

Outreach activities

The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) conducts a variety of activities focusing on enhancing the Treaty understanding of decision-makers and the general public. It generates political support, encourages international cooperation and builds national technical capacities through training.

External relations

One of the outputs arising from the Preparatory Commission's mandate is to assist States in the promotion of signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. On this basis, External Relations coordinates a series of activities at the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) in Vienna, and with States and international organizations outside of the Commission's seat, aiming to raise awareness of the Treaty and its contribution to international peace and security.

A widespread network of diplomatic contacts allows the Secretariat to participate in multilateral conferences. For instance, the PTS took part in the third African Union Summit, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 June to 8 July 2004, in an observer capacity. It also attended the thirty-fifth Pacific Islands Forum Summit from 3 to 10 August 2004, upon the invitation of the Government of Samoa. As a guest organization, the Preparatory Commission was represented in the XIV Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Durban, South Africa, from 17 to 19 August 2004, in which the Ministers stressed the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Treaty.

The Secretariat also engages in consultations with international organizations on agreements concerning

weapons of mass destruction. The PTS participated together with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations Regional Disarmament Center for Latin America and the Caribbean in such a workshop organized by the Bahamas, and Antigua and Barbuda, on 25 and 27 October 2004, respectively.

The PTS participates regularly in several United Nations forums, such as the April 2004 preparatory sessions for the 2005 Review Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In October this year, the Executive Secretary addressed the General Assembly, and the Director of Legal and External Relations gave a presentation at the First Committee. ■

International cooperation

In the eight years since its inception the Commission has organized over a dozen international cooperation workshops both at the regional and global level. The workshops not only aim to enhance Treaty understanding, support the verification regime build-up and early entry into force, but also focus on ways and means to facilitate cooperation among States.

Much knowledge has been gained from these workshops, not least the understanding that while there is a global consensus on basic principles and objectives, there are different and creative regional approaches to their achievement. The workshops have also highlighted that at the regional level States can best assist one another and/or cooperate collectively on upgrading their capacities, and when needed request facilitation by the PTS. Developing countries may lack resources and the latest technologies but they lack neither interest nor reliable capacity when it

comes to Treaty support. Furthermore, these States are also interested in examining other potential benefits of Treaty membership, including civil and scientific applications of the verification technologies. ■

Training

The major programmes of the PTS offer a wide range of training courses for National Data Centres staff and station operators. These courses provide useful information for Member States to take greater advantage of the International Monitoring System data and the products and services of the International Data Centre.

The On-Site Inspection (OSI) Division also conducts annual introductory courses which aim to familiarize experts from States Signatories with the OSI regime and its development. The courses focus mainly on the OSI process and its context; the phenomenology of nuclear explosions; OSI technologies; and the rights and obligations of the inspection team and the inspected State Party.



OSI EQUIPMENT PRESENTATION, 8TH OSI INTRODUCTORY COURSE, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The eighth OSI Introductory Course was held in April 2004 in Vienna. A total of 44 trainees from 33 States Signatories participated, representing all the geographical regions of the Treaty. ■