



HUNGARY

János Martonyi

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

In your capacity as Co-President of the Article XIV conference, what would you consider to be your main priorities in terms of promoting the CTBT's entry into force?

The inimitable Victor Hugo coined the phrase: "There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come." This is the message I want to convey for the nuclear test ban. Although the CTBT has yet to enter into force, it has come a long way: 183 countries have signed the Treaty and abide by it as if it were global law. Nuclear testing is stigmatized as a pariah activity. But only with the Treaty's entry into force will the chapter of nuclear testing be confined to the history books. We need to make this final push. There is no good reason or excuse for further delay.

When Hungary ratified the CTBT on 13 July 1999, it became the twentieth of the 44 States that must

ratify before the Treaty can enter into force, to do so. Fourteen years later, eight of these countries, known as the Annex 2 States, have still not ratified the CTBT: China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States. Over the next two years, how will you encourage these countries to sign and/or ratify the CTBT?

Of course every country needs to convince itself that the CTBT serves its own security interests. But to arrive at this conclusion, we need to initiate an open and frank reflection process in each country, involving decision-makers at the highest level. In our interaction with the outstanding countries, Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa and I will strongly encourage such a reflection process, in which the CTBT should be considered on its own merits: "Is my country's

»The CTBTO's monitoring stations can detect suspicious events with remarkable speed, certainty and precision, as the network has shown in the case of all three North Korean nuclear tests.«

security best served if all countries are bound by the test ban, or is it preferable to keep the option for future testing open – at the price of a free-for-all for the entire world?"

And why not consider questions of status and prestige, which play a greater role than often admitted in these

issues: "Is my country's status served by remaining a CTBT holdout forever? Could conducting nuclear tests enhance my country's prestige?" In my view, the case of North Korea, the only country to have conducted nuclear tests this century, provides a clear-cut answer.

Another important argument we will make is that without the CTBT's entry into force, the international community deprives itself of a powerful verification measure, that of on-site inspections. The CTBTO's monitoring stations can detect suspicious events with remarkable speed, certainty and precision, as the network has shown in the case of all three North Korean nuclear tests. However, in cases of uncertainty, only an on-site inspection can provide clarity as to whether a nuclear explosion has actually taken place. Hungary is proud to have contributed to the CTBTO's on-site inspection capabilities by recently hosting another on-site inspection exercise.

All European countries have ratified the Treaty. Why is this important and what special role can Europe play in promoting the Treaty's entry into force?

Not only have all European countries ratified the CTBT, but they have supported the aims of the Treaty in every other way possible. We have lobbied hard for entry into force since the very beginning; nearly every CTBTO monitoring station hosted by European countries is sending data; the Member States of the European Union contribute around 40 percent of the organization's budget and have provided over €15 million in voluntary contributions. The most recent contribution was initiated under Hungarian EU presidency. And with regard to my country, we are of course proud that a Hungarian, Ambassador Tibor Tóth, steered the organization so competently through the sometimes choppy waters over the past eight years, from August 2005 to July 2013.

So Europe has a special moral authority to promote the Treaty. Like Hungary, many European countries are

»Given the importance of its nuclear arsenal, I believe that the United States has a certain moral obligation to lead the way, as recognized by President Barack Obama's announced intention to pursue CTBT ratification. We hope that the required majority in the U.S. Senate can be achieved.«

also members of NATO, which has placed increasing emphasis on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as a means to promote security. When Hungary hosted the 2012 NATO Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, I highlighted the CTBTO's role in this context. As NATO Members, we have an important case to make vis-à-vis our large transatlantic NATO partner: the firm belief that ratification by the United States is in no way detrimental to NATO's nuclear deterrent, but that it would, on the contrary, enhance global security.

What effect do you consider ratification by the United States will have on the remaining Annex 2 States?

Given the importance of its nuclear arsenal, I believe that the United States has a certain moral obligation to lead the way, as recognized by President Barack Obama's announced intention to pursue CTBT ratification. We hope that the required majority in the U.S. Senate can be achieved. The other seven countries should not remain idle either. It is time to move forward now.

In addition to strengthening the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, countries reap a multitude of other membership benefits by adhering to the CTBT such as access to verification data and the possibility of participating in capacity building activities. How can countries that have not yet signed the

Treaty best be made aware of the advantages of joining the 183 countries that are already enjoying these benefits?

These countries have to be made aware of the extent to which they are depriving themselves of the opportunities that the 16 gigabytes per day of CTBTO data offer. These include chances for scientific development, human welfare and disaster warning. Marty Natalegawa and I will be sure to emphasize this aspect. India and Pakistan, for example, are regularly affected by tsunamis, earthquakes and storms. Both countries are expanding their nuclear industries. In the unfortunate event of a serious nuclear accident occurring in this densely populated region, CTBTO data could be critical for warning populations of airborne radioactivity.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

JÁNOS MARTONYI

was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary in 2010, a position which he also held from 1998 to 2002. Between 1994-1998, as well as 2002-2009 he was Managing Partner of Martonyi and Kajtár, Baker & McKenzie Law Firm in Hungary. Prior to this he held a number of political posts including Administrative State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1991 to 1994 and at the Ministry for International Economic Relations from 1990 to 1991. He is a professor of International Trade Law at the University of Szeged.