Outreach

A key mandate 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, non-governmental organizations, the media and the general public. The outreach activities involve educating the general public about the work of the Commission, promoting signature and ratification of the Treaty by States and fostering international cooperation in the exchange of verification related technologies.

Putting an End to Nuclear Explosions
A WATERSHED YEAR FOR THE ORGANIZATION

Over the years, the PTS has energetically pursued its objectives of raising awareness and enhancing understanding of the Treaty, establishing the verification regime and installing IMS facilities, and promoting signature and ratification. However, several watershed events in 2009 heightened the salience of the CTBT as never before, creating renewed momentum for its entry into force and universality. The speech given by President Obama in April, the agreement in London between Presidents Medvedev and Obama to work towards entry into force, and the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 1887 calling for, inter alia, entry into force are illustrative of the new political determination gaining strength in support of the Treaty. This high level attention generated wide ranging media coverage and thereby increased public awareness of the CTBT worldwide.

The initiatives and statements in support of the Treaty by world leaders and numerous States have reinforced the collective faith in the contribution that the Treaty makes to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The need for its entry into force has again become a major, if not one of the key objectives for the international community. At the same time, political momentum for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has increased, representing a defining change in the international political context. The political determination to take concrete actions to eliminate nuclear weapons is now more assertive. The CTBT is the embodiment of security, which is indivisible and underpinned by a multilateral, non-discriminatory verification system. This system is designed to limit the ability of nuclear weapon States to make qualitative improvements to their nuclear stockpiles while preventing additional States from developing such weapons.

For the PTS, this new momentum is accompanied not only by new opportunities but also by the responsibility to seize upon every suitable occasion to further its objectives. As the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission declared at the opening of its Thirty-Third Session, the organization is now entering “the most defining period of its existence.”

TOWARDS UNIVERSALITY OF THE TREATY

The Treaty moved closer to universalization in 2009 with ratification by the following three countries: Liberia, the Marshall Islands and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. One country signed the Treaty: Trinidad and Tobago.

As of 31 December 2009, the CTBT had been signed by 182 States and ratified by 151 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.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2009

- Renewed commitment to the Treaty and its entry into force
- Ratification of the Treaty by Liberia, the Marshall Islands and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and signature of the Treaty by Trinidad and Tobago
- Unprecedented media coverage and publicity for the Treaty and its verification system
INTERACTING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Continuing in its efforts to facilitate the implementation of the decisions of the Commission on the establishment of the verification regime and to promote participation in the work of the Commission, in 2009 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). 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 Belgium, China, Egypt, France, Hungary, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America with a view to strengthening their interaction with the Commission and highlighting the significance of the entry into force of the Treaty.

NPT Preparatory Committee

On 7 May 2009, the Executive Secretary addressed the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The last time an address was given to the parties to the NPT on behalf of the Commission was in 1999.

On the margins of the session, the Executive Secretary met with several delegations, including those from Annex 2 States, to discuss pending ratifications and prospects for entry into force. He also met with the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, and the United Nations Messenger of Peace, Mr Michael Douglas.

Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT

On the margins of the Article XIV conference in New York from 24 to 25 September, the Executive Secretary held meetings with several high level delegates, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, the Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of France, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Spain, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, the US Secretary of State, the US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, the Under-Secretary for Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, and the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam.

United Nations


The Executive Secretary took part in the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from 23 to 30 September. On the margins of the session, he met with a number of senior officials and government representatives. On 13 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 the Role of the Respective Organizations”.

During the year, PTS representatives participated in several conferences sponsored by the United Nations with the aim of strengthening cooperation with academics and practitioners in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

International Atomic Energy Agency

The Executive Secretary delivered his traditional address to the annual General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna on 16 September. On the margins of the General
Conference, the Executive Secretary held meetings with high level officials, including the Minister for Environment, Science and Technology of Ghana, the Minister for Science and Technology of Iraq, the Secretary of Energy of the USA, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and Technological Development of Serbia, the Deputy Minister for Energy of Angola, the Vice-Minister, Department of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security of the Department of Energy and Administrator for Nuclear Security of the National Nuclear Security Administration, USA, the Ambassador of the Philippines to the United Nations, who is also President-elect of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, the Board President of the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission and the Director General of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission.

**Multilateral Organizations**

On 20 March, the Executive Secretary addressed the 2009 Nuclear Policy Symposium organized by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Budapest. During a mission to Belgium in October, he visited NATO and held meetings with the Deputy Secretary General of NATO and the Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy at NATO. The Executive Secretary also participated in the Annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation in Warsaw on 10–11 December, where he made a presentation on the CTBT.

