

VISION
by Ambassador Tibor Tóth
Candidate for OPCW Director-General

Excellences, colleagues and dear friends,

I am Tibor Tóth and I am seeking your support to serve this fine organization as its next Director-General.

Let me share with you my vision for the future of our convention and organization – and describe what I can bring to the table. It is up to you Member States to consider how relevant my credentials are against the robust performance of a Nobel Peace Prize winning organization.

But first, I would like to pay tribute to what OPCW has achieved over the last 20 years and more recently under Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü.

The CWC and OPCW are confronted with crucial choices. In testing times a tested leader is needed. A leader is needed with a proven track-record of the ability to envision and the capacity to act.

The Member States you represent and me, together we have a tested and trusted relationship from various multilateral fora. All in all for 30 years, we have been repeatedly tested together, in banning chemical weapons, biological weapons and nuclear explosions. And all in all for 30 years, you have repeatedly trusted me to serve *all of you* – be it leading major codification negotiations, worldwide prohibition regimes or a global implementation organization.

Let me illustrate with three thoughts how, with your trust extended again, we can stand together the testing times ahead. “100 & Beyond” encapsulates not just my thoughts. They represent a vision. Let me explain.

“100”

“100” symbolizes a choice between: 100 years from Ieper to Idlib; a vicious circle of repeated crimes against humanity – or 100 years from Geneva to The Hague; a virtuous circle from the 1925 Geneva Protocol to the Chemical Weapons Convention fully implemented.

For all of us, there should be only one “100”, that is: 1 Convention, 0 use and 0 chemical weapons.

We have only one Convention. We cannot invent a new one for each and every expediency. Instead, we must preserve the integrity of the one we have. *Pacta sunt servanda*.

It took nearly 40 years for us to get here. I know how bumpy that road has been. As one of the architects of the Convention and the organization, I walked that road together

with you. We cannot start again where we were in 1980. We are the closest ever to our destination. And we will have to go all the way.

“0” means *zero use*. Zero use of any chemical weapons, by anyone, anytime and anywhere.

We have to learn from the Ieper to Idlib circle. Chemical weapons have killed or maimed so many and caused unspeakable suffering to the victims. The perpetrators of those heinous crimes gained nothing, but shame for centuries to come - engraved in collective memory. Today, the use of chemical weapons is slowly eroding not just the taboo of chemical weapons, but also on the use of weapons of mass destruction as a whole.

We are just one generation of custodians in the 100-year long effort to outlaw chemical weapons. Make no mistake, we have no choice: there will be photos in the history books with all of us depicted in this room invoking the sombre memory of Ieper. But it is our choice of action that will define whether we go down in history as the “Not under our watch” generation.

“0” means *zero weapons*. Zero weapons for the two biggest possessor States. Zero weapons for the other declared possessors. And zero weapons for the rest as well.

The two biggest possessors are approaching the final stretch of a long destruction march from 72 thousand metric tons to zero grams of chemical weapons. It is a must to deliver on that fully and within the time-frame foreseen. Zero for the others means that Member States in the process of destruction will have to live up to similar expectations.

And Zero for the rest means zero chemical weapons for those States which are yet to join the Convention. We should be not just realistic, but persistent as well. Those states should see it as an opportunity to move out of the category of outliers where they have cast themselves. Even more so, since recent and not so recent history has proven that chemical weapons represent zero assets, but infinite liability.

Zero weapons must also mean no re-emergence; that is zero *new* weapons. None, by no-one, at no time and nowhere. We have to adjust our verification modalities to the new realities of phasing out of legacy stockpiles, growing capabilities and capacities relevant for activities not prohibited, and of the breath-taking progress in chemical science, chemical technology and enabling technologies.

“& Beyond”

As for the second thought, let me explain what I mean by “& Beyond”: it means more assistance and more protection for the benefit of all Member States.

Tragically, terrorism, including by non-state actors, have moved to the forefront in too many aspects. We all understand that terrorism is not just opportunistic. It can strike anywhere on the globe with wide implications – for all of us. And we understand as well that the global chemical safety, security, assistance and protection regime is only as strong as its weakest link.

“& Beyond” must mean more capacity development and more cooperation as well.

