



Policy Making Organs



Policy Making Organs

Introduction

The Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO was established for the purpose of carrying out the necessary preparations for the effective implementation of the CTBT and for preparing for the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty after its entry into force. The Preparatory Commission consists of two organs: a plenary body composed of all the States Signatories and the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS).

The plenary body has three subsidiary bodies. Working Group A deals with budgetary and administrative matters, such as the annual budget, financial and staff regulations and rules, and legal issues. Working Group B deals with verification issues. Both Working Groups make proposals and recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Commission. Lastly, an Advisory Group advises the Commission and its Working Groups on financial, budgetary and associated administrative matters. The Advisory Group consists of experts from States Signatories who are of recognized standing and experience in financial matters.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES IN 2006

The Preparatory Commission held a Special Session on 13 October 2006 and the PTS provided three technical briefings for States Signatories, on 9 October, 13 October and 10 November, concerning the announcement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it conducted an underground nuclear test on 9 October 2006.

At Part II of its Twenty-Seventh Session in November 2006, the Commission adopted principles and operating rules for the provision of data to tsunami warning organizations, as outlined in the report of Working Group B to the Commission. At the same session, the Commission approved a pilot project to facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in official technical meetings of the Commission.

POLICY MAKING ORGANS

In 2006, the Preparatory Commission was chaired by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine. Working Group A was chaired by Ambassador Abdulkadir Bin Rimdap of Nigeria. The Advisory Group was chaired by Mr André Gué (France). As the term of appointment of Mr Ola Dahlman as Chairperson of Working Group B was due to end on 17 March 2006, at Part I of its Twenty-Sixth Session the Commission appointed Mr Hein Haak (Netherlands) as Chairperson of Working Group B with effect from 18 March 2006 for a three year term.

The Commission held two regular sessions in 2006, each in two parts. The subsidiary bodies of the Commission, Working Group A, Working Group B and the Advisory Group, each held two sessions in 2006. To facilitate the timely consideration of matters related to the Programme and Budget, the Twenty-Seventh Session of Working Group B and the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Advisory Group were each divided into two parts with an interval of several weeks between them.

On 13 October 2006, the Commission held a Special Session to discuss the announcement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it conducted an underground nuclear test on 9 October 2006. At this session, a large number of States Signatories made statements expressing their deep concern and regret. In support of the session, the PTS provided three technical briefings for States Signatories on 9 October, 13 October and 10 November. States



Signatories expressed their appreciation to the PTS for the timely provision of reliable data and products and for the professionalism demonstrated in this respect (see also Special Feature 2).

With regard to the schedule of meetings of the Policy Making Organs for 2007, the Commission decided in November 2006 to reduce each of the sessions of Working Group A by two days and its own session in November 2007 by one day, and to leave intact the Working Group B sessions as proposed by Working Group B at its Twenty-Seventh Session. The Commission also requested Working Group B to re-examine in 2007 the duration and organization of its meetings, including the possibility of no longer holding parallel meetings, in order to prepare a proposal on how to organize its sessions from 2008 onwards.

Working Group A made recommendations, subsequently adopted by the Commission, on administrative and financial issues, including adjustments to the Financial Rules of the Commission. Following discussion in Working Group A, at Part II of its Twenty-Seventh Session the Commission approved a pilot project to facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in official technical meetings of the Commission.

Working Group B made recommendations, subsequently adopted by the Commission, on a range of verification related issues. Special attention was devoted to the contract procurement process for the next generation of the GCI, planning and preparations for the IFE in 2008, including the development of a Test Manual, evaluation of SPT1 and a possible contribution of the Commission to a tsunami warning system. Following its decision in March 2005, in November 2006 the Commission adopted principles and operating rules for the provision of data to tsunami warning organizations, as recommended by Working Group B at its Twenty-Seventh Session (see also Special Feature 3).

Joint meetings of Working Group A and Working Group B were held on 23 February and 4 September 2006 to discuss restructuring of the PTS, the 2007 Programme and Budget proposals of the PTS, the Medium Term Plan for 2008–2012, the recommendations of the Advisory Group concerning sole source procurement and e-learning. Chairpersons' summaries of the proceedings of these joint meetings were issued.

The Advisory Group considered and provided advice on financial, budgetary and administrative issues.

