

A view from Algiers

By Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of Algeria,
Chairperson of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission

CTBTO Spectrum has invited two African Member States to give their perspective on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). These contributions reflect upon the role of the CTBT and on the processes and considerations that led the respective States to ratify the Treaty. At the same time, they provide the readers with their view on the role of the CTBT in regional and global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, particularly drawing attention to the build-up of the International Monitoring System of the verification regime in the African region, the benefits arising from joining the Treaty, and the potential civil and scientific applications of CTBT verification data in African countries.

Algeria's foreign policy is founded on the principles governing international relations which are based on the promotion of peace and security, good neighbourly relations, social progress and respect of obligations emerging from the treaties and other international legal instruments it has adhered to.

Algeria considers the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which bans any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion in any environment, as an instrument that significantly contributes to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. From this point of view, the build up of the verification regime as stipulated in the Treaty contributes to reinforcing the multilateral regime established by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is based on the link between security and development.

In fact, the implementation of the commitments agreed upon among all States Parties to the NPT is essential for freeing the world from nuclear weapons, preventing the acquisition of nuclear weapons by more States and promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in order to accelerate socio-economic development.

In this regard, despite far-reaching measures aimed at reinforcing the international instruments of the multilateral nuclear non-proliferation regime, progress on nuclear disarmament remains limited. The complexity of this issue should not discourage us from continuing our efforts to reach the objective of freeing the world from nuclear weapons and working towards furthering economic and social progress through the use of nuclear technology.

Algeria, one of the States listed in Annex 2 of the CTBT, ratified the Treaty on 11 July 2003. This decision has been welcomed by all participants of the third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty held in Vienna in September 2003 as an impetus to international efforts aimed at accelerating the early entry into force of the Treaty.

Algeria, which has always supported the objectives of the CTBT, encourages all States that have yet to do so, to adhere to the Treaty at the earliest date possible and to contribute to facilitating the establishment of a just and more balanced collective security system. ■

Biographical note



Ambassador Taous Feroukhi, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna, is

serving as Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission for 2005. Ambassador Feroukhi studied literature and political science at the University of Algiers, Algeria, and at the University of Madrid, Spain. She joined the diplomatic service in 1976 and served from 1979-1981 as Secretary for Cultural and Educational Cooperation in Ottawa, Canada, and from 1981-1986 as First Secretary of the Embassy of Algeria in Madrid, Spain, and further as First Counselor and Deputy Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations in Geneva between 1990 and 1994.

In the Foreign Ministry in Algiers, Ms Feroukhi was responsible for Southern European countries (1986-1990). In 1994, she was appointed Deputy Director for the Programmes and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, followed by the position of Counselor to the Secretary of State for Co-operation and Maghreb Affairs until 1999.

Prior to her current appointment, which she took up in November 2001, she served in the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Algeria. ■