

# CTBTO Spectrum

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## Who we are

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty bans all nuclear weapon test explosions. It opened for signature in New York on 24 September 1996 and enjoys worldwide support.

The CTBTO Preparatory Commission was established to carry out the necessary arrangements for the implementation of the Treaty and to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the State Parties to the Treaty after its entry into force. It consists of all States Signatories and the Provisional Technical Secretariat.

## The role of the Special Representative in the Article XIV Conference process

By Ambassador Jaap Ramaker

From 21 to 23 September this year, 117 Signatories and Ratifying States of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), many of them at the Ministerial level, participated in the fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV Conference) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Scheduled one week after the Millennium Summit, the Conference represented another opportunity for Governments to focus on one of the most burning issues of our time: nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

## Inside this issue

### COVER STORY:

*The role of the Special Representative in the Article XIV Conference process*

by Ambassador Jaap Ramaker ..... 1

EDITORIAL ..... 2

MAP OF EASTERN EUROPE ..... 3

NOTES AND QUOTES ..... 4

COMMISSION UPDATE ..... 7

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

*H.E. Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia*..... 8

### PERSPECTIVES:

*The history of CTBT negotiations – A Russian perspective*

by Ambassador Grigory Berdennikov..... 10

VERIFICATION HIGHLIGHTS ..... 12

### POTENTIAL CIVIL AND SCIENTIFIC APPLICATIONS:

*IMS data on natural radionuclides released for World Meteorological Organisation Programmes,*

by Dieter C. Schiessl, WMO Director..... 16

VERIFICATION SCIENCE ..... 19

SECRETARIAT SNAPSHOTS ..... 20

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES ..... 22

TREATY STATUS ..... 24

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS ..... 24



OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CTBT, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 21-23 SEPTEMBER 2005

When opening the Conference, the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in his function as Depositary of the Treaty, said: “We meet at a time of heightened global anxiety about weapons of mass destruction – particularly nuclear weapons. It is our collective duty to promote and strengthen the various multilateral instruments which reduce the threat these weapons pose to us all.”

The CTBT, often referred to as a cornerstone in the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture, is an important international instrument in this field. The mere fact that Governments get together every two years and discuss ways and means of how to accelerate the ratification process of the CTBT, has a merit of its own since it focuses Governments on this central issue. As a result of this focus, the number of signatures and ratifications rises in the period before and after each Conference. For example, this year one State signed and four ratified the Treaty between July and November.

*continued on page 6*