Outreach

A key duty of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission is to promote understanding of the objectives and principles of the Treaty, the functioning of the Commission, the global CTBT verification regime, and the civil and scientific applications of the International Monitoring System. This is done through interaction with the international community, including States, international organizations, academic institutions, NGOs, the media and the general public. The outreach activities involve educating people about the activities of the Commission, promoting signature and ratification of the Treaty by States and fostering international cooperation in the exchange of verification related technologies.
OUTREACH

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2008

RATIFICATION of the Treaty by Barbados, Burundi, Colombia, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia and Mozambique, and signature of the Treaty by Iraq and Timor-Leste

MINISTERIAL Meeting in New York in support of the Treaty

LAUNCH of the new public web site.

TOWARDS UNIVERSALITY OF THE TREATY

The Treaty moved closer to universalization in 2008 with ratification by the following seven countries: Barbados, Burundi, Colombia, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia and Mozambique. Two countries signed the Treaty: Iraq and Timor-Leste.

As of 31 December 2008, the CTBT had been signed by 180 States and ratified by 148 States, including 35 of the 44 States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty, whose ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force.

INTERACTING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The PTS continued its efforts in 2008 to raise awareness and enhance understanding of the Treaty, to facilitate the implementation of the decisions of the Commission on the establishment of the verification regime and, in particular, the installation of IMS facilities, and to promote signature and ratification and participation in the work of the Commission.

The PTS maintained dialogue with States through bilateral visits in capitals and interactions with Permanent Missions in Vienna, Berlin, Geneva and New York. The major focus of such interactions was on States hosting IMS facilities and States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty (particularly those listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty). The PTS also took advantage of various international, regional and subregional conferences and other gatherings to enhance understanding of the Treaty and to advance its entry into force and the building of the IMS.

The Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission visited Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, France, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey and the USA with a view to strengthening their interaction with the Commission and highlighting the significance of the entry into force of the Treaty.

Latin America and the Caribbean

There were several outreach opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008. The PTS provided administrative assistance in the preparation of a Regional Ministerial Meeting, which was organized by the Governments of Costa Rica and Austria and designed as a follow-up meeting to the 2007 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (‘Article XIV conference’). The meeting was held on 30 September in San José, Costa Rica, and was funded by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Austria. Preceding this event, a meeting of high level officials was held on 29 September. The high level meeting dealt primarily with the legal and technical requirements for the entry into force of the Treaty.
From 4 to 8 August, a mission jointly organized by the PTS and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) was conducted to the three English-speaking Caribbean countries which have yet to sign and ratify the CTBT: Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Detailed presentations were made in the three capital cities on political and technical aspects of the Treaty. In addition, a joint PTS–UNLIREC mission took place on 1 October in Guatemala City. The missions were supported by voluntary contributions from the Government of Austria.

**Inter-Parliamentary Union**

The Executive Secretary attended the 118th and the 119th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held from 13 to 18 April in Cape Town and from 13 to 15 October in Geneva. At the 119th IPU Assembly, he participated in a panel discussion on “Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of Parliaments”. The topic is to be discussed by the First Standing Committee of the IPU during the 120th Assembly in April 2009.

**Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie**

The Executive Secretary was invited once again by the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie to attend the 12th Francophonie Summit, which took place in Quebec City, Canada, from 17 to 19 October. On the margins of the summit, the Executive Secretary held meetings with several delegations.

**Liaising with the United Nations**

The Executive Secretary visited Geneva on 6 March and met with the Secretary-General of the WMO and the Director of the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The meetings provided an opportunity to exchange views on current work and priorities of the respective organizations, as well as to explore further possible avenues of cooperation.

On 12 and 13 June, the Executive Secretary met with the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC). During the meeting, they took stock of the current cooperation between the two organizations and explored future possibilities. Apart from cooperation in the areas of tsunami warning and capacity building, other potential fields of cooperation, e.g. climate change within the framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, were identified.

PTS representatives participated in several conferences sponsored by the United Nations. These included the 20th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Saitama (Saitama City, Japan, 27–29 August), the Seventh United Nations–Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues (Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 23–26 November) and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Poznań, Poland, 1–12 December).

**United Nations General Assembly**

The Executive Secretary took part in the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly from 22 to 26 September. On the margins of the session, he met with a number of senior officials and government representatives.

