

Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference
(Geneva, 28 April to 09 May 2003)

*Update on the work of the Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization*

1. Since the First Session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, held in New York in April 2002, the work of the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization has made steady progress in all aspects of establishing the Treaty verification regime and preparing for the entry into force of the Treaty.
2. We have registered new signatures and ratifications of the Treaty, which stands now with 167 signatories and 98 ratifiers. Recently ratifiers together with signatories States of the CTBT have decided to convene the next Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV conference) from 3 to 5 September this year in Vienna, Austria, which is a manifestation of the strong support and will to further promote the early entry into force of the CTBT.
3. The establishment of the International Monitoring System (IMS), which consists of a worldwide network of 321 seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound and radionuclide stations and 16 radionuclide laboratories, is advancing well. Throughout 2002, installations were completed at 39 additional stations; 23 more stations, were certified as meeting the technical requirements of the Commission, bringing the total number of certified facilities to 47. Thus at the end of 2002, 46% of the stations in the IMS, including two Antarctic stations, were completed and met or substantially met the Commission's specifications. Since the beginning of the year three additional stations have been certified, bringing the total to 50 certified facilities. A further 80 stations are under construction or in the stage of contract negotiation.
4. The International Data Centre (IDC) in Vienna continues to receive, store and distribute data from a growing number of IMS stations. It routinely analyses data and provides bulletins to States Signatories on a regular basis. It also continues to be engaged in development and testing of additional processing capabilities required at entry into force of the Treaty. On the part of States Signatories, thus far around 50 National Data Centres (NDCs) have been established and a total of 465 users from 66 countries have been nominated to access IMS data and IDC products. The Secretariat will continue to assist States Signatories in establishing and operating their NDCs.
5. In 2002, the Secretariat also conducted a first large-scale field experiment in on-site inspection (OSI) in Kazakhstan, thus contributing to the efficient build up of the Global verification regime. For the first time, OSI techniques were performed and examined in an integrated manner to ascertain their complementarity or synergy. States Signatories continue with the elaboration of the draft OSI Operational Manual.
6. Experts from all over the world continued to study and discuss the Treaty verification regime. Activities organized by the Commission in 2002, such as training courses and workshops, were held not only in Vienna but also in Africa, North and Central America, Asia and elsewhere in Europe, and more than 400 persons attended. Canada, China, Finland, Jamaica, Kenya, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America successfully hosted these important events.

7. The Commission also continued to play the role of a clearinghouse in promoting cooperation among States and facilitating the fullest possible exchange regarding the CTBT verification related technologies, so as to enable all States to strengthen their national implementation of verification measures. Voluntary contribution funds provided by the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway enabled the Commission to carry out international cooperation and outreach activities aiming at facilitating the timely build-up of the CTBT verification regime as well as advancing the entry into force of the Treaty. Likewise, the Global Seismological Observation training programme offered by Japan to developing countries, in October 2002, was of particular significance in this regard.
8. While the primary purpose of the verification regime is to ensure compliance with the Treaty, the verification technologies are also useful for civil and scientific purposes. Scientific communities are expressing great interest in IMS data and IDC products, which could be of significant value for a variety of studies and would benefit not only individual States but also humankind as a whole. During 2002, two events focussing on the promotion of civil and scientific applications of the verification technologies were organized upon the initiative and with the assistance of the Governments of Australia, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. A follow-up senior experts' meeting is scheduled to take place in Hungary in September this year.
9. On 11 June 2002, the Commission acceded to the 1986 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations. This important step will help promoting clarity, predictability and stability in the legal relations involving the Commission, thus enhancing and broadening further the recognition of the status of the Commission. On 18 September 2002, the Executive Secretary signed the relationship agreement between the Commission and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL). With the conclusion of this agreement, the cooperation between the Commission and OPANAL, which share the objective of enhancing international peace and security, has been strengthened.
10. The Commission will continue to enhance the cause and understanding of the Treaty, as well as advance the establishment of the global verification regime, for a safer and more secure world.