From our CTBTO joint experience in Vienna we know that we can widen and deepen training and significantly increase the numbers of individuals and institutions that benefit from capacity development, by using novel methods. And we know that we can double each year the number of participants in education, reaching thousands per year.

We can underpin training, education, enhanced capacity development and cooperation with pioneering technologies. And we know from our joint experience that we can create massive platforms of science & technology conferences and engagement to stay abreast of novel technologies. We can make the best use of the support of hundreds of experts from industry, research, academia, organizations, the new generation, media and the wider public.

We can create a seamless continuum of engagement and leverage the enormous outside capacities. And as we did in Vienna we will leave no region, no sub-region, or no country behind benefitting from all of that: we will nurture a sharing organization.

We know from our eight years of joint experience in Vienna that more cooperation and assistance can mean much, much more – without bigger or much bigger financial investments. We did it together there, and we can do more together here.

Delivering as One

And finally, we will deliver on “100 & Beyond” through *one secretariat*, through *one organization* and through *one community* of nations.

We will deliver on “100 & Beyond” through *one secretariat* that is dedicated, driven and dynamic. We know what it means when an organization is truly powered by people – be they D, P or GS staff.

And while we will have one secretariat, we will have diversity: geographical, gender and generational – “3G” – diversity. We did it together in Vienna: we improved the representation of the P-staff originating from Africa and Latin-America by 50%; we increased the presence of P category women by 20% and the presence of women in senior management from zero to 40%; and we brought on board dynamic young professionals injecting new dynamism into the organization. We can do more together here in The Hague.

And we will deliver equitable geographical representation while being a second to none merit-based organization. People can move an organization to new performance heights when they know that the reason they were chosen is because they are the best. We will have staff that are proud of this organization and we will have staff that are cherished by this organization.

We will deliver on “100 & Beyond” through *one organization* – a united organization. But we are not after unity for the sake of unity. We need to unite around the Convention and around the organization. Trust and cooperation, once forsaken are not easy to reconstitute. The slow recovery in trust and cooperation might happen inch by inch. It might happen only month by month or even year by year. But happen it must.

All that requires professionalism, patience and perseverance not just from Member States and the secretariat, but from the Director-General as well. On so many occasions and in so many fora together we overcame impasses and managed political and technological challenges: on triggering the entry into force of this convention, on the biological weapons implementation regime, on repeated nuclear tests, on devastating tsunamis and Fukushima type of complex disasters. We can do it again together here.

As *one community* of nations we will have to demonstrate that global norms and global regimes are able to resolve international security problems. What is at stake goes beyond the CWC and the OPCW: it is about the rule of law and multilateralism. By preserving the integrity of our Convention and our organization we will help to reinforce faith in the integrity of global norms and global organizations as a whole.

In testing times the organization needs a tested and trusted head. A leader is needed who is FIT. FIT where 'F' stands for rule-based Fairness. FIT where 'I' stands for Integrity: integrity towards the Convention and the organization. And FIT where 'T' stands for Transparency.

We will deliver on "100 & Beyond" not because it is easy, but because it is the right thing to do. We should settle on nothing less than a vision. We should act on that vision. And we should deliver on that vision. The task is bigger than any of us. It requires all of us. We did it together in Vienna – we can do more together here in The Hague.

With your trust, it would be a privilege for me to serve this august Convention and this noble organization as your next Director-General and to deliver together with you on a vision we dare to dream and are ready to act upon.

CREDENTIALS

Ambassador Tibor Tóth is a **tested and trusted leader** of global arrangements on banning chemical and biological weapons and nuclear explosions. Being a committed and experienced **multilateralist**, the international community has **elected and re-elected** him into leadership positions for an accumulated period of 30 years. He has earned the continued confidence of States with a proven track record of **rule-based fairness, integrity and transparency**. During his service, Ambassador Tóth gained unique perspectives as a **chief architect** of verification and implementation; as policy-making organ **chair**; and as **executive head** of a global implementation organization.