The Executive Secretary briefed members of the Science and Technology Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly on 27 April in Vienna on recent developments with regard to the CTBT as well as the build-up of the verification regime. The NATO parliamentarians also had the opportunity to visit the Operations Centre at the Headquarters of the Preparatory Commission.

During his visit to Namibia from 31 March to 1 April in connection with an international cooperation workshop in Windhoek, the Executive Secretary held a bilateral meeting with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), who is also the Speaker of the National Assembly.

PTS delegations participated in the 120th and the 121st Assembly of the IPU, which were held from 5 to 10 April in Addis Ababa and from 19 to 21 October in Geneva. At the 120th Assembly, the IPU adopted a resolution entitled “Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments”.

The Executive Secretary attended the 15th Summit of Heads of State and Government and the preceding ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, which were held from 13 to 16 July in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt. There he met with several foreign ministers and leaders of delegations, including those from Annex 2 States. In the Final Document adopted at the end of the summit, the Heads of State stressed the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Treaty, including by all the nuclear weapon States. The Heads of State also considered that universal adherence to the Treaty would contribute to nuclear disarmament.

On 1 October, the Executive Secretary provided a briefing at the Subcommittee on Security and Defence of the European Parliament in Brussels.

**Further Activities**

In February, the Executive Secretary visited Washington, D.C., together with the Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission, Ambassador Hans Lundborg (Sweden), to take part in a hearing of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, at which he stressed the central relevance of the CTBT. The Executive Secretary returned to the US capital in April to speak at the Carnegie International Nonproliferation Conference. Prior to the Article XIV conference in New York in September, the Executive Secretary and other senior members of the PTS visited Washington to discuss a number of issues related to the US ratification process with senior officials and relevant institutions.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WORKSHOPS**

The PTS holds regional and subregional workshops with the overall aim of encouraging political and technical cooperation in areas related to the CTBT, reviewing CTBT related achievements in support of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and promoting
the entry into force and universality of the CTBT. Other objectives include enhancing the understanding of the Treaty as a regional security and confidence building measure, and developing national capabilities in the region for implementing the Treaty and participating in the verification regime. Participants also explore means of promoting the application of PTS data and products for civil and scientific purposes, and ways in which experience and expertise can be exchanged between the PTS and the relevant national agencies, as well as between the participating States.

In 2009, the PTS held three such international cooperation workshops: a Regional Workshop on CTBTO International Cooperation for Member States of the Southern African Development Community in Windhoek from 1 to 2 April; a Regional Workshop on CTBTO International Cooperation for States in the Pacific, in Melekeok, Palau, from 21 to 22 May; and a CTBTO Regional Workshop in Bangkok from 23 to 24 November. The third workshop was followed by a CTBT National Seminar on 25 November in Bangkok.

PROMOTING THE TREATY AND THE COMMISSION

Proactive Media Strategies

The PTS consolidated its public information strategy over the year, tailoring promotional activities and information products to specific events and audiences. Adopting a proactive approach in dealing with the media, the PTS engaged in interviews and background briefings with international journalists leading up to, during and following significant
CTBT related events. Overall, the year saw a further increase in PTS interaction with the media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), States, think tanks, public policy institutes and scientific and academic institutions. The public interest in Treaty related events and activities was unprecedented.

**Information Products on the Second Announced Nuclear Test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

The nuclear explosion declared by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in May 2009 was a test not only for the CTBT verification regime but also for the PTS in its interaction with the media and the public. The PTS devised a media strategy that allowed for the rapid and reliable dissemination of all relevant information. This included the immediate announcement to journalists of analysis results in a number of press briefings that were also broadcast via the public web site. A dedicated area of the web site presented updates in the form of press releases and feature articles as well as photographic and audiovisual background material. These efforts resulted in extensive international media coverage, with over five hundred printed articles on the event and on the Treaty being published.

**Covering the International Scientific Studies Conference**

The ISS Conference in June proved to be an excellent occasion to promote the Treaty and the effectiveness of its verification regime to a mostly scientific audience. The PTS public information strategy focused on the achievements in the build-up of the worldwide monitoring system and its proven ability to detect nuclear explosions anywhere on the planet.

Several new public information products were introduced at the conference. A new exhibition presented topical information on the history of nuclear testing and of the CTBT, the first declared nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2006, the IFE in 2008 and civil and scientific applications. Several electronic information products were launched at the conference, such as animations on the four monitoring technologies, a film on the IFE and a slide show on the history of the CTBT and its verification regime. Following the conference, the PTS produced a popular science publication with articles on the main discussion themes by leading experts in CTBT verification, and a DVD containing the scientific posters as well as other conference information.