
**BACKGROUND DOCUMENT BY THE PROVISIONAL TECHNICAL
SECRETARIAT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION
PREPARED FOR THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING
THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CTBT
(Vienna, 2003)**

INTRODUCTION

1. The adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 marked the successful conclusion of one of the longest negotiations in the history of arms control. The Treaty was opened for signature on 24 September 1996, when 71 States signed it. It is now approaching the status of a universal Treaty, with 167 Signatories. One hundred and four States, including 32 of the 44 States whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force, have deposited their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. On 19 November 1996, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as the Depositary of the CTBT, convened a meeting of States Signatories in New York. The participating States adopted Resolution CTBT/MSS/RES/1 and the Text on the Establishment of a Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO (the “PrepCom Document”) annexed to it, thereby establishing the Preparatory Commission and its Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) in Vienna. The PrepCom Document, which regulates the activities of the Preparatory Commission and the PTS, sets out the purpose of the Commission, namely to carry out the necessary preparations for the effective implementation of the CTBT, and to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty. The Commission has created three subsidiary bodies: Working Group A on administrative and budgetary matters; Working Group B on verification issues; and an Advisory Group on financial, budgetary and administrative matters. Altogether 105 States are accredited to the Commission in Vienna, and 81 States have designated their National Authorities or focal points.

THE TREATY

3. Under Article I of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty:

“1. Each State Party undertakes not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.

2. Each State Party undertakes, furthermore, to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.”

4. Thus the CTBT prohibits all nuclear test explosions, for military or any other purpose, as well as nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. Unlike some of its predecessors, it covers all environments and does not set a threshold from which the prohibitions should apply. It is clearly stated in the preamble to the Treaty that its primary objective is “to contribute effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects” and “to the process of nuclear disarmament”.

ARTICLE XIV OF THE TREATY

5. Under Article XIV, the Treaty will not enter into force until it has been signed and ratified by the 44 States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty. This list comprises States that formally participated in the 1996 session of the Conference on Disarmament, and that possess nuclear research and nuclear power reactors according to data compiled by the International Atomic Energy Agency. If the Treaty has not entered into force three years after the date of the anniversary of its opening for signature, a conference of those States that have already ratified it may be held to decide by consensus what measures consistent with international law may be taken to accelerate the ratification process and to facilitate the Treaty’s entry into force. States Signatories will also be invited to attend the conference.

6. The first Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, convened under Article XIV of the Treaty, was held from 6 to 8 October 1999 in Vienna. A total of 92 ratifying States and States Signatories participated in the conference, which adopted a Final Declaration calling upon all States which had not done so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty (document CTBT – Art. XIV/1999/5). In the course of the follow-up to the 1999 conference and in accordance with paragraph 7(g) of its Final Declaration, Japan was selected “to promote cooperation to facilitate the early entry into force of the Treaty, through informal consultations with all interested countries”.

7. A second such conference was held on 25-27 September 2001 in New York, with 109 ratifying States and States Signatories participating. A Final Declaration calling upon all States which had not done so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty (document CTBT – Art. XIV/2001/6) was adopted. In the course of the follow-up and in accordance with paragraph 12(g) of the Final Declaration, Mexico was selected “to promote cooperation to facilitate the early entry into force of the Treaty, through informal consultations with all interested countries”.

VERIFICATION REGIME

8. The CTBT provides for the establishment of a unique global verification regime that consists of an International Monitoring System (IMS), a consultation and clarification process, on-site inspections (OSIs) and confidence building measures (CBMs). Data from IMS stations are to be processed and analysed by an International Data Centre (IDC) established for this purpose.

9. The IMS is to consist of a global network of 337 facilities: 170 seismic, 11 hydroacoustic, 60 infrasound and 80 radionuclide stations together with 16 radionuclide laboratories. The facilities, to be established or upgraded in some 90 countries around the world, will be capable of registering vibrations underground, in the sea and in the air, as

well as detecting traces of radionuclides released into the atmosphere from a nuclear explosion. The IMS is intended to enable States Parties to distinguish between a nuclear explosion and some 50 000 earthquakes occurring annually that it could also detect. The IMS stations will transmit data by a state of the art global communications system to the IDC in Vienna, where the data will be processed, analysed and used to detect, locate and characterize events. The IDC will produce bulletins of events based on these data. All IMS data and IDC products will be made available to the States Parties, which have the final responsibility for analysing the data. Ambiguous events could then be subject to consultation and clarification. As a final verification measure, OSIs are provided for in the Treaty.

