT entry into force at the highest political level. The entry into force of the CTBT is among the first steps that need to be taken. It provides a firm legal barrier against nuclear testing, thereby curbing the development of new types and designs of nuclear weapons. While states act in their own interests, the CTBT provides a clear-cut “insurance policy” to the international community by verifying the absence of nuclear testing.

The CTBT serves as the final “line in the sand,” demonstrating a state’s peaceful intentions. Legal instruments “upstream” of the nuclear fuel cycle are facing increasing difficulties when it comes to the delineation between prohibited and permitted activities. A nuclear test provides unquestionable “downstream” proof of the intentions of a state. The CTBT thus provides the last and clearly visible barrier between the two. There is no such thing as a ‘peaceful nuclear test.’ This legal line needs to be drawn clearly and irrevocably.

Until the Treaty is codified in international law, until we draw that irrevocable line in the sand, the international community will have no insurance policy. Let us not be naïve in our ambitions. The road ahead will be difficult. Addressing multiple challenges will require both leadership and political resolve. But history has shown it can be done. Let us remember how generations of the past tackled some of the most serious political and technological challenges: not because they were easy, but because they were hard.

Thank You.