

**PRESENTATION BY  
H.E. Mr. Tibor Tóth  
Executive Secretary  
toUNA Austria “International Club”**

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**Introduction**

**It is a great pleasure to address this meeting of the Foreign Policy and United Nations Association of Austria.**

**Over many years the Association has played a crucial role as an interface between the Austrian foreign affairs community and the international community as a whole.**

**In particular, the Society has an important function in providing a link between Austria, Austrian society and the international organizations based in the beautiful city of Vienna, including the CTBTO.**

**In the five years that has elapsed since I last had the opportunity to meet with you, Vienna has even further enhanced its unique position as the nuclear verification capital of the world.**

**Vienna: the NonproliferationCapital**

- **Austria has consistently demonstrated unwavering support for a safer and more secure world through its support for the CTBTO**
- **As the host country of the Commission, Austria has been a reliable partner in maintaining and strengthening all aspects of the CTBT and its verification system**
- **This has included substantial and generous financial support, for key initiatives such as the Science and Technology Conferences, the Integrated Field Exercise in 2014, and the Capacity Development Initiative.**
- **Support from our host country has been instrumental in the CTBTO’s steady success, partly due to our shared values: we in the CTBTO firmly believe in the synergy between diplomacy, academia, research and education on the one hand, and the practice of disarmament and non-proliferation on the other.**

**The Challenge**

- First allow me to explain the challenge we are facing. Since the summer of 1945, when the Trinity nuclear weapon test exploded in the deserts of Alamogordo, New Mexico, the world has lived under the dreadful legacy of possible nuclear war.
- In response to this threat, concerned scientists, policy makers, and members of civil society have methodically developed the nonproliferation and disarmament regime, a structure of treaties, agreements and instruments that have systematically strengthened international peace and security.

The CTBT is a product of this effort.

- As an interface between key parties in Vienna, the nonproliferation hub of the UN system, UNA Austria is part of this tradition of concerned citizens, and part of this coalition aiming to maintain global security.
- For years, there was an average of 400-500 nuclear tests every decade.

Since the CTBT was adopted in 1996, the genie has virtually been pushed back into the bottle.

There have only been two tests in the last decade.

Two test explosions by North Korea, and two too many.

Until we seal the bottle once and for all, until we bring the Treaty into force with the 8 remaining ratifications, none of us can feel safe.

## VIE: Verification, Implementation and Empowerment

### *Verification and Implementation: The Role of the CTBT*

- To illustrate the close connection between this great city and our organization, and to pay tribute both to Vienna and the Austrian foreign ministry, allow me to play with words a bit by describing my meaning of VIE: Verification, Implementation, and Empowerment.
- Last February, the CTBTO celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

As a teenager, the Treaty enjoys growing political support, and implementation of the Treaty has been closely connected.

- Today, 183 countries have signed the Treaty and 157 states have ratified.

The great majority of the world's nations have spoken not only with words, but with deeds.

- The IMS gathers data around the globe and around the clock.

Around the globe around the clock, the data are shared with 1,300 institutions in 120 countries.

- Made up of 337 monitoring facilities and 250 communication assets, the system operates at the cutting edge of scientific knowledge.
- The system is unprecedented in its global reach.

It is a joint venture for strengthening international peace and security.

### Confidence Building

- While the CTBT has still not entered into force, it serves as an important confidence building measure.
- It provides a forum to engage on complex verification issues in a multilateral setting.

The CTBTO demonstrates that politically and scientifically complex multilateral verification is possible, and that it does work.

### Empowerment: CTBTO is a GSO

- The CTBTO is a GSO-Globally Sharing Organization.  
All 183 members share the data and knowledge generated by the system in a democratic, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner.
- Based in some 90 countries, this is a universal system, an unprecedented political and scientific achievement in the history of verification.
- We are seeking to empower individuals from all across the globe, with a particular emphasis on women and individuals in the developing world
- Everyone gets everything we have.

The CTBTO produces and shares global public goods, goods of outlawing explosions and mitigating disasters.

These public goods belong to all countries, all institutions and they belong to all humankind.

These public goods can most efficiently be produced on a global scale through a globally sharing organization like ours.

- At the CTBTO we are working at the intersection of two challenges: Nuclear weapons which are the most destructive devices mankind has created; and complex

disasters, which are the most dangerous forces nature or human error can unleash.

The Treaty and the Organisation and its staff provide solutions to face these challenges.

- Solutions based on knowledge, and through the use of the best technologies.

We have to empower the organisation, and we have to empower all countries, all institutions and you, the new generation to make the best of what we can offer.

#### Capacity Development Initiative

- We also share knowledge through the Capacity Development Initiative, a free of charge education initiative that has trained 1,000 individuals, building capacity in all aspects of the Treaty and its verification system.

Through the CDI approach, we utilize innovative mobile platforms to accomplish truly mass-educational collaboration.

- There is an 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 is a key driver of the Commission's capacity development initiative, which was launched in October 2010.
- We are bringing together mass education combined with a wide alliance of international organisations and academia, hopefully the business community as well.

#### Science Course

- Live lecture courses are held in Vienna and live-streamed online.

I strongly recommend engaging in these courses, including the Advanced Science Course from 12 to 23 December: *Around the Globe and Around the Clock: The Science and Technology of the CTBT*

#### Conclusion: Learning Lessons Unlearned

- Allow me to end with a lesson from history.

It took some 100 years for the Concert of Europe to unravel.

The series of devastating wars (the Crimean War, the Franco-Prussian war, WWI, and finally WWII) lay the groundwork for the European Coal and Steel Community.

**This treaty and the paradigm shift it ushered in European politics was unpopular.**

**It cost its champions political support in their own countries.**

**But historic leadership is what is required for historic change.**

- **With nuclear weapons, we simply do not have the luxury of waiting for the next disaster, natural or manmade, to catalyze change.**

**We cannot wait 150 years for the change in the present security, or rather insecurity, paradigm.**

- **Albert Einstein famously said: “I know not with what weapons WWII will be fought, but WWIV will be fought with sticks and stones”.**
- **How many more chances will we have to learn from the historic failures of the past?**