

Check Against Delivery



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

Mr. Tibor Tóth

Informal Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to mark the
Observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests

New York, 6 September 2012

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I represent the Treaty and the Organization whose mission is to outlaw nuclear weapons tests. To do this, we need to push the genie of nuclear weapons and tests back in the bottle, we need to seal that bottle. We can achieve this by bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty - our Treaty - into force. We can achieve it by outlawing nuclear explosions for all, for all time, and for all the places monitored by all and implemented by all.

Nuclear tests are poisonous. They are poisonous for people. They are poisonous for the political environment. We don't need a repetition of the near-miss encounter with fate during the Cuban Missile Crisis 50 years ago to avert us from the dangers and return to the path of stability. The transparency and predictability that the test ban brings are indispensable for progress towards a world without nuclear weapons.

There is a sad legacy of 2000 nuclear weapon tests behind us. If we look to the past, we find lessons that have not lost their relevance. These lessons tell us that we should care about the future as well. The closure of the Semipalatinsk Test Site two decades ago was an important achievement. Its legacy continues today. To pay homage to what is behind us, we have to face the challenge in front of us. We need to ensure the message that we are sending today reaches all capitals. Not just with words but with deeds. We need the leadership of your governments. Together we need to move towards the entry-into-force of the Treaty.

We have to turn the ground zeros of test sites into – zero tests. We have to join forces. We have to convince the remaining eight that there should be no tests in the future and that there is no future with tests.

The world will have to put an end to nuclear explosions, before nuclear explosions put an end to the world.

Thank you.