On 15 October, the Executive Secretary participated in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and in the panel exchange on the “Current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament and role of the respective organizations”, together with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and the Representative of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). On the margins of the panel exchange, he held bilateral talks with the panel members.

Finally, on 3 November, the Executive Secretary addressed the United Nations General Assembly under the agenda item on “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”. The resolution on
cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission was adopted under the same agenda item (with 64 votes in favour, 1 vote against and no abstentions).

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

On 3 October, the Executive Secretary gave an address to the fifty-second regular session of the IAEA General Conference. In speaking about the IAEA forecast of annual growth rates of nuclear energy in the course of the next 20 years, to address challenges of energy security and climate change, the Executive Secretary emphasized that this must go in tandem with strengthening the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, including the CTBT, the most visible legal and technical barrier to the development of nuclear weapons.

**Further Activities**

In December 2008, a PTS representative participated in a conference entitled “Peace and Disarmament: A World without Nuclear Weapons?”, organized in Brussels by the Socialist Group in the European Parliament. Several high level speakers emphasized the importance of the CTBT and its entry into force at the earliest date possible.

Other cooperation and coordination with international organizations and institutions included PTS participation in the Security Policy Conference on Armament and Disarmament (Budapest) and the International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament (Oslo) in February; the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (The Hague) and the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Geneva) in April; a project in Nepal in the framework of an EU joint action to support the activities of the Preparatory Commission at the end of June; the 15th Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (Tehran) in July; the 40th Session of the International Seminars on Planetary Emergencies (Erice, Italy) in August; the 11th PIIC Beijing Seminar on International Security (Beijing) in October; the North Atlantic Alliance Seminar on Proliferation Issues (Berlin) in November; and the Global Zero Conference (Paris), the Brainstorming Conference on “Nuclear Non-Proliferation and the Rise in Demand of Nuclear Civil Power” (Washington, D.C.) and the 13th Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW (The Hague) in December.

In Vienna, the Executive Secretary continued dialogue with States through the Permanent Missions and received a number of high level visitors, including the Director General of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, Shaul Chorev; the Director General of the International Security Bureau of the Canadian Foreign Ministry, Donald C. Sinclair; the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov; and the Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini. This provided further opportunities for bilateral discussions on common issues related to recent developments in the work of the Commission.

With a voluntary contribution from Austria, the Commission organized information visits for representatives from Dominica, Ghana and Liberia in order to familiarize key stakeholders in those countries with the Treaty and the work of the Commission. The Commission also arranged an information visit for a representative from Angola.

**MINISTERIAL MEETING**

A Ministerial Meeting was held in New York on 24 September to promote the Treaty. The meeting, at which around 40 Foreign Ministers were in attendance, was addressed by prominent personalities such as the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, the former US Defense Secretary, William Perry, and the Academy Award winning actor and producer, Michael Douglas, who is also a United Nations Messenger for Peace. The Joint Ministerial Statement issued at the meeting (see p. 64) was subsequently endorsed by a total of 96 countries. A statement by Barack Obama, while still a presidential candidate, in support of the CTBT was issued on the day of the meeting.

Appreciation was expressed to Austria and Costa Rica, as joint coordinators of the Article XIV process, as well as to the Special Representative of States ratifiers to promote the CTBT ratification process, Ambassador Jaap Ramaker of the Netherlands. Prospects for a new momentum on
ratification and entry into force of the Treaty were noted and the importance of capitalizing on the potential of any such prospects was stressed. Support was expressed for the convening of an Article XIV conference in New York in 2009.

All statements delivered to the meeting, United Nations webcasts and related press reports were placed on the public web site. An issue of CTBTO Spectrum was produced especially for distribution at the meeting, featuring interviews and articles by, among others, the President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias, the Director General of the IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei, and former US Senator Sam Nunn. In addition, press releases and highlight articles were issued before and after the meeting.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

In 2008, the PTS held two regional workshops. The workshops had several objectives: to review CTBT related achievements in support of the nuclear non-proliferation regime; to promote the entry into force and universality of the CTBT; to enhance understanding of the CTBT; to facilitate capacity building for the purpose of implementing the CTBT; and to discuss the verifiability of the Treaty monitoring system.

In May, the PTS organized a Workshop on CTBTO International Cooperation for States in the Pacific, which was held in Samoa with the close cooperation of the host Government and funded by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Austria. The workshop resulted in a list of recommendations for future action in order to maintain a nuclear-free Pacific.

