

# CTBTO Spectrum

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## Who we are

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty bans all nuclear weapon test explosions. The Treaty is a cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. It opened for signature in New York on 24 September 1996, and today has achieved strong worldwide support.

The CTBTO Preparatory Commission is an international organization consisting of a plenary body composed of all States Signatories and the Provisional Technical Secretariat. It carries out the necessary preparations for the effective implementation of the Treaty, and prepares for the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty after its entry into force.

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## Introduction



It is my pleasure to introduce the first issue of *CTBTO Spectrum*, a new, biannual, public newsletter designed to inform the Preparatory Commission's specialized audiences and the wider public about the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the objectives and activities of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. The newsletter's name reflects the wide range of themes with which the Commission deals, spanning topics from technical and scientific verification issues to international cooperation and the enhancement of global peace and security.

*CTBTO Spectrum* gives an additional dimension to the public face of the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS). It provides more in-depth information on the organization's activities and focuses on new developments in the build-up of the verification regime.

This first issue gives an overview of the status of the verification regime build-up and, as an overarching theme, it highlights the significant role of the Treaty in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. An interview with Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, and a special feature article by Peter Marshall, an expert on seismology, focus on this theme. This issue also provides an update on the latest session of the Preparatory Commission, in addition to regular columns on verification science, the potential civil and scientific applications of the CTBT verification technologies and a column on the PTS staff, which introduces the PTS mission statement.

I believe that *CTBTO Spectrum* will advance understanding of the Treaty and provide new insights in the political, diplomatic and scientific context within which the Secretariat's work takes place.

Wolfgang Hoffmann  
 Executive Secretary  
 Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive  
 Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

# Notes & quotes

## United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

The United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education was the subject of a roundtable discussion attended by educators, students, non-governmental organizations, representatives of the United Nations (UN) system and government officials on 9 October 2002 at United Nations Headquarters. The UN Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, Jayantha Dhanapala, gave the opening address at the public launch of the study

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which was later on submitted to the First Committee of the 57th General Assembly by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Miguel Marin Bosch. The study was prepared over the past two years by a Group of Experts, including ten governmental experts representing diverse geographical regions of the world, under the chair of Miguel Marin Bosch. The process of producing the study brought together for the first time representatives of international organizations such as UNESCO, OPCW, CTBTO, University for Peace, UNIDIR, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions.

According to the Group of Experts, the overall purpose of disarmament and non-proliferation education and training is “to impart knowledge and skills to empower individuals to make their contribution, as national and world citizens, to the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.” The study assessed the existing experience in the field, examined new aspects of the multilateral disarmament debate, questions of non-proliferation as applied to weapons of mass destruction and small arms, and worked out a series of practical recommendations for the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education and training.

Effective and successful disarmament education requires an active partnership between governments, international organizations and civil society, as the UN Secretary-General noted in his preface to the study: “Disarmament education seeks to inform and empower citizens to work with their Governments for positive change. I hope that Governments, the United Nations family, other international organizations, disarmament-related organizations, non-governmental organizations and others in a position to contribute will do their part to sustain the process of consultation and cooperation started by the Group of Experts, so that disarmament and non-proliferation education becomes an integral – and natural – part of the education of the next generation.” ■

**“The prevention of the proliferation of materials, technologies and knowledge which can be used for weapons of mass destruction is one of the most important challenges the world is facing today.”**

## Ministerial statement

A joint statement by the Foreign Ministers of 18 countries, including Russia, France and the United Kingdom, was issued on 14 September 2002 following a meeting on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. The statement urges States that have not signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to do so as soon as possible.

The Ministers said at the press briefing during which the statement was issued that the early entry into force of the Treaty was central to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. “The prevention of the proliferation of materials, technologies and knowledge which can be used for weapons of mass destruction is one of the most important challenges the world is facing today. Additional international tensions have developed since the CTBT was negotiated, which make entry into force of the Treaty...even more urgent today. We affirm that the CTBT has an essential role to play in strengthening global peace and security”.

The Ministers called on all States to continue the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions and stressed the importance of maintaining momentum in building the verification regime. They stated that they will do all they can to make the Treaty a focus of attention at the highest political levels. ■



## United Nations General Assembly First Committee report

The First Committee of the 57th United Nations General Assembly, which covers disarmament and international security issues, has approved a resolution on the CTBT tabled by Australia, Mexico, New Zealand and 52 other countries, by a recorded vote of 125 in favour to one against (United States). Four states abstained (Colombia, India, Mauritius, and Syria). The resolution stresses that a universal and effectively verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a fundamental instrument in the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. It urges all States to remain seized of the matter at the “highest political level” and to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay or conditions.



THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK

An omnibus resolution by the New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden), entitled ‘Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda’, contains a paragraph

concerning the CTBT which “underlines the urgency of the entry into force of the CTBT in the context of the progress in implementing the international system to monitor nuclear weapon tests under the Treaty.” The resolution was passed by 118 votes in favour.

During the General Debate, the importance of the conferences to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty (Vienna 1999, New York 2001) was underlined and concerned States were called upon to sign and ratify as soon as possible. Several States emphasized the importance of maintaining a moratorium on nuclear testing. Some States also noted that “such a moratorium cannot replace the legally binding commitment represented by signing and ratification of the Treaty.” A number of States noted that in respect to the development of the CTBT verification regime encouraging progress has been achieved. Ninety-seven States are on board and an impressive international system has been established to deter and detect explosive nuclear tests. ■



**“This Treaty is a crucial element in the non-proliferation regime. The longer we delay its entry into force, the greater the risk that nuclear testing will resume – and that in turn would make non-proliferation much harder to sustain.”**

*United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, New York, 11 November 2001*