



Policy Making

Policy making is effected through the Policy Making Organs (PMOs). These are the vehicles by which the CTBTO Preparatory Commission makes and implements decisions concerning the work of the organization.

The plenary body of the Commission, which is composed of all States Signatories, can be understood as the assembly of shareholders, providing political guidance and oversight to the Provisional Technical Secretariat from States Signatories. The plenary is the primary PMO, and its work is assisted by three subsidiary bodies, each of which is also composed of representatives of States Signatories as well as experts nominated by them.

These subsidiary bodies are Working Group A, Working Group B and the Advisory Group. Working Group A deals with budgetary and administrative matters facing the organization, while Working Group B considers scientific and technical issues related to the Treaty. Both Working Groups submit proposals and recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Commission. Together with the Commission, these two subsidiary bodies make up the PMOs of the organization. In addition, the Advisory Group of qualified experts serves in a supporting role, advising the Commission through its Working Groups on financial, budgetary and associated administrative matters.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2007

- Introduction of an addition to the Staff Rules concerning potential conflicts of interest, with a view to strengthening good governance practices within the organization
- Decision to change the organization of work and the duration of meetings of Working Group B
- Pilot project initiated to facilitate participation of experts from developing countries in official technical meetings of the Commission
- New reporting structure for the reports of the Executive Secretary to the PMOs
- Review of the structure and layout of all official documents to create a more user friendly information environment.



second parts of its Twenty-Eighth Session from 23 to 27 April and from 14 to 18 May, and its Twenty-Ninth Session from 10 to 14 September.

Working Group B decided to change the organization of its work and the duration of its meetings. Commencing in 2008, this subsidiary body will take a more flexible approach to its scheduling, keeping the number of meetings to the minimum required and avoiding overlap of meetings where possible.

EXPANDING PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In 2007, the PTS initiated a pilot project to facilitate participation of experts from developing countries in official technical meetings of the Commission. The project was financed by voluntary contributions from Finland, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and South Africa.

Three experts, from Kenya, Peru and Thailand, were selected to participate in the project. These experts took part in sessions of Working Group B and other technical meetings, including the Quality Management Workshop in May and the meeting of the expert advisory group for the IFE in December. In addition, these experts benefited from a series of technical briefings by the PTS on key verification related issues.

On the basis of an implementation report prepared by the PTS, the Commission decided in November 2007 that the pilot project should continue in 2008 in light of its initial success.

MEETINGS IN 2007

In 2007, the Preparatory Commission was chaired by Ambassador Ana Teresa Denngo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica. The Commission met in plenary twice, from 19 to 22 June at its Twenty-Eighth Session and from 12 to 14 November at its Twenty-Ninth Session.

Working Group A was chaired by Ambassador Abdulkadir Bin Rimdap (Nigeria) and held its Thirty-First Session from 4 to 6 June and its Thirty-Second Session from 8 to 9 October. Working Group B was chaired by Mr Hein Haak (Netherlands) and also held two sessions: its Twenty-Eighth Session from 5 to 16 February and its Twenty-Ninth Session, which was divided into two parts, from 21 May to 1 June and from 20 August to 7 September. The Advisory Group, chaired by Mr André Gué (France), held the first and

SUPPORTING THE POLICY MAKING ORGANS

The PTS, itself a preparatory organ, is the body that executes the decisions adopted by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. Like the Commission, it is multinational in composition: staff are recruited from States Signatories on as wide a geographical basis as possible. As far as the meetings of the PMOs are concerned, the role of the PTS is to provide substantive and organizational support to the meetings of the various bodies that make up the Commission. From organizing conference facilities and arranging interpretation to drafting official documents of the various sessions and advising the Chairpersons, the PTS is a vital element in the work of the PMOs.

In 2007, a number of improvements were made to those PTS processes underpinning the policy work of the organization. For example, a new reporting structure for the reports of the Executive Secretary to the PMOs was implemented, as part of a broader suite of

measures to streamline the dissemination of information, in particular routine data, to States Signatories. The structure and layout of all official documents were also changed to create a more user friendly information environment.

CREATING A VIRTUAL WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The PTS prides itself on its ability to create and provide a virtual working environment for those unable to attend regular meetings of the PMOs. State of the art technologies are employed to transmit the proceedings of each official plenary meeting around the globe in real time. Meetings are recorded and transmitted live via a secure web site, the Experts Communication System (ECS), before being archived for reference purposes. In addition, supporting documents related to each particular session are distributed to States Signatories through the ECS, and participants are notified of new documents by email alerts.

