# Basic Facts 1

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at a Glance

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Resolution 50/245
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 50/65 of 12 December 1995, in which the Assembly declared its readiness to resume consideration of the item “Comprehensive test-ban treaty”, as necessary, before its fifty-first session in order to endorse the text of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

1. Adopts the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as contained in document A/50/1027;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Treaty, to open it for signature, at United Nations Headquarters, at the earliest possible date;

3. Calls upon all States to sign and, thereafter, according to their respective constitutional processes, to become parties to the Treaty at the earliest possible date;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Treaty, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the status of signature and ratifications of the Treaty.

125th plenary meeting
10 September 1996
1 Background and History

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, banning nuclear explosions in any environment, is the culmination of over forty years of effort.

The first nuclear explosive test was conducted on 16 July 1945 by the United States at Alamogordo, New Mexico. Over fifty nuclear explosions were registered up to 31 December 1953. Prime Minister Nehru of India first voiced the vision of a treaty banning all nuclear explosions in 1954, reflecting rising international concern over radioactive fallout and the escalating arms race.

However, within the context of the cold war, scepticism over the technical capacities then available to verify compliance with a comprehensive nuclear test ban posed a major obstacle to any agreement. At the time, no adequate technology existed to detect underground explosions.

The Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (PTBT) was signed in 1963. Neither France nor China, both nuclear-weapon States, signed this Treaty. The 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was a major step forward. Under the NPT, non-nuclear-weapon States were prohibited from, inter alia, possessing, manufacturing or acquiring nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. All Parties were committed to the goal of nuclear disarmament.

Negotiations for the CTBT, 1993 – 1996

Given the political situation prevailing in subsequent decades, little progress was made in nuclear disarmament until 1991. Parties to the PTBT held an amendment conference that year to discuss a proposal to convert the Treaty into an instrument banning all nuclear-weapon tests. With strong support from the United Nations General Assembly, negotiations for a comprehensive test-ban treaty began in 1993 at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Adoption of the CTBT, 1996

Intensive efforts were made over the next three years to draft the Treaty text, culminating in the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 10 September 1996 by the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The CTBT, which prohibits nuclear explosions in any environment, was opened for signature in New York on 24 September 1996, when it was signed by 71 States, including the five nuclear-weapon States.
2 Treaty Summary

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty bans any nuclear explosions, for military or civil purposes. It is composed of a Preamble, 17 Articles, two Annexes and a Protocol with two Annexes.

The Preamble outlines the significance of the Treaty, and stresses the need for continued efforts towards the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons.

Article I stipulates the basic obligations of the Treaty, and prohibits States Parties from carrying out any nuclear explosion in any environment.

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<th>Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: Article I</th>
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<td>Basic Obligations</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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Article II provides for the establishment of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in Vienna to ensure the Treaty’s implementation as well as to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation. All States Parties to the Treaty will be members of the Organization.

Article III focuses on national implementation measures, and requires each State Party to take any necessary measures to implement its obligations under the Treaty, in accordance with its constitutional processes.

Article IV provides for a global verification regime to monitor compliance with the Treaty provisions. The regime is to comprise a global network of monitoring facilities (the International Monitoring System), an International Data Centre in Vienna, a consultation and clarification process, on-site inspections, and confidence-building measures.

Article V outlines measures to redress a situation which contravenes CTBT provisions and to ensure compliance.
**Article VI** deals with the settlement of disputes that may arise concerning the application or the interpretation of the Treaty. Disputes will be settled in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty, and in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Article VII** concerns amendments to the Treaty. Treaty amendments will be considered and adopted by an Amendment Conference.

**Article VIII** stipulates that a review of the Treaty will take place ten years after its entry into force, unless a majority of the States Parties decides otherwise. The review will ascertain that the objectives and purposes in the Preamble and the provisions of the Treaty are being realized, and will also take into account any relevant new scientific and technological developments.

**Article IX** states that the Treaty is of unlimited duration.

**Article X** stipulates that the Protocol and the Annexes form an integral part of the Treaty.

**Article XI** states that the Treaty is open to all States for signature before its entry into force.

**Article XII** requires the Treaty to be ratified.

**Article XIII** provides for accession to the Treaty after its entry into force.

**Article XIV** sets out the requirements for the Treaty’s entry into force. This will take place 180 days after all 44 States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty have deposited their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**Article XV** specifies that the Treaty shall not be subject to reservations.

**Article XVI** designates the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the Depositary of the Treaty, who shall receive signatures, instruments of ratification, and instruments of accession.

**Article XVII** deals with the authenticity of Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish Treaty texts.
Annex 1 to the Treaty lists States by geographical regions. (The Treaty defines six regions. See page 9 for list of States)

Annex 2 to the Treaty lists the 44 States that must ratify the Treaty for it to enter into force. These States formally participated in the 1996 session of the Conference on Disarmament, and possess nuclear power or research reactors.

Protocol Part I describes the functions of the International Monitoring System (IMS) and the International Data Centre (IDC).

Protocol Part II outlines the procedures for on-site inspections.

Protocol Part III deals with confidence-building measures.

Annex 1 to the Protocol lists the facilities comprising the International Monitoring System network.

Annex 2 to the Protocol lists the characterization parameters for International Data Centre standard event screening.

Annex 2 to the Treaty
List of States pursuant to Article XIV

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam, Zaire.
3 Developments Following Entry into Force

The CTBT will enter into force 180 days after it has been ratified by the 44 States listed in its Annex 2. These 44 States formally participated in the 1996 session of the Conference on Disarmament, and possess nuclear power or research reactors. Upon entry into force, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization will be established. This will have three principal organs: the Conference of the States Parties; the Executive Council; and the Technical Secretariat. Upon entry into force, States Parties will be able to make use of the various non-compliance measures provided for in the Treaty. Under the terms of the Treaty, a global verification regime to monitor compliance must be operational at the time the Treaty enters into force.

