

Commission update

Report on the June 2003 session

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) held its Twentieth Session from 24 to 25 June 2003 in Vienna under the chairmanship of Ambassador Javier Paulinich of Peru. Seventy-one Member States 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 informed Member States that 55 out of the 337 International Monitoring System facilities have now been certified as fully meeting the stringent technical requirements of the system. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the Organization is operating under severe financial constraints. A budget release of only 50 % on most projects had to be introduced earlier this year due to currency fluctuations and the uncertainty as to whether all Member States would pay their 2003 contributions. As of 24 June 2003, the collection rate of assessed contributions for 2003 stood at 76,89% and the budget implementation rate at 47,5%.

The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the implementation of the seven year service limit will be applied from March 1997 and that he will exercise his prerogative to make exceptions to the seven year limit in order to retain essential expertise in the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS).

The plenary debate

The plenary debate focused on several issues, including the importance of promoting signature and ratification, the significance of a balanced approach in dealing with all elements of the verification regime, and the severe financial constraints the PTS is facing. Member States welcomed the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by Gambia and the ratifications by Albania, Cote d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Mauritania and Oman since the last session of the Commission. The Member States encouraged the PTS to continue its outreach activities and to carry on holding training courses, seminars and workshops.

States Signatories expressed their views on the initial draft 2004 Programme and Budget proposals. On the one hand, concerns were expressed that the budget was no longer programme driven. On the other hand, Member States reiterated their position that "the PTS should do its utmost to keep the draft 2004 Budget at the level of the 2003 Budget". Several delegations supported the PTS draft budget proposal as a good basis for further discussions.

Conclusions

Support was expressed for the convening of the 2003 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT in Vienna and for the continuing build-up of the global verification system. Ambassador Thomas Stelzer of Austria was elected as the next chairperson of the Commission for the second half of 2003. ■

Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission



Ambassador Javier Paulinich, Permanent Representative of Peru to the CTBTO Preparatory Commission since 2000, has served as chairman of the Commission for the first half of 2003. He was elected by the Commission during its Nineteenth Session in November 2002.

Ambassador Paulinich studied in Peru at, *inter alia*, the Universidad Nacional de San Augustin in Arequipa and the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. He holds qualifications in Social Science, International Relations and Sociology.

Ambassador Paulinich joined the diplomatic service in 1976, and served in the United Kingdom, Iceland and Yugoslavia. He held several high-ranking positions in the Foreign Service, including Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and Alternate Permanent Representative to the international organizations and the World Trade Organization in Geneva. He also served as Director for Asia and Oceania of the General Directorate for European, African, Asian and Oceanic Matters for the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ■