



**Statement at the Forty-Second Session of the Preparatory Commission for the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO PrepCom)**

By

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**Preparatory Commission for the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO PrepCom)**

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Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I welcome this opportunity to address the forty-second session of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. I would like to express my gratitude to the Preparatory Commission's distinguished Executive Secretary, Mr. Lassina Zerbo, for inviting me to speak about the cooperation between the CTBTO PrepCom and the United Nations and our efforts to pursue our shared goal of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

First of all, let me explain briefly about the cooperation framework between the two organizations. In May 2000, the United Nations and the CTBTO PrepCom, two separate and autonomous organizations, signed the "Agreement to Regulate the Relationship between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization". Under that Agreement, the two organizations maintain a close working relationship on matters of mutual interest and concern.

The biannual Conferences on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT—called the Article XIV conferences—are at the heart of our cooperation. Unlike some other nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, the CTBT is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Acting in his capacity as Depositary, the Secretary-General has convened these conferences in accordance with Article XIV (2) of the Treaty. The UNODA and the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO PrepCom serve as the secretariat of these conferences.

At these events as at many others throughout his incumbency, the Secretary-General has persistently reaffirmed his commitment to pursuing—and achieving—a world free of nuclear weapons. Building on his personal experience as a chair of this CTBTO PrepCom in 1999, he has placed special emphasis on the promotion of an early entry into force of the Treaty as our common goal. He has taken every reasonable opportunity to urge its ratification without delay by the remaining States, in particular the eight Annex 2 States. In September of each year, the United Nations organizes an event in the margins of the General Assembly's general debate to provide a high-profile opportunity for States to sign and ratify multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General. I would like to encourage all remaining States to use that opportunity to sign this Treaty or to deposit their instruments of ratification. This is a superb occasion to demonstrate national commitments to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The United Nations has also long benefited from the CTBTO PrepCom's active participation at a number of its meetings. Every year, the General Assembly First Committee dedicates a meeting to a panel discussion with high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament, such as IAEA, OPCW and CTBTO PrepCom. The Panel discussion allows the First Committee to take stock of progress and setbacks for the past year and provides delegates a unique opportunity to exchange views with representatives of those organizations away from New York.

The UNODA also serves as the secretariat of the NPT review conferences and its preparatory committee sessions. The 2010 NPT Review Conference agreed to the 64-point Action Plan to advance the NPT's goals in disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Five out of the 64 Actions are dedicated to the goal of bringing the CTBT into force. The CTBTO PrepCom's active participation in the preparatory process throughout this NPT review cycle has been of great value to the NPT Review Conference next year in making a careful and clear assessment on the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan.

Our cooperation is not limited to the policy level. We are exploring ways to expand our cooperation to education and capacity-building in the disarmament area. The UNODA implements the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament launched by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament in 1978. The Programme is focused on training junior national officials of Member States and to enable them to participate more effectively in international deliberating and negotiating fora. It has trained over 800 public officials from about 160 Member States, including Mr. Tibor Toth, who of course went on to become the second Executive Secretary of the CTBTO PrepCom. We are exploring how to achieve greater synergy between the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme and the CTBTO's Capacity Development Initiative.

Before I close my remarks, I would like underscore the Secretary-General's enduring commitment to a world without both nuclear tests and nuclear weapons. You will certainly have our full cooperation in pursuing these great common goals. Looking to the future, I would also like to request your continued support for our collaboration and partnerships, and I look forward to hearing your ideas about how we can strengthen that cooperation. Thank you once again for inviting me to speak today and best wishes in all your important work.