

**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, 23 September 2011)**

Mr Secretary-General,
Co-Presidents, First Deputy, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Vice-
Chancellor, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Under-Secretaries,
High Representatives,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends representing Member States, Member
States of this organization and of this Treaty,

Today, I would like to thank you for your leadership. I thank you for the leadership which you have shown 15 years ago nearly to the day on 24th of September 1996, when you jointly and solemnly said: “No more.” After 2,000 tests, after 50 years of trying to balance nuclear weapons, you said: “Test no more. By no one, nowhere, never.”

And I thank you for your leadership demonstrated during the last fifteen years with 182 of you signing up to the norm, and 155 of you – four-fifths of all nations - having sealed the pledge with ratification. One hundred and fifty-five of you individually and collectively reminding the nine remaining countries that

the norm is near universal. Reminding all of us that it is not up to those who are within the norm to justify why they are in, but it is up to those who are outside the norm to explain why they choose to do so.

And I would like to thank you for putting together what is the best in you politically, scientifically and technically. For creating a verification regime, a regime unprecedented for any of you and for all of you. Unprecedented because of the 500 facilities and assets already showing the potential of monitoring the silence of nuclear tests around the globe and around the clock. Unprecedented because all nations, big and small, have the same rights and obligations; all nations verify and are verified.

You might ask the question: What is the return? The return is that the norm is clear. And it is clear to anyone that any transgression is met with swift condemnation, swift and resolute as was demonstrated in 2006 and 2009.

The return is what the system demonstrated it can do in the tragic context of Fukushima. Information on radionuclide dissemination from 90 stations around the world, information on projected dispersion globally, information shared in near real-time, in its totality with 95 percent precision, with all the nations and entities subscribing to this information— altogether 1,200 of them, including fellow international organizations.

And the return is law and order, a 'no test' law and order. During each and every decade prior to the Treaty on average 400– 500 tests took place each 10 years. The last decade saw only two tests. Two too many. But the return on your investment is that the test genie is back in the bottle.

But you cannot stop here. You have to derive more strength from what you have created already: the norm and the regime. You cannot stop here because moratoria historically failed us all. In late August 1961, 50 years ago, a three-year moratorium was broken. In the aftermath, a device which was 4,000 times more devastating than the one detonated above Hiroshima was unleashed.

In 16 months 50 years ago, more tests were carried out than in the preceding 16 years of the existence of nuclear weapons. And not by chance, the Cuban Missile Crisis dragged all of us into what was the closest encounter with fate humankind has ever had.

And you cannot stop here because 2006 and 2009 are reminders that no hole in the edifice of the 'no test' regime building could be left behind since it is not just a sub-regional or regional challenge but a potential proliferation source on a wider scale.

And, to conclude, you cannot stop here because you *can* carry through what you pledged 15 years ago: Test no more. By no one, nowhere, never.

Thank you so much.