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

The Final Declaration of the 2003 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV Conference) called for concrete measures to promote the entry into force of the Treaty. Since then, Member States undertook an impressive number of bilateral and multilateral activities which were partially coordinated and supported by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) and made available in a detailed compendium to the participants of the 2005 Article XIV Conference.

At the bilateral level, these initiatives included a wide range of activities consisting of: outreach activities aimed at promoting the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and encouraging its signature/ratification; assistance to the Special Representative of the Ratifier States; assistance to facilitate visits of the Executive Secretary and other PTS missions and their follow-up; provision of voluntary contributions for national seminars and information visits as well as organization of technical training programmes. In total, such bilateral initiatives targeted some 45 States, including all eleven Annex 2 States which have yet to sign/ratify the Treaty.

At the multilateral level, about 13 international organizations and multilateral forums adopted resolutions and declarations on CTBT or calling for its entry into force. In addition, a number of sub-regional workshops and expert meetings on enhancing Treaty understanding and national capacity building were organized.

International cooperation

In the field of international cooperation, the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) continues to organize workshops which aim at enhancing the understanding of the Treaty and the work of the Preparatory Commission, promoting technical cooperation among Member States and providing legal and technical assistance for national capacity building.

Recently, two workshops have taken place: One, from 19 to 21 September 2005, for the States of Latin America and the Caribbean, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and the other one, from 18 to 20 October 2005, for the States of South East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Both workshops were well attended. The discussions focused on promoting regional security by adhering to the Treaty, prospects of its ratification in the respective regions, national implementation measures, progress in the installation of the International Monitoring System stations, technical cooperation among States and with other regions, and potential benefits deriving from civil and scientific applications of verification data.
Training

The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) offers a wide range of training and capacity building activities. To coordinate them better, work is ongoing to establish an integrated PTS training management system keeping track of training schedules, history, attendants and related documents.

The databases linked to the system include information on International Monitoring System (IMS), International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection training and capacity building activities, international cooperation workshops and Personnel staff training. Information on States-sponsored training programmes for developing countries such as hands-on training programmes for National Data Centre staff and IMS station operators as well as on information visits is also included in this training management system. In August, the work on populating the database was started with the support of the software provider.

In addition, the PTS initiated plans on how to enhance capacity building activities through e-training. It is also proposed that the meetings of the Preparatory Commission and its subsidiary bodies will be made available to States through video streaming.

IMS station installation in Kamchatka: A challenging mission to one of the remotest places on earth

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closing of the only road and the evacuation of more than 4000 residents in the area.

Given all the challenges this mission had to overcome, it is a major achievement that PS36 and IS44 are sending test data since 1 December, which are transmitted in near-real time first to the Russian National Data Centre in Dubna and then forwarded to the IMS laboratory in Vienna. All this would not have been possible without the excellent cooperation among the members of the multinational installation team, especially the officers of the Special Monitoring Service, and the helpfulness of the local population.