



## Editorial



*This is the first issue of CTBTO Spectrum that I am presenting to you as Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission.*

*My new responsibility fills me with pride because I firmly believe that preparing the grounds for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to enter into force is a unique undertaking. This is due to several factors:*

- First, the CTBT itself is unique in its scope. By banning all nuclear weapon test explosions, the CTBT reduces significantly the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons and hampers the development of new weapons.*
- Second, the mandate of the Preparatory Commission differs from similar undertakings insofar as the CTBTO global verification regime has to be fully functional at the time of entry into force of the Treaty. One could say – the newly born baby is expected from day one not just to walk, but to run at high speed.*
- Third, the CTBT has a unique arrangement among verification regimes. Member States, regardless of their size, wealth or technological status, receive state of the art verification technology and global verification data and products. This democratic approach is enhanced by capacity building measures to empower and integrate further Signatories and Ratifiers.*

*I am taking over an organization with a remarkable performance in the technical field and in the diplomatic*

*area. Currently, about two thirds of the International Monitoring System (IMS) network is built and nearly 150 IMS facilities are certified. More than 700 end users in 89 countries are participating in the provisional operation and testing of the system. The dynamics of building the verification system are very rapid. Just over the past two years, 115 IMS stations were installed which means that the number of IMS stations already in place practically doubled. In addition, the daily volume of data exchange nearly tripled from five gigabytes per day to 14 gigabytes per day in the same period.*

*The recently held Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT (Article XIV Conference) confirmed the commitment of the international community to the Treaty and the work of the Commission. With 176 signatures and 126 ratifications, the Treaty has reached nearly universal status. Still, more work needs to be done and I am committed to motivate everyone concerned to bring this unique undertaking to a successful conclusion.*

*This issue of CTBTO Spectrum takes a close look at the Article XIV process and the results of the 2005 Article XIV Conference. Two eminent supporters of the Treaty provided contributions in this context: An interview with Alexander Downer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia and President of the 2005 Article XIV Conference, recaptures, inter alia, his own personal efforts and the special historic role of Australia regarding the CTBT. The cover story by Ambassador Jaap Ramaker provides new insights into his role in promoting the entry into force of the Treaty as the Special Representative of the Ratifier States.*

*The Eastern European region, the main focus of this issue, is a particularly good example of the continuing and robust support for the Treaty, with all 22 Member States having signed and 19 having ratified it.*

*Besides looking at the various interactions between the Eastern European region and the CTBT, including a feature story about the latest IMS station establishment in Kamchatka, Russian Federation, this issue also gives an overview of the Commission's work over the past six months, including an update on the latest session of the Preparatory Commission. It also reports on the latest developments for atmospheric transport modelling in the field of verification science.*

*Furthermore, an article by Dieter Schiessl, Director of the World Meteorological Organisation, gives an example of how the scientific community and external cooperation partners can already benefit from data deriving from CTBT verification technologies. Another article in this field provides an overview of tests currently conducted to explore the usefulness of IMS data and International Data Centre products for tsunami alert systems.*

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