10. The Treaty stipulates that the verification regime shall be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty at its entry into force. Hence, it is the responsibility of the Preparatory Commission and the PTS to ensure the timely build-up of the regime. The present document describes measures undertaken by the Commission and the PTS in accordance with their mandate.

INTERNATIONAL MONITORING SYSTEM

11. The PTS is responsible for deploying and maintaining the International Monitoring System (IMS). The budgets approved by the Preparatory Commission since 1997 for the installation of the verification network include the costs of the site surveys necessary to select the most appropriate locations, the purchase of equipment, installation, final certification as accredited IMS facilities, and operation and maintenance after certification.

12. Work on the IMS stations started in the second half of 1997. The installation of the monitoring network is proceeding at a steady pace and about half the facilities are completed. As of mid-2003, a total of 284 site surveys have been completed, corresponding to 88% of the stations. Thirty of the primary seismic stations, 79 of the auxiliary seismic stations (many of which still require a final communications connection), 5 hydroacoustic stations, 16 infrasound stations and 22 radionuclide stations have been completed. Fifty-five of these stations have been certified as meeting or substantially meeting all PTS specifications and have thereby been officially incorporated into the verification system. It is expected that up to 35 more stations will be certified by the end of 2003. In addition, 80 stations in the four monitoring technologies are under construction or under contract negotiation for construction.

13. The two seismic networks are the most advanced, having incorporated many existing stations devoted to national and international programmes of earthquake and seismic verification research. These stations are being upgraded to meet PTS specifications. All of the infrasound and radionuclide stations and most of the hydroacoustic stations will be new.

14. Meeting the specifications and high operational availability requirements poses unprecedented challenges, with many stations located in remote and inaccessible parts of the world. Increasing attention is therefore being paid to the arrangements for long term operation and maintenance (O&M) of these globally dispersed facilities. There are many activities under way to support the O&M of certified stations, and these activities involve many parts of the PTS. To coordinate these activities a special unit called the Coordination for Provisional IMS Operation and Maintenance has been established, reporting to the Director of the IMS Division. The Coordination now includes activities such as integrated logistics support and engineering management planning, network configuration management, training, procedures

for network operations monitoring, development of model O&M contracts and development of databases to manage information related to station O&M. The PTS is also developing an IMS operations centre to provide centralized monitoring and support functions.

15. Regarding IMS facility agreements or arrangements, the CTBT provides that States hosting international monitoring facilities and the PTS agree to cooperate in establishing, upgrading, financing and operating and maintaining monitoring facilities in accordance with appropriate agreements or arrangements. The Twelfth Session of the Commission (22-24 August 2000) adopted a decision calling upon States hosting international monitoring facilities which have not yet done so to negotiate and to conclude IMS facility agreements or arrangements, in accordance with their national laws and regulations, and as a matter of priority (CTBT/PC-12/1/Annex VIII). To date, 26 formal facility agreements or arrangements have been concluded in accordance with models adopted by the Commission (Table 1). Of these, 15 have entered into force and 2 are being applied provisionally. Legal arrangements in the form of facility agreements or arrangements, or interim exchanges of letters, have been concluded to regulate the Commission's activities at 312 of the 337 IMS facilities, hosted by 78 of the 89 host States.

Table 1. States with Which IMS Facility Agreements or Arrangements Have Been Concluded

Argentina ^a	Kenya	Romania ^a
Australia	Mongolia	Senegal ^b
Canada	New Zealand	South Africa
Cook Islands	Niger	Spain ^b
Czech Republic ^a	Norway	Sri Lanka ^a
Finland	Palau	Ukraine
France ^a	Paraguay ^a	United Kingdom ^a
Guatemala ^a	Peru	Zambia
Jordan	Philippines ^a	

^a Agreement or arrangement has not yet entered into force.

^b Agreement is being applied provisionally.