Verification regime

The verification regime has four elements. First of all, an International Monitoring System with state-of-the-art communications and data management techniques observes events around the globe. This system collects data which may suggest a possible nuclear incident, and these data are forwarded to the States Parties.

If a State Party feels that certain data point to a nuclear explosion, a consultation and clarification process can be undertaken to resolve and clarify the matter. This process allows a State to request clarification directly from another State Party, or through the Executive Council. State Parties will also be able to request information from the Director-General of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

Notwithstanding the results of the consultation and clarification process, each State Party has the right to request an on-site inspection. The sole purpose of an on-site inspection is to clarify whether a nuclear explosion has been carried out in violation of the Treaty and, to the extent possible, to gather facts which might assist in identifying any possible violator. On-site inspections will only be possible following entry into force, and will be subject to detailed procedures.

The final part of the verification regime consists of confidence-building measures. Under the Treaty, States are to provide the Technical Secretariat, on a voluntary basis, with notification of any chemical explosion using 300 tonnes or more of TNT-equivalent blasting material detonated as a single
explosion anywhere on their territories, or at any place under their jurisdiction or control. The notifications serve two purposes:

- They contribute to the timely resolution of possible misinterpretation of verification data relating to chemical explosions;
- They assist in the calibration of the IMS network.

The Conference of the States Parties, the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat

No later than 30 days after entry into force, the Depositary shall convene an initial session of the Conference of the States Parties. The Conference will elect the members of the Executive Council, which will be the executive organ of the Organization and be responsible to the Conference. The Technical Secretariat will assist States Parties in the implementation of the Treaty, and will carry out functions assigned to it by the Conference and the Executive Council. It supervises and coordinates the International Monitoring System and operates the International Data Centre.

The Executive Council will consist of 51 members. Each State Party has the right to serve on the Executive Council. In order to ensure equitable geographical distribution, the membership of the Executive Council will comprise ten States Parties from Africa; seven States Parties from Eastern Europe; nine States Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean; seven States Parties from the Middle East and South Asia; ten States Parties from North America and Western Europe; and eight States Parties from South-East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East. Seats on the Executive Council will be filled by election and rotation.

Powers and functions

The Conference is the principal organ of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. It will oversee the implementation of, and review compliance with, the Treaty, and act to promote its object and purpose. It will also consider any questions, matters or issues within the scope of the Treaty, including matters related to the power and functions of the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat. The Conference is also responsible for the appointment of the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat.
The Executive Council promotes effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Treaty, and supervises the activities of the Technical Secretariat. It makes recommendations as necessary to the Conference of the States Parties for consideration of further proposals for promoting the object and purpose of the Treaty, and cooperates with the National Authority of each State Party.

The Executive Council will also consider and submit to the Conference the draft annual programme and budget of the Organization, the draft report of the Organization on the implementation of the Treaty, the report on the performance of its own activities and such other reports as it deems necessary or that the Conference may request. The Council will make arrangements for the sessions of the Conference, including the preparation of the draft agenda, and will examine proposals for changes, on matters of an administrative or technical nature, to the Protocol or the Annexes thereto, pursuant to Article VII, and make recommendations to the States Parties regarding their adoption.

It will also conclude, subject to the prior approval of the Conference, agreements or arrangements with States Parties, other States and international organizations on behalf of the Organization and supervise their implementation. The Council will also approve and supervise the operation of agreements or arrangements relating to the implementation of verification activities with States Parties and other States, and approve any new operational manuals and any changes to the existing operational manuals that may be proposed by the Technical Secretariat.

The Executive Council has a number of other key tasks. It will facilitate cooperation among States Parties, and between States Parties and the Technical Secretariat, relating to the implementation of the Treaty through information exchanges. It will also facilitate consultation and clarification among States Parties in accordance with Article IV, and will receive, consider and take action on requests for, and reports on, on-site inspections in accordance with Article IV.

The Executive Council will consider any concern raised by a State Party about possible non-compliance with the Treaty. In so doing, the Executive Council will consult with the States Parties involved and, as appropriate, request a State Party to take measures to redress the situation.
within a specified time. To the extent that the Executive Council considers further action to be necessary, it may take, *inter alia*, one or more of the following measures:

- Notify all States Parties of the issue or matter;
- Bring the issue or matter to the attention of the Conference;
- Make recommendations to the Conference or take action, as appropriate, regarding measures to redress the situation and to ensure compliance in accordance with Article V.

**Non-compliance measures**

The Conference of the States Parties, taking into account, *inter alia*, the recommendations of the Executive Council, shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the Treaty and to redress and remedy any situation which contravenes the provisions of the Treaty.

In cases where a State Party has been requested by the Conference or the Executive Council to redress a situation raising problems with regard to its compliance and fails to fulfil the request within the specified time, the Conference may, *inter alia*, decide to restrict or suspend the State Party from the exercise of its rights and privileges under the Treaty until the Conference decides otherwise.

In cases where damage to the object and purpose of the Treaty may result from non-compliance with the basic obligations of the Treaty, the Conference may recommend to States Parties collective measures which are in conformity with international law. The Conference, or alternatively, if the case is urgent, the Executive Council, may bring the issue, including relevant information and conclusions, to the attention of the United Nations.
Annex

Annex 1 to the Treaty
List of States pursuant to Article II, paragraph 28

Africa:

Eastern Europe:
Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia.

Latin America and the Caribbean:
Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Middle East and South Asia:
Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen.
North America and Western Europe:
Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

South East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East:
Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.
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