In July, a Cross-Regional Workshop for CTBTO International Cooperation, for selected States from all six geographical regions as defined in the Treaty, was held in Istanbul. Its overall theme was “Twelve Years of the CTBT: Achievements and Perspectives”. The workshop was attended by representatives from 32 countries as well as from UNESCO and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and by the Special Representative to promote the CTBT ratification process and speakers from the Russian Federation, Turkey and the Arms Control Association.

The workshop provided a forum for the exchange of information between the PTS and the States as well as among States themselves. It also served as a platform to enhance the understanding of the Treaty and to further cooperation among States Signatories. Participants discussed the significance of the CTBT in the wider context of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and as a confidence and security building measure. Attention was given additionally to the verifiability and worldwide coverage of the Treaty monitoring system, regional and national implementation of the CTBT and capacity building, as well as civil and scientific benefits of the IMS, in particular the new developments concerning tsunami early warning systems and the Istanbul earthquake early warning and rapid response system.
The opening session was chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Deputy Under-Secretary from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. On the margins of the workshop, the Executive Secretary held bilateral meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and visited the nuclear test monitoring centre at the Belbasi Seismic Research Station.

**PROMOTING THE TREATY AND THE COMMISSION**

The year 2008 saw an intensification of PTS public information activities focusing on targeted audiences, including the media, States, NGOs, scientific and academic institutions, think tanks and public policy institutes, to promote the Treaty and the work of the Commission. Special emphasis was placed on the remaining States that have yet to sign or ratify for the CTBT to enter into force.

The PTS continued with briefings and presentations, the use of the CTBTO exhibition and film as well as printed material, and participation in important disarmament and non-proliferation seminars and conferences to enhance public awareness.

**Proactive Media Relations**

Press conferences were held on the occasion of the ratification by Colombia (January); for the launch of the new web site (June); during the plenary sessions of the Commission (June and November); during the visit of the Executive Secretary to Kazakhstan (July); within the context of the IFE in Kazakhstan (August, September and October); and on the occasion of the signing of a tsunami warning arrangement with Indonesia (November).

There was a notable increase in the number of published articles in which the CTBT was mentioned, reflecting a rising public interest. Links to the most relevant articles were placed on the public web site on a daily basis. In addition, a large number of press briefings and interviews were given to representatives of the print and broadcast media. The PTS also assisted in the filming of documentaries on the CTBT and its verification regime by two US film companies and a German television network.

**Information Products**

In addition to the public web site, other electronic dissemination techniques continued to be developed. The number of press releases increased by 32% with respect to 2007 and, as a new element, electronic newsletters were issued to specific audiences on a biweekly basis.

Several major printed products were produced in 2008. These included: (a) an issue of *CTBTO Spectrum* focusing on the role of the CTBT in the general nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament context; (b) a brochure entitled *The nuclear test-ban verification regime: An untapped source for climate change monitoring*; (c) a brochure on the IFE called *CTBTO tests its on-site inspection regime in Kazakhstan*; and (d) a brochure on the ISS project.

**Covering the Integrated Field Exercise**

A special focus of public information activities in 2008 was on the IFE in Kazakhstan as the largest single project in the history of the Commission. A dedicated area on the web site, briefings for media representatives and diplomatic missions in Vienna and in Kazakhstan, a media day in the field, press releases, highlight articles and video clips ensured extensive coverage before, during and after the exercise. In addition, the groundwork was done for a new PTS promotional film. Media coverage of the IFE was considerable.
Launch of New Public Web Site

In June, the new CTBTO public web site was officially launched by the Executive Secretary at a ceremony in the rotunda of the Vienna International Centre.

With the launch of the new web site, the central tool for information dissemination about the CTBTO was enhanced significantly. Its features range from greatly expanded written and visual content, supported by state-of-the-art technology, to a more comprehensive search engine and a number of multimedia applications. The multimedia items include animations of the functioning of the IMS and the transmission of data, videos covering important events such as the IFE, the detection of the nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in 2006, tsunami warning applications of the IMS, and interactive maps to display the status of the Treaty, IMS build-up and former nuclear test sites.