16. An important question considered by the Commission and its Working Groups on an ongoing basis is the issue of alternative locations, names and codes of the facilities set forth in Annex 1 to the Protocol to the CTBT. Alternative locations, names and codes may be necessary, for example where Annex 1 uses an incorrect name or code for an existing station, incorrectly locates a station or locates a station at an unrealistic site. The Tenth Session of the Commission (15-19 November 1999) decided upon the following legal procedures for introducing alternative locations, names and codes of monitoring facilities: (1) the procedure for the correction of errors before the entry into force of the CTBT in accordance with article 79, paragraph 2, of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969; and (2) the procedure for introducing changes of an administrative or technical nature after entry into force in accordance with Articles IV and VII of the Treaty.

INTERNATIONAL DATA CENTRE

17. The mission of the International Data Centre (IDC) is to support the verification responsibilities of States Parties by providing products and services necessary for effective global monitoring after entry into force. Prior to entry into force its task is to establish and test the facilities that will receive, collect, process, analyse, report on and archive the seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound and radionuclide data from IMS stations. The build-up of the IDC is proceeding according to a seven phase Initial Plan for the Progressive Commissioning of the IDC, which was adopted at the Second Session of the Preparatory Commission in May 1997 (CTBT/PC/II/1/Add.2). This plan, which includes the delivery and testing of the applications software from the prototype IDC in Arlington, Virginia, USA, is carefully monitored by the Commission.

18. The IDC provides raw data and standard products to the States Signatories within a few minutes to 10 days after an event. These include integrated lists of all signal detections, and standard event lists and bulletins. Spectra from radionuclide stations are analysed and reported on. Screened products filter out those events that can be attributed to natural phenomena or man-made, non-nuclear phenomena. Executive summaries contain a summary of all events, results of the event screening and the operational status of the IMS. A total of 468 users, nominated by 66 States Signatories, currently have access to IMS data and IDC products. A user can obtain data and products by setting up a subscription, submitting a request for data or products of special interest, accessing the IDC database directly or browsing and downloading from the IDC secure web site. Access is in most cases handled fully automatically by the IDC. During 2002, around 1 200 000 products or data segments were sent by the IDC to users. Continuous IMS data can also be sent to National Data Centres (NDCs) of States Signatories upon request and 300 gigabytes were sent in 2002. The IDC provides States Signatories with training courses and technical assistance, such as help to develop the capacity to retrieve, process and analyse IMS data at an NDC, and to access the data and products in a convenient manner.

19. The PTS has invested in a computer infrastructure that serves the many functions of the PTS. The development, administration and operation of this infrastructure are managed by the IDC Division. The computer infrastructure hosts a range of information systems, either custom-built for the PTS or commercially available off the shelf. These information systems include administrative support systems (e.g. for the payroll, staff administration, accounting and travel management) and technical support systems (e.g. the IDC applications software, Public Key Infrastructure and station and equipment database). In addition, several web sites are deployed to support the work of the PTS (e.g. the public web site and Intranet).

20. In 2001, a mass storage system was installed to keep all collected verification related data archived and accessible to States Signatories. With the help of the Center of Monitoring Research in Arlington, the PTS is transferring historical waveform data to the mass storage system. The capacity of the system is currently 160 terabytes; this can be expanded to more than 240 terabytes.

21. Early in 2002, after the installation of Release 3 of the IDC applications software, the PTS took responsibility for further development and maintenance of this software. This has resulted in a range of enhancements and adaptations. In 2002, a number of contracts were initiated to support this development and maintenance work.

22. Overall, through the use of modern computer and communication technologies, the PTS now provides a range of services to States Signatories (e.g. the IDC secure web site, the Experts Communication System, external database access, the Automatic Data Request Manager, subscriptions to data and products from the verification system and IMS data forwarding).

GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

23. The Global Communications Infrastructure (GCI) plays a critical role in the acquisition of IMS data as well as in the dissemination of these data and IDC products to States Signatories. In order to collect data from the 337 IMS facilities and distribute them together with IDC products to these States, the PTS operates the GCI as a worldwide, closed and secure satellite communications network. The GCI provides global two way data links from the IMS facilities, or NDCs, to the IDC in Vienna, and from the IDC to States Signatories. As many IMS stations are located in remote areas with harsh environments, the optimal and most reliable means of communication for data collection are satellite links. Once it is fully operational, the GCI network is expected to carry daily some 11 gigabytes of data, equivalent to over 4000 pages of information.