Ambassador Tóth is a **devotee and an architect of the Chemical Weapons Convention** (CWC). He witnessed the 1980 creation of the Ad Hoc Working Group. He spent seven years in the Geneva negotiations, carrying his contribution through until the 1992 adoption of the Convention. As former Friend of the Chair, he is an architect of the Executive Council related chapter of the Convention. He participated as Committee Chair in the 1989 Paris CWC Conference, in the 1993 Paris signing ceremony and the establishment of the Preparatory Commission. Ambassador Tóth was in charge of Hungary's ratification and implementation legislation. He broke the impasse on the entry into force of the CWC by pushing forward Hungary's ratification and deposition of the 65th ratification, and thus **triggered the entry into force of the CWC**.

As Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Committee of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) he cultivated meaningful **cooperation with the OPCW** and its Directors General in areas of mutual interest, such as preparation and training for on-site inspections, outreach, capacity development, education, and financial and human resources management.

Besides his role in the creation of the chemical weapons prohibition regime, Ambassador Tóth **led the negotiations on an implementation regime for the Biological Weapons Convention** (BWC) as chair for 13 years. He launched the intersessional process on the BWC's implementation and put in place its support secretariat in Geneva, later named as the Implementation Support Unit.

As former CTBTO chief executive, he is a proven **head of a global prohibition and verification organization**. During his two terms as Executive Secretary, he ran an intergovernmental organization (IGO) second to none in its political and technological complexity: the CTBTO has some 180 member states, operates a global system of around 500 monitoring and communication facilities supported by 5000 contact points around the globe, representing a \$1 billion investment. During his tenure, the CTBTO made significant **progress towards universalization**.

As Executive Secretary, he dealt with multiple **simultaneous mission-related and management challenges**. The CTBTO was exposed to new **political and verification challenges**, including by DPRK's first series of test explosions. Tóth's longstanding diplomatic **experience in managing highly complex political issues** assisted Member States in preserving the cohesion of the organization in challenging circumstances. He

also faced administrative issues stemming from the delayed implementation of the limited **tenure policy** coupled with a major **restructuring** of the secretariat.

Under his leadership, CTBTO made significant progress in the build-up of the global verification system. In addition, he initiated and led a major, 5-year **overhaul of the on-site inspection (OSI)** training and exercise regime. Executive Secretary Tóth oversaw OSI exercise preparations involving nearly two hundred participants, 100 ton of equipment and an exercise area of up to 1000 km².

Executive Secretary Tóth **managed an annual regular budget of some \$130 million**, and raised the level of extrabudgetary contributions to \$36 million. Notwithstanding the global economic context, during his tenure Member States **maintained the level of the regular budget and the collection rate was improved** – an expression of their recognition of value for money and of confidence created by enhanced programmatic and budgetary transparency and increased strategic oversight by Member States.

Executive Secretary Tóth worked to **expand and share the benefits** of the CTBTO's monitoring system. The organization joined efforts to mitigate catastrophic consequences of tsunamis by regularly providing related data. The importance of sharing the benefits of the monitoring system was further demonstrated in the context of the 2011 Fukushima disaster, when the CTBTO provided data, data products and analysis to **assist IGOs and Member States to respond** to the event.

During his tenure, Executive Secretary Tóth developed robust multidisciplinary **interactions with the scientific and technological (S&T) communities**. He initiated biennial S&T conferences to provide a collaborative platform to leverage their knowledge. He developed a holistic approach to S&T activities through integrating **conferences, technology foresight, research and development, education and training**. In 2010, the CTBTO pioneered an educational initiative involving dozens of academic institutions and attracting the participation of more than 1000 participants, using novel education methods and IT platforms (massive on-line open courses - MOOC) – one of the early IGOs to do so. Under his tenure, the organization **modernized its public communication and outreach**. The CTBTO also increased its engagement and created partnerships with civil society.

After 8 years of service, Executive Secretary Tóth left behind a secretariat with diverse and **balanced geographical representation** that was based on **meritocracy and gender and generational balance**. The professionalism and self-confidence of the secretariat was the backbone for a robust and dynamic organization. He systematically nurtured a culture of acting within the rules and with fairness, preserving integrity and operating transparently.

Ambassador Tóth is running for OPCW Director General with the credentials of:

- **30 years of elected leadership positions on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and an architect of the Chemical Weapons Convention**
- **tested and trusted head of a global implementation organization in the intersection of security and science & technology**
- **proven track record of political and organizational management founded on rule-based fairness, integrity and transparency.**