

# Commission update

## Report on the November 2006 session

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) held Part II of its Twenty-Seventh Session from 13 to 17 November 2006 in Vienna under the chairmanship of Ambassador Volodymyr Yel'chenko of Ukraine. Ninety-three Member States participated in the session.

### The report of the Executive Secretary

Mr Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, referred to the announcement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to have conducted a nuclear test. He underlined that the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission and he himself had reacted immediately and issued statements sharing the deep concern expressed worldwide about the event. The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) demonstrated that it was capable of meeting this challenge. It recorded and reviewed relevant data, and provided raw data and data products to States Signatories in accordance with the procedures and time lines envisaged under the Treaty.

The Executive Secretary reported on progress made in the build-up of the verification regime as well as on administrative and budgetary matters. He informed delegations that 75% of the International Monitoring System (IMS) network had been installed and 174 stations and seven radionuclide laboratories of the IMS were certified.

Mr Tóth pointed out that the current rate of payments of assessed contributions was lower than in the previous year by about 6 to 7%. As of 10 November 2006, payments of assessed contributions stood at 81.3 % of the \$ portion and 78.3% of the € portion.

The Executive Secretary also touched upon the difficult circumstances that the PTS was facing in implementing the programme and budget. This, he reported, was due to the fact that more than 30% of the total number of professional staff would be affected by the implementation of the personnel rotation policy in 2007.

### Plenary debate and conclusions

Delegations recalled the Special Session of the Commission on 13 October 2006, when Member States had expressed their deep concern and regret about the DPRK event. They underlined the need for the rapid completion of the establishment of the verification regime, including the noble gas stations, and for the early entry into force of the Treaty. States Signatories thanked the PTS for the timely provision of data and products and for its professionalism in dealing with this event.

States Signatories also expressed their appreciation for PTS training courses, international cooperation and other capacity building activities. They also thanked the PTS for organizing the tenth anniversary scientific symposium, which provided ideas for a wide range of improvements of the verification technologies and their potential civil and scientific applications.

States Signatories welcomed the ratifications of the CTBT since the last session of the Commission by Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ethiopia, and the succession to the Treaty by Montenegro. They expressed broad support for the convening of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT in 2007.

The Commission agreed to a budget of \$48,277,100 and € 48,564,400 for 2007. It endorsed a recommendation by Working Group B to provide real time and continuous data from the IMS network to relevant tsunami warning organizations. ■

## Profile of the Chairperson of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission



Ms Ana Teresa Dengo, the new Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to Austria and to the International Organizations in Vienna, is serving

as Chairperson of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission for 2007.

Ambassador Dengo holds a bachelor degree in industrial engineering from the Central American Private University, in Costa Rica and a Masters in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, in the United States.

She began her career with her Government at the Ministry of Trade and Exports in 1985 as an Industrial Promotion Officer, after having worked in the private sector for over eight years. Between 1988 and 1990, Ms Dengo worked for UNIDO and later joined the United States Peace Corps in Costa Rica as Associate Director. From 1996 onwards, she worked as an advisor to the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China at the United Nations in New York and subsequently for the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the Organization of American States. Ms Dengo has also worked as a consultant for the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) in Washington DC and the Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Prior to her appointment as Ambassador, she served for eight years at the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission. ■