

Check Against Delivery

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

Mr. Tibor Tóth

IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety

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Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Ministerial Conference gathered here in Vienna has the solemn responsibility to ensure that the world is better prepared to deal with tragic events similar to those following the 11 March Japan earthquake. Nuclear accidents respect no borders. Mitigating and effectively responding to nuclear accidents will require us to forge the widest possible coalition. It will be up to this Conference, and to the international community at large, to draw on the hard lessons of Fukushima to strengthen nuclear safety, and devise the emergency preparedness strategies and responses required to address nuclear accidents.

The urgency of devising such strategies is evident when we realize that nuclear energy shall meet an important portion of the increasing future global energy

demand. The world will need to address the safety, security, and non-proliferation concerns created by this new reality. Given the loss of life, destruction of assets and the huge displacement of people caused by nuclear emergencies like the one that occurred in Japan in March 2011, disaster risk reduction strategies become imperative. As the Declaration adopted yesterday by your Conference realizes, a multilateral response to the promise and possible threats of nuclear energy, whether in the areas of physical security, safety, or proliferation, is essential.

By outlawing nuclear tests, the CTBT curbs the development of nuclear weapons. It silences the nuclear arms race for existing possessors, and for newcomers. The verification system of the CTBTO, the International Monitoring System or IMS, has been designed to prevent the security, human, and environmental disasters of nuclear weapon testing and proliferation. Made up of 400 monitoring facilities and 250 communication assets, the system operates at the cutting edge of scientific knowledge. The system's seismic, hydro acoustic, infra sound and radionuclide monitoring stations constitute a billion dollar investment that is regarded as a unique political and scientific achievement in the history of verification.

For the near universal membership of the Treaty, all 182 members share the transboundary data and knowledge generated by the system in a democratic, all inclusive and transparent manner. Based in some 90 countries, this achievement is a truly universal system. The IMS has wide-ranging civil and scientific applications of direct relevance to disaster reduction and mitigation, both at the national and international levels. Whether it is in the area of early tsunami warning, aviation safety, climate change, or marine life research, the IMS provides real civil and scientific benefits. The CTBTO has been providing data for tsunami warning systems in cooperation with UNESCO. The CTBTO has an arrangement with the IAEA to share radionuclide data and data products. A similar arrangement exists with the WHO. The CTBTO is already working closely with the WMO to track radioactive particles and noble gasses dispersed by atmospheric winds.

The recent tragic events in Japan proved beyond doubt the true value of the international community's investment in the CTBTO's monitoring system. It also highlighted the urgent need for cooperation between sister Organizations. The CTBTO has made available its data and expertise to all concerned actors to make informed decisions about the best course of action. Through its network of stations the CTBTO was able to provide reliable, real time, accurate and verified data on the March 11 incident in Japan. This data was immediately made available to all CTBT states signatories, including Japan. The IMS seismic stations detected the magnitude 9 earthquake and its several thousand aftershocks. Hydroacoustic stations detected the rupture forming under the sea. There were infrasound detections showing the explosions in the Fukushima nuclear power plant. Subsequent radioactivity measurements in all the particulate and noble gas stations in the northern hemisphere were made. Atmospheric transport modelling played an important role on the first day of the incident in order to predict which stations, and countries, were going to be affected by the release.

The CTBTO believes that close cooperation among sister organizations constitutes part of its mandate to best serve its member states, and protect them and their investment in the organization. Article II of the CTBT encourages the secretariat to enter into cooperative arrangements with other international organizations. Owing to the extent of the Japan earthquake, the CTBTO quickly mobilized to provide assistance. In addition to providing information in six different briefings for member states, the CTBTO shared its IMS data, and provided technical briefings for the IAEA since March 21 2011. Starting 11 April 2011, the CTBTO participated in the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies with other UN organizations.

There is general agreement that there is a need to strengthen global emergency preparedness and to devise an efficient disaster response system. Given the possible transboundary and immensely destructive nature of nuclear accidents, the urgency is clear to all. But we need to resist the temptation of looking at the

short term, and think more in terms of the next 10 to 20 years. We need what I call over the horizon action.

Over the horizon action is based on three main pillars: the creation of new systems, the mastering of state of the art technology, and education / training of human resources. We need to be able to create a disaster response system that boasts the best and brightest minds who can push the rapidly expanding scientific frontier even further. Capacity development, education, and training are an integral part of that system. A response system that is flexible enough to employ and account for the technologies of the future through a continuous and ongoing dialogue with the scientific community and research institutions. Most importantly, our collective response to strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, and protection of people and the environment must be, indeed, collective.

A review and capacity mapping of the existing global monitoring systems utilized by several organizations is needed. Existing systems must be nurtured and strengthened. At a time of financial hardship, this is the most prudent course of action. Institutional cooperation and specialized knowledge sharing between regional/international organizations in accordance with their respective thematic mandates needs to be fostered and maximized.

The IAEA has been tasked to review the lessons learned from the Fukushima incident, and draw up a plan of action. We at the CTBTO stand ready to continue our cooperation and coordination with the IAEA and other sister agencies to ensure a successful outcome of this endeavour.

We owe it to our member states. We owe it to humanity.

Thank you