

# 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 Preparatory Commission attaches great importance to Africa's role in ensuring the entry into force and universality of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It was the first geographical region visited by the Executive Secretary in 1997 and many missions have been undertaken since by staff from the PTS.

In 2002 and 2003, two African States signed and six ratified the CTBT, including one Annex 2 State. The CTBT is in line with African non-proliferation and disarmament initiatives such as the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa (1964) and the Treaty of Pelindaba (1996) which establishes a nuclear-weapon free zone in Africa. In addition, all African countries are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The Commission of the African Union has expressed its support for the CTBT and for the Preparatory Commission's work. A brochure on 'Africa and the CTBT', which includes a section on the political and civil and scientific benefits of CTBT membership, has been published in Arabic, English and French. ■

## International cooperation Training

Sopron, Hungary, was the location for an Experts' Discussion on the Civil and Scientific Applications of CTBT Verification Technologies, organized by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) and the Government of Hungary on 6 September 2003. The meeting was held as a follow-up to an experts' discussion on the same topic which took place in London in May 2002. Nine scientists from six States contributed presentations to the meeting. Observers from three States, the Permanent Mission of Hungary and NGO representatives also attended the event.



EXPERTS' DISCUSSION ON THE CIVIL AND SCIENTIFIC APPLICATIONS OF CTBT VERIFICATION TECHNOLOGIES, SOPRON (HUNGARY), 6 SEPTEMBER 2003

The experts' discussion reviewed and further explored potential civil and scientific applications of seismic and radionuclide CTBT verification technologies. Participants noted the fact that the CTBTO Preparatory Commission does not foresee use of data from the International Monitoring System (IMS) network or of data products from the International Data Centre beyond the purpose of the Treaty at the present time. Several experts, however, expressed their concern that if data and products are not made publicly accessible to them, the IMS network and its potential civil applications may ultimately become less relevant for the scientific community. ■

Access to specialized training is one of the major benefits offered to Member States by all three verification Divisions of the Provisional Technical Secretariat.

The main objective of the technical training programme conducted by the International Monitoring System (IMS) Division is to support the installation, operation and maintenance of the IMS network stations. Station operators, either managers or local operators of newly or soon to be installed stations, are invited to attend a two week training programme. The most recent training took place from 7 to 17 October 2003 in Austria. Twenty-six station operators from 19 States Signatories participated.

The first week consists of a general training for operators of all types of stations. In the second week, specific training courses for each technology and type of equipment are offered. In addition, equipment providers and installers provide local operators with on-site training during or shortly after the installation period. Training curricula are developed in close cooperation with station operators.



SEISMIC STATION OPERATORS VISIT THE CONRAD OBSERVATORY IN TRAFELBERG (AUSTRIA) DURING A TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME, 17-21 MARCH 2003

For more information on PTS training courses, please visit the CTBTO public web site: [www.ctbto.org](http://www.ctbto.org). ■