24. Many IMS stations and NDCs are connected by very small aperture terminal (VSAT) satellite stations on the Earth to one of six geostationary satellites, depending on the geographical region. Additionally, special circuits have been installed to connect IMS stations in the polar regions. The satellites relay the data transmitted from the IMS stations and NDCs to one of six VSAT hubs. The data collected at these hubs are then transferred via a terrestrial frame relay network to the host processor at the IDC. This data-only network is closed, secure and inaccessible to any other organization.

25. The signing of the GCI contract in September 1998, for a 10 year lease worth US\$70 million, created the first global VSAT network of its kind in the world. The contract provides for turnkey services covering the design, manufacture, delivery, installation and O&M of the global network of VSAT satellite stations. At nearly five years into the contract term, 6 VSAT hubs have been established and 143 VSAT stations installed at IMS facilities, NDCs and development sites. Currently there are 85 VSAT installations in preparation and site surveys have been completed for 40 of these. VSAT operating licences have been obtained in 47 countries. The PTS is working with States Signatories to obtain operating licences for a further 60 VSATs.

ON-SITE INSPECTIONS

26. As a final verification measure, an on-site inspection (OSI) is provided for in the Treaty (Article IV.D). The OSI regime as defined by the Treaty is unique: every inspection will be a challenge inspection. Inspections are likely to consist of field activities with use of several visual, geophysical and radionuclide techniques. Instead of a permanent inspectorate, there would be a roster of potential inspectors nominated by States Parties. Experience gained and lessons learned in the context of other multilateral disarmament treaties are of reference value, but the establishment of this regime will require its own method.

27. The Preparatory Commission has been engaged in defining and building up OSI capabilities in accordance with Treaty requirements. This includes the development of a draft Operational Manual setting out the procedures for inspections, designation of OSI equipment specifications, acquisition of a limited amount of inspection equipment for testing and training purposes, and development of a long range training and exercise programme to prepare a cadre of potential inspectors.

28. The development of the draft Operational Manual has taken place so far within the framework of Working Group B, the body responsible for verification issues. An initial draft rolling text of the manual was produced. The next phase, to elaborate this text, commenced in 2001.

29. The initial concept of the OSI infrastructure as developed by the PTS and Working Group B includes an Operations Support Centre, a database and equipment storage facilities. The Preparatory Commission has defined most OSI equipment specifications for the initial and continuation periods of inspection. A Seismic Aftershock Monitoring System, a low resolution gamma monitoring tool and several instruments for visual observations have been procured and testing (including field use) has begun. A field demonstration of other geophysical equipment was conducted in May 2003.

30. Three inspection field experiments were successfully conducted in October 1999, September–October 2001 and September–October 2002. Lessons learned from the field experiments create a basis for the development of OSI methodology and allow testing of OSI procedures and equipment under realistic conditions, which will contribute to the elaboration of the draft Operational Manual.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

31. Training is an important function of the PTS. The focus of IMS training is to train personnel involved in IMS station operation for the four IMS technologies. Since 1997, the PTS has conducted five IMS introductory training programmes in which 151 persons from 88 countries participated. Several technical training programmes in all technologies have taken place from 1998 to 2003, attended by 339 trainees from 84 countries hosting IMS stations.

32. The PTS provides six month training courses to increase the understanding of the functioning of the IDC as well as to enlarge the pool of possible candidates for analyst positions. Since 1998, 42 States Signatories have provided trainees to the eight courses for analysts held to date and around 55% of the trainees have been subsequently recruited to the IDC. In addition, 128 persons have participated in shorter training courses for NDC personnel, the objective of which is to provide the information necessary for States Signatories to take greater advantage of the data, products and services available from the IDC. So far three NDC training courses for technical staff and four courses for managers have been held.

