

Outreach activities

The PTS conducts a variety of activities focusing on enhancing the Treaty understanding of decision-makers and the general public, generating political support, encouraging international cooperation and building national technical capacities through training.

External relations

The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) carries out external relations activities to encourage universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to enhance participation in the Commission's work. The PTS also encourages and participates in multilateral conferences and meetings to further Treaty support. Several multilateral bodies have undertaken initiatives at the global and regional level backing the Treaty.

At the global level, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has approved successive resolutions in favour of the CTBT in its sessions in 2000, 2001 and 2002. On the margins of the last UNGA, eighteen Foreign Ministers issued a joint statement calling upon outstanding States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. To date, 52 States have associated themselves with this statement.

The Final Document of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2003, also supported the CTBT, stressing the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Treaty. The Twelfth NAM Conference in 1998 also endorsed a similar initiative.

At the regional level, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) has approved resolutions in support of the CTBT every year since 2000. Between 1998 and 2002, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL), all called in various communiqués for signature and ratification of the Treaty.

International cooperation and training

The Preparatory Commission conducts a variety of international cooperation activities to further Treaty understanding and to assist in building national capacities for Treaty implementation. The activities include international cooperation workshops, expert discussions on civil and scientific applications of verification technologies and information visits. The most recent

international cooperation workshop was held in Fiji in June 2003, with 25 participants from 15 States in the Pacific.

The Commission also plays a role as a clearing house in promoting international cooperation among its Member States, and serves as a focal point for voluntary contributions to support international cooperation activities. Technical support is also provided to some States, including the establishment of national data centres, to facilitate national implementation of the Treaty.

Training is another important activity of the Commission. Various technical training courses and other capacity-building activities are offered by all three verification Divisions on a regular basis. Initial steps are being taken to develop a training manual designed to provide general guidelines on how to standardize training courses throughout the Organization. A database of training-related information on courses, training opportunities and follow-up activities is under preparation. ■



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