

Commission update

Report on the November 2002 session

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) held its Nineteenth Session on 11–15 November 2002 in Vienna under the chairmanship of Ambassador Liviu Aurelian Bota of Romania. Seventy-five Member States and one observer attended the session.

The report of the Executive Secretary

Mr. Wolfgang Hoffmann, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, reported in detail on the progress achieved in the implementation of all Major Programmes of the Preparatory Commission. He pointed out that as of 8 November 2002, 63 States Signatories had paid their assessed contributions in full and 18 States Signatories had made partial payments, which resulted in a collection rate of 88,7% of the 2002 assessment of US\$ 83 091 100.

In international cooperation, Mr. Hoffmann mentioned *inter alia* the voluntary contribution by the Netherlands for the year 2003 and the holding of a training course by Japan in cooperation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat. These voluntary contributions by Member States are welcomed as positive signals for the continuing support of Provisional Technical Secretariat programmes and activities.

The plenary debate

The main focus of the plenary debate was on budgetary issues. Member States congratulated Niger and Botswana on their ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Several Member States expressed their appreciation for the signing of the relationship agreement between the Commission and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL). Further negotiations on possible cooperation agreements with other Nuclear Weapon Free Zone organizations were encouraged.

Conclusions

The Commission approved the budget for 2003 amounting to US\$ 88 581 700. As an indication of the maturity of the organization, the Member States decided, on a trial basis, to reduce the annual number of Commission sessions to two in 2003. Ambassador Javier Paulinich of Peru was elected as the next chairman of the Commission for the first half of 2003. Support was expressed for the convening of another Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 2003 and for the continuing build-up of the global verification system. ■

Profile of the Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission



Ambassador Liviu Aurelian Bota, Permanent Representative of Romania to the International Organizations in Vienna, has served as Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the second half of 2002.

Mr. Bota joined the diplomatic service in 1961 and spent several years as a member of the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations in New York.

He also held several high-ranking positions in the United Nations system, including Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva, Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary-General for Human Rights in Geneva and Head of the United Nations Mission of Observers to Tajikistan (UNMOT) and Georgia (UNOMIG).

In 2001 he served as Chairman of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. ■