

## **Check Against Delivery**



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

**Mr. Tibor Tóth**

**Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the  
Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty  
(New York, 24-25 September 2009)**

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We meet here exactly thirteen years after the adoption of our Treaty. This is the sixth Article XIV Conference to accelerate its entry into force. Your high powered presence, Mr. Secretary General and so many Ministers is an expression of conviction and determination. We are grateful for your presence. We are grateful for your support and determination. This is a vote of confidence in the Treaty and the work of the organization. Your conviction in the value of the Treaty is the ultimate expression of faith in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It is an expression of faith in multilateralism: Challenges which affect us all must be resolved by all of us.

The Treaty has endured politically difficult times during the last decade. Yet despite the many direct challenges, the momentum of support has carried it through. Member states have proved their conviction in the noble goals of the Treaty, making political, scientific and financial investments. Today, the prospects for the entry into force of the Treaty appear much more positive than they did for many years. It shall be up to you to seize the moment and to determine the action necessary; to realize the dream.

The Security Council's Summit seeks to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. The draft resolution before the Summit marks the resolve of the international community to breathe new life into the multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It calls on all states to refrain from conducting nuclear test explosions and to join the CTBT, thereby bringing the treaty into force at an early date. It brings the Treaty back to the top of the global multilateral and non-proliferation agenda. It does so at the highest level. It is up to Member states to translate this new momentum into concrete action.

The CTBT is a uniting force in the multilateral system. The Treaty today boasts a near universal membership. 181 countries have signed the Treaty. St. Vincent and the Grenadines

deposited their instrument of ratification on the eve of our meeting, bringing total ratifications to the hallmark figure of 150. Ten years ago, there were only 50 ratifications. That is a threefold increase. This is indeed an outstanding achievement. For those member states, the question is not “if”, but rather “when” will the treaty enter into force. The message is simple. As an all inclusive, democratic, non-discriminatory legal instrument, the international community’s belief in this unique political and scientific arrangement is overwhelming.

We in the organization have come within sight of the fulfilment of our mandate. Through dedication, commitment and very hard work, we are approaching the point of readiness for the entry into force of the Treaty. The organization has built a one billion dollar verification regime. This regime is an unprecedented international joint venture. It translates groundbreaking science into the most comprehensive verification system in the world. Almost 80% of the International Monitoring System’s stations are already sending operational-standard data to headquarters in Vienna. The volume of the data transmitted from the stations to the data centre in Vienna has tripled during the last five years. A new global communications infrastructure for relaying that data has been installed. Important advances have been made in processing methods and software in all the verification technologies.

The system has been tried and tested. Tried by the DPRK test explosions in 2006 and 2009. The international community has deplored these tests. They posed a direct challenge to the Treaty. But they proved the reliability of the system. The two events tested our technical capabilities and procedures. They proved the value our global verification system can bring to the international community. The international community’s investment has proved to be sound and effective. Coupled with On-Site inspections, the Treaty’s verifiability is further enhanced. The system has most recently gained the trust and approval of the international scientific community in the context of the International Scientific Studies involving more than 500 scientists, culminating in a meeting held last June in Vienna.

This is indeed a historical moment. The international community has rallied around the Treaty since its adoption in 1996. The Security Council is calling on all states to refrain from nuclear test explosions and is calling for the early entry into force of the Treaty. Several bold initiatives are taking centre stage in the debate. The verification regime is near completion. We have come within sight of the fulfilment of our mandate.

But we must seize the moment. There is no room for complacency. There is no place for inaction. This is the moment of truth. This is a moment for action. For you leaders to lead. To lead us on the last mile of our long journey and to our final destination; the entry into force of our Treaty.

Thank you