

**Speech by the Executive Secretary
Of the Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

Mr. Tibor Tóth

**At the CTBTO 15th anniversary celebrations
(Vienna, 17 February 2012)**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The CTBTO has come a very long way during the last 15 years.

I remember so vividly when I came to Vienna in early 1997 as Chairman of the Working Group A to prepare the first programme and budget of the Organization. The headquarters was still empty: vacant offices, not much furniture, and very few people. I worked in an unoccupied room with a computer placed on a carton box. For my predecessor Wolfgang Hoffmann, CTBTO's Executive Secretary Emeritus, ably steered the CTBTO through its

eventful years of infancy. But we never looked back, and always moved forward.

The infant has grown and flourished into a unique and unparalleled arrangement. At age 15, we are proud of our achievements. The family of CTBT Member States has grown to 182, 157 of which have ratified.

The network has grown, station by station. It was in 2000 when, the first of the CTBTO's monitoring stations were certified. By now 280 facilities, more than 80% of the system, are up and running. An around the globe and around the clock system. A system of 1 billion dollars and 10,000 scientists years of investments. It is a verification system representing a new paradigm in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. I call it "non-proliferation 2.0 operating system." It is truly multilateral and all inclusive. And it is democratic. It relies on its parties. It serves all of them in an equal and transparent manner. And the Organization is a 2.0 Organization: a globally-sharing Organization.

As for the 15 years? Yes, we have to decide on the direction we want to take. Yes, we have to decide. Are we serious about our call for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation? I believe we are at a crossroads. It would be easy to say that it shall be up to leaders of the international community to seize the moment and to determine the action necessary to go the extra mile. No! It is up to all of us realize the dream. It is up to all of us to respond to the call, made by millions around the world, for CLOSING THE DOOR ON NUCLEAR TESTING.