The new web site aspires to provide a complete overview of the CTBT and its verification regime, the history of nuclear tests and the arms control efforts undertaken to contain them, including the long phase preceding the adoption of the Treaty. It is intended to be the most comprehensive online resource on the history of the ban on nuclear weapon testing.
JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE CTBT

24 September 2008
New York

1. We, the Foreign Ministers who have issued this statement, reaffirm our strong support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which would rid the world of nuclear weapons test explosions and would contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. In this year marking the 12th anniversary of the Treaty’s opening for signature, we emphasize that the CTBT is a major instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Treaty was an integral part of the 1995 agreements by the States parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) allowing the indefinite extension of the Treaty. The early entry into force of the CTBT was recognized at the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT as a practical step to achieving NPT nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, and has also been reaffirmed as being of central importance by the UN General Assembly.

3. We recall the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, that adopted in September 2007 a declaration by consensus outlining measures consistent with international law to encourage further signature and ratification of the Treaty.

4. We affirm that the CTBT will make an important contribution by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, as well as preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. The entry into force of the Treaty is vital to the broader framework of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Progress on this issue would also contribute to a positive outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT.

5. We welcome that the CTBT has achieved near universal adherence with signature by 179 States and ratification by 144 States as of today. Of the 44 States whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty, nine have yet to do so. We welcome the four ratifications that have occurred since the entry into force conference last year, in particular that of Colombia, one of the States whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty. We call upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force. We recognize the extensive range of bilateral and joint outreach efforts by signatories and ratifiers to encourage and assist States which have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty. We commit ourselves individually and together to make the Treaty a focus of attention at the highest political levels and to take measures to facilitate the signature and ratification process. We support the efforts by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to facilitate such process by providing legal and technical information and advice.

6. We call upon all States to continue a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. Voluntary adherence to such a moratorium is a welcome step, but does not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty. We reaffirm our commitment to the Treaty’s basic obligations and call on all States to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty pending its entry into force. With respect to the nuclear test announced by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006, bearing in mind UNGA Res 61/104, we underline the need for a peaceful solution of the nuclear issues through successful implementation of the Six Party Talks Joint Statement of September 2005 and we urge the DPRK to fulfil its commitments therein and to fully comply with Security Council resolutions 1695 and 1718. We note that the verification regime successfully detected the aforementioned event and believe that it highlighted the urgent need for the early entry into force of the Treaty.

7. We welcome the progress made in building up all elements of the verification regime, which shall be capable of verifying compliance with the Treaty at its entry into force. We will provide the support required to complete and operate the verification regime in the most efficient and cost-effective way. We will also promote technical cooperation to enhance verification capabilities under the CTBT.

8. In addition to its primary function, the CTBT International Monitoring System as part of the verification regime is bringing scientific and civil benefits, including for tsunami warning systems and possibly other disaster alert systems, through civil and scientific applications of waveform and radionuclide monitoring systems and possibly other disaster alert systems, through civil and scientific applications of waveform and radionuclide technologies and use of the data. We will continue to seek ways to ensure that these benefits will be broadly shared by the international community in conformity with the Treaty.

9. We appeal to all States to make maximum efforts towards achieving the early entry into force of the CTBT. On our part we dedicate ourselves to realizing this goal.
“The Treaty’s entry into force would be a major step in our effort to build a safer, more peaceful world. It would outlaw all nuclear tests and move us towards the larger goals of ridding the world of nuclear weapons and preventing their proliferation.”

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

“Testing nuclear devices is a clear threat. Twenty years after the end of the Cold War the language of threat is no longer the language we want to speak.”

Ursula Plassnik, Austrian Foreign Minister

“20 years after the end of the Cold War the language of threat is no longer the language we want to speak.”

Ursula Plassnik, Austrian Foreign Minister

“The entire world community needs to rally behind the CTBT. CTBT is an absolute necessity when it comes to stopping nuclear technology proliferation.”

Bruno Stagno Ugarte, Costa Rican Foreign Minister

“In 1996 already I was part of the US comprehensive study on whether the CTBT could be effectively verified. We were convinced already at that time that this could be done. Today, the verification system is much superior to what it was then.”

William Perry, former US Defense Secretary

“There is no need to test nuclear weapons. It is imperative that the CTBT can come into force, including in my own country, the United States. It is a crucial, crucial time for the Treaty to get ratified.”

Michael Douglas, United Nations Messenger for Peace

“We need a complete ban on nuclear testing. We need a complete ban on nuclear weapons, and we need complete disarmament. Australia is committed to work hard to persuade countries to make the Treaty come into effect.”

Stephen Smith, Australian Foreign Minister