

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

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**The OPCW and CTBTO: The “Can-Do Generation”**

At the outset, allow me to congratulate the OPCW on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The OPCW has demonstrated loud and clear that multilateralism, verification and disarmament are achievable. This inspirational example is shared by the Organization I represent, whose mission it is to outlaw nuclear weapons tests.

There is a disturbing legacy of 2000 nuclear weapons tests. But over the last decade, there have only been two tests—two too many—but we managed to push the genie of nuclear testing back in the bottle. Similarly, the OPCW has ensured that 75% of the world’s declared stockpile of chemical agents has been verifiably destroyed. Nearly half of all chemical munitions covered by the CWC are no more.

Our organizations have a shared history. They were born of the optimism and enthusiasm of the post-Cold War era, and based on the clear-eyed understanding that nonproliferation and disarmament is not naïve, but realpolitik. Negotiators in the Conference on Disarmament decided that the shadow of dread under which we all lived - from the trenches of Ypres during WWI to the Cold War arms race - was unacceptable. Progress on nonproliferation and disarmament were rightly regarded as essential building blocks for international peace and security.

This was the “can-do generation”, and their achievements are clear: today, the CWC has 188 member states, while the CTBT has 183 States Signatories. The international community has voiced its resounding support. However, there is still a long way to go: stockpiles of chemical agents and munitions are still out there, and the CTBT has not entered into force.

As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, we must remember how John F Kennedy described nuclear war: “the fruits of victory would be ashes in our mouth”. In the context of 21<sup>st</sup> century security, we must redouble our efforts towards achieving CTBT entry into force. As for chemical weapons, we are also painfully aware of the continued dangers presented by the existence of these weapons.

This occasion allows us to look back and to look forward: we must remember the “can do generation,” and continue to make progress towards multilateral nonproliferation and disarmament.