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(AS DELIVERED)

**Remarks by Tibor Tóth  
Executive Secretary of the  
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

**“Putting An End To Nuclear Explosions”  
An exhibition of the CTBTO  
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Mr. Douglas, Excellencies, thank you once again for your strong commitment in pushing this treaty forward.

Mr. Douglas, you ended your speech with a powerful call for action. From my perspective, the CTBT has for too long now been a hostage of fortune. Yet times have changed. As President Obama has stated, as you can see on the back-side of this panel, “after more than five decades of talks, it is time for the testing of nuclear weapons to finally be banned.” The technical prerequisites are given. International support is overwhelming. The benefits are obvious. What we need now is determined political leadership.

First, over 180 countries have signed up to the Treaty’s principles. Over 150 of these have also ratified. The norm against nuclear testing has already been established. It just waits to be properly inscribed in the international rulebook. Minister Marty brought us yesterday and today the good news that his country initiated the ratification process of the CTBT. This news will help advance the CTBT and be a guiding light for the other outstanding Annex 2 countries which need to ratify the Treaty so that it can enter into force. Of course, the decision to move forward is one of each and every country. But the expectation of the world’s nations is loud and clear.

Second, consensus can easily be built around the CTBT. The Treaty is a key to easing the rancor between the nuclear haves and have-nots. Also, it is a strong non-proliferation instrument, a catalyst for nuclear disarmament, and crucial in a world in which we see the resurgence of nuclear energy.

Third, the global alarm system supporting the Treaty is moving towards completion. This one-billion dollar verification regime, built to ensure compliance with the Test Ban Treaty has already proven itself admirably. As you can see over here, in 2006, with only 60 percent of the International Monitoring System complete, a low-yield nuclear test conducted by North Korea was detected by 24 monitoring stations. 2 ½ years later, in 2009 when North Korea tested again, the explosion was registered by 61 stations.

Forth, the CTBT verification regime is an unprecedented equalizer. The CTBTO data and bulletins are made available in near real time to every Member State, regardless of size, wealth, or technological prowess. We make sure that transparency is not limited to the few. On the basis of this open and democratic system, the CTBTO is moving forward with capacity development. We will establish a network of partnerships designed to strengthen and broaden the participation in the CTBTO global monitoring and verification efforts. This will also facilitate access to the many civil and scientific benefits of the monitoring data. I will expand on this topic at the lunch time seminar on 10 May which I hope you all will attend.

In short, the Treaty is standing at the door, waiting to enter. This opportunity is there and we must respond. We need to work together to make the world a safer place. For our own sake and for the generations to come.

Thank you.