

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

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**EU Seminar to promote confidence building and in support of a process
aimed at establishing a zone free of WMD and means of delivery in the
Middle East**

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Today on this panel, we have speakers from A- Atomic, B- Biological, C- Chemical, D- Disarmament and of course E- the EU all lined up. It is great to witness all these organizations sitting together in this seminar working towards the establishment of the envisioned Weapons-of-Mass-Destruction-free-Zone (WMDFZ) in the Middle East. As we envision this zone, it is necessary to visualize that there are three legs for its establishment. It is like a "Tripod". The first leg is "no nuclear weapons", the second is "no misuse of fissile material", and the third is "no nuclear testing". The CTBT can contribute towards the zone through guarding the "test ban" component. The CTBT is reaching near universality, and as we look at the numbers of States becoming part of the Treaty in the Middle East we first see that there are good news. And the good news is: more than 90% of States have subscribed to the norm through their signatures, two third are committed to the Treaty through ratification. 80% of the monitoring stations are installed/certified. And 15% of all data users worldwide come from the Middle East.

Now for the very good news: out of the nine remaining Annex II States, whose ratifications are needed for the Treaty to enter into force, three lie in the Middle East. None of these States have said no to the Treaty. All of them have signed and subscribed to the norm. And as we are here today,

standing in front of the question on how can the WMDFZ materialize and how can our organizations contribute to the building of such a zone, the CTBT with its multilateral democratic nature and highly valuable verification technologies stands as a practical and confidence building tool for the establishment of the Zone.

The CTBT with its near universality offers the region a “big tent”. Banning testing in the region in this sense will be guarded in a global regime. Not that a global regime is better than a regional one, it is just different. The CTBT is a legacy of how successful multilateralism and global partnership can be. Our verification system would not have materialized if it was not for the collaboration that took place across the globe. And as we proceed in enhancing collaboration and partnership, we proceed with an attitude of “yes we can”. But, actually, this time it will be “yes YOU can”. You can make the entry into force of this Treaty happen. Yes, you can build consensus on the Treaty and ending nuclear testing once and for all. Yes, you can capture this spirit of partnership and collaboration and make it the rising global norm.

There is nothing more inspiring in my organization than working on OSI, where you will find people from Egypt, Iran and Israel along with other States come together to establish an essential component of the verification regime. And, in our pursuit of building synergies and collaboration, we have also launched our capacity development initiative. This is an online-based course that fosters better understating of the Treaty and its verification technologies, hence familiarizing future diplomats with our verification regime and attracting scientists’ attention across the globe for expanding the utility of our verification technologies.

Our verification technologies have lately proved that they have much wider utility than just monitoring the test ban. As much as it was unfortunate to witness the recent drastic events unfolding in Japan, it is central to draw upon the fact that all four components of our IMS were useful in mitigating the accident. Beginning with the seismic stations that were among the first to detect the earthquake, the hydroacoustic which gave a tsunami warning, the infrasound which detected cracks in the building of Fukushima, and the radionuclide stations that detected and traced the movement of radionuclide particles around the globe. This system is a product of hard work, and it is there for you to use. Think of it as tool, a Swiss army knife, a tool which can be used for multiple purposes. It is an unprecedented universal investment of capital in a verification regime, and it is owned by everyone. But countries have to make this choice. They have to decide that “yes we want it”. This tool cannot be imposed. Countries might say “do not fix unless broken”. And only in the case

when countries sincerely feel that they have to fix things, this tool can be instantly available. With ratification, you get instant utility. With this instant ratification you get access to the tool. I call it instant “gratification”, and it is yours. You just have to make this decision.