33. The PTS has also conducted seven OSI Introductory Courses, in which close to 250 trainees from over 60 States Signatories participated. Three Experimental Advanced Courses have been held to date to develop the inspector training programme as well as to generate inputs for the draft OSI Operational Manual. Two tabletop exercises, aimed at testing procedures in the draft manual, have been held.

34. The PTS examines closely all the training provided, seeking greater cost effectiveness in the selection and administration of training programmes, avoidance of overlap and duplication, and more efficient monitoring and evaluation, as well as better incorporation of lessons learned into future activities.

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

35. As set out in Article IV.E, paragraph 68, of the CTBT, confidence building measures (CBMs) are meant to accomplish two primary objectives. The first is to “Contribute to the timely resolution of any compliance concerns arising from possible misinterpretation of verification data relating to chemical explosions”. The second is of a more technical nature: “Assist in the calibration of the stations that are part of the component networks of the International Monitoring System.” Part III of the Protocol to the Treaty outlines the voluntary nature of the CBM regime. The key components of this regime are data exchanges on single chemical explosions of 300 tonnes or more of TNT-equivalent blasting material. Four separate measures are envisaged: (a) individual event reporting, (b) annual event reporting, (c) site visits and (d) calibration explosions.

36. At its Ninth Session, in August 1999, the Preparatory Commission adopted “Guidelines and Reporting Formats for the Implementation of Confidence-Building Measures” and agreed on the establishment of a database on chemical explosions (CTBT/PC-9/1/Annex II, Appendix IV), thereby creating the basic technical conditions for the implementation of the CBM regime after entry into force of the CTBT.

EVALUATION

37. The concept of evaluation of the establishment and future operation of the CTBT verification regime is being developed by the Preparatory Commission and the PTS as an integral component of the verification regime. Progress has been made in developing and implementing within the PTS an evaluation framework and quality assurance (QA) elements for the verification regime. Under the Evaluation Major Programme work has continued on these two basic components in a balanced manner, as follows:

- (a) Development of the evaluation framework, based on appropriate metrics and evaluation tools;
- (b) Development of QA elements for different aspects of the verification regime, with a special emphasis on provisional O&M issues;
- (c) Promotion of synergy between evaluation and QA activities;
- (d) Interaction with States Signatories, especially through workshops involving NDCs.

38. New approaches have been undertaken, especially through the development and consolidation of conceptual and technical synergies between evaluation and QA elements. Specific capabilities have been further developed for contributing to an overall evaluation of the verification system and for focusing on issues related to key aspects of this system as it evolves.

PROVISIONAL TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

39. Following the appointment of Mr Wolfgang Hoffmann as Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission on 3 March 1997, the PTS opened its offices in Vienna on 17 March 1997. As of 30 June 2003, the PTS comprised 271 staff members from 70 countries. The number of staff in the Professional category was 174. The PTS is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunities. The representation of women in Professional positions has increased to 48, corresponding to 27.6% of the staff in the Professional category. The approved Budget for the Commission for 2003 is \$88.6 million. As of 28 July 2003, 85.7% of assessed contributions had been received. The collection rate stands at 90.0% for 2002 and 92.1% for 2001.

40. From 1997 up to and including the financial year 2003, total budgetary resources approved for the Preparatory Commission amounted to \$497.8 million. Of this amount, \$395.8 million, or over 79.5%, has been dedicated to verification related programmes, including \$191.3 million for the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) for the installation and upgrade of the IMS station networks. Budgetary resources approved to date for the CIF represent about 70% of the estimated requirement for fully financing the completed networks. Other verification related programme funds are used to finance the IDC and activities in the OSI and Evaluation Major Programmes. Non-verification-related programme funds as a percentage of total budgetary resources have remained consistently low. In 2003, only 16.8% of the total budgetary resources were allocated for non-verification-related activities.

41. In its interaction with States, the PTS has placed emphasis on the 44 States whose ratification is necessary for the Treaty to enter into force, as well as on the 89 States hosting IMS facilities. The nine regional international cooperation workshops held to date, in Baku (Azerbaijan), Beijing (China), Cairo (Egypt), Dakar (Senegal), Istanbul (Turkey), Lima (Peru), Nadi (Fiji), Nairobi (Kenya) and Saint Ann (Jamaica), have stressed the importance of national implementation measures and signature and ratification of the Treaty.

