



# Commission update

## Report on the June 2005 session

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) held its Twenty-Fourth Session from 27 to 28 June 2005 in Vienna under the chairmanship of Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of Algeria. 82 Member States participated in the session. The League of Arab States attended as an observer.

### The report of the Executive Secretary

Mr Wolfgang Hoffmann, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, reported on the progress of the establishment of the International Monitoring System (IMS) and on administrative, legal and coordination matters. He informed the delegates that 131 out of the 337 IMS facilities have now been certified, an increase of 33 facilities since the last issue of CTBTO Spectrum. Moreover, legal arrangements between Member States and the Commission are now in place for 326 IMS monitoring facilities in 83 host States.

Mr Hoffmann reported on the further refinement of operation and maintenance (O&M) which has resulted in improved processes and procedures of the Operations Centre. This new cross-Divisional entity started its operations at the beginning of April, comprising staff members from the IMS and the International Data Centre (IDC) Divisions, and has proven successful during the first system wide performance test (SPT1).

Mr Hoffmann informed Member States that pursuant to the decision made on 4 March 2005 by the special session of the Preparatory Commission on the possible use of verification data in support of tsunami warning systems, the Provisional Technical Secretariat is currently forwarding data of selected seismic stations for test purposes to the Northwest Pacific Tsunami

Advisory Centre in Japan, following their request (see cover article page 1 and 17).

The Executive Secretary also reported that as of 16 June 2005 the collection rates of assessed contributions for 2005 amounted to 79 % of the US\$ portion and 73,6% of the € portion, and had reached 95,2% for 2004. The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) will continue to monitor exchange rate developments closely.

### The plenary debate

Discussions of the plenary debate focused on modalities for the appointment of chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and on the 2006 draft Programme and Budget proposals. With regard to the selection criteria of the chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies, wide support was expressed for terms of appointment of two to three years for Chairpersons of Working Group A and B. According to other views, the elaboration of detailed qualification criteria of Chairpersons should be avoided. Some delegations mentioned that the subsidiary bodies had functioned well and that restructuring was not necessary at this stage.

Delegations welcomed the final report on the review of the organizational structure of the PTS and expressed their appreciation to the review team. Views were conveyed that the recommendations on structural reform should be considered together with the reorganization of the work of the subsidiary bodies and that the PTS should include allocations for the participation of such experts in WGB in the budget proposals for 2006.

Several Member States expressed their appreciation for PTS training courses and international cooperation activities since they were enabling them to take greater advantage of the IMS data and the

products and services of the IDC, and, in addition, develop human resources.

Member States welcomed the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the Bahamas, the signature and ratification by Rwanda and the ratification by Saint Kitts and Nevis since the last session of the Commission. Strong views were expressed that all Member States should contribute to the efforts of the upcoming Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT in September 2005.

Regarding the 2005 Programme and Budget proposals, several delegations underlined that the zero real growth principle should be followed and that the increases for the On-Site Inspection programme and for the security enhancements should be absorbed through re-allocation of existing resources. The view was also expressed that the budget should be programme driven and that the current proposals constituted a good basis for agreement at the next session of the Commission.

### Conclusions

There was an agreement to convene a joint meeting of Working Groups A and B to discuss the recommendations of the final report of the review team in more detail.

Various views were expressed regarding the current budget proposals which will be taken into account by the PTS in preparing its final draft.

The Commission expressed its deep appreciation for Mr Hoffmann's work as the first Executive Secretary of the Commission and his significant contributions to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament since the beginning of the CTBT negotiations. ■