42. The PTS stresses the benefits of Treaty participation not only from the security aspect, but also in the civil and scientific applications of the verification technologies, in accordance with Treaty provisions. It aims to enhance understanding of the significance of the Treaty and the work of the Commission, with a view to increasing participation of States in this work and to advancing signature and ratification of the Treaty.

43. A new corporate identity for the organization was launched in March 2002. This new identity is applied to different media and products on an ongoing basis throughout the PTS. The biannual newsletter *CTBTO Spectrum*, introducing the Treaty and the work of the Commission to a wider audience, was launched in 2002 and is issued twice a year. The *CTBTO News* newsletter is sent to States Signatories following each session of the Preparatory Commission and the Working Groups. The Commission's public web site (www.ctbto.org) has been redesigned to reflect the new corporate identity and is expanded and updated regularly to provide information to both the general public and specialized audiences. Press releases are issued regularly and standard information materials are updated as required. New information materials in support of outreach activities are distributed to States Signatories, non-governmental organizations, academia, the media and the general public. Briefings and presentations to visiting parliamentarians, students and military and other groups are held regularly.

44. The first formal relationship agreement concluded by the Commission was the Agreement to Regulate the Relationship between the Preparatory Commission and the United Nations, which entered into force on 15 June 2000. Pursuant to the agreement, the PTS and the United Nations Secretariat regularly consult on issues of joint interest and the Commission also participates in the United Nations security arrangements in the field. Since then, the Commission has concluded relationship agreements with several United Nations agencies and regional intergovernmental organizations. Cooperation with these bodies has proved useful in implementation of the Commission's programme of work. The relevant organizations (with the year in which the agreement was concluded indicated in brackets) are: the United Nations Development Programme (2000), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (2001), the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) (2002) and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (2003). It is expected that the Commission will continue, in response to the initiatives of States, to seek appropriate cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations. Following the example of the United Nations and other international organizations, the Commission acceded to the 1986 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations on 11 June 2002.

45. The PTS has also established a programme of legislative assistance to States on national implementation measures to be taken in accordance with Article III of the CTBT. The objective of this programme is to provide, upon request and within the limits of available resources, legislative assistance and advice to States on implementing the Treaty at a national level. With the goal to facilitate contacts with New York based Permanent Missions, the Commission established a non-resident liaison office at United Nations Headquarters in November 2000.

46. The fifty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly included an item on its agenda entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-test-Ban Organization" (agenda item 22q). The Executive Secretary addressed the General Assembly under this agenda item on 20 November 2002. The same session of the General Assembly approved a resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which stresses the importance of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Treaty. Furthermore, on the margins of the fifty-seventh session, 18 Foreign Ministers issued a joint statement calling upon outstanding States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. Fifty-two States have associated themselves with this statement.

47. The PTS also encourages and participates in multilateral conferences and meetings to further support for the Treaty. Several multilateral bodies have undertaken initiatives at the global or regional level backing the Treaty. At the global level, the preparatory sessions of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, held in April 2002 in New York and in May 2003 in Geneva, stressed the importance and urgency of the CTBT's early entry into force. Furthermore, the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of States or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement expressed strong support for the CTBT in its Final Document on 25 February 2003.

48. At the regional level, the thirty-third General Assembly of the Organization of American States approved a resolution entitled "Inter-American support to the CTBT" on 10 June 2003. It is the fourth resolution approved in support of the objective of the Treaty as well as its early entry into force. Several regional groups, such as the Pacific Islands Forum, since 1998, and the Association of South-East Asian Nations, in 2001 and 2002, as well as the General Conference of OPANAL, through a resolution in 2001, have called for signature and

ratification and advocated the early entry into force of the CTBT. The Council of the European Union adopted a decision in 2001 related to the European Union's contribution to the promotion of the early entry into force of the CTBT.

49. In the administrative area, the initial build-up stage of the PTS is complete. The Staff Regulations and Rules and the Financial Regulations and Rules have been adopted. The present focus is on the provision of support and services by the administrative sections to verification programmes, while contending with the limitations posed by a level budget and the increased value of the euro relative to the US dollar. Extensive attention has also been devoted to improving the human resources functions within the PTS.