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 promoting signature and ratification of the Treaty by States, educating the general public about the work of the Commission and fostering international cooperation in the exchange of verification related technologies.

Highlights in 2010

Sustained commitment to the Treaty and its entry into force

Ratification of the Treaty by the Central African Republic and Trinidad and Tobago, and commitments to ratify by Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Papua New Guinea and Thailand

Launch of video–audio project to improve worldwide media coverage of the Treaty and its verification regime
SUPPORT FOR THE TREATY

Over the years, the Commission 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. Although events in 2009 heightened the salience of the CTBT as never before, the renewed momentum created for its entry into force and universality was equally sustained in 2010 as a result of several developments that have consolidated the political determination of the international community in favour of the Treaty. The States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) affirmed the vital importance of the entry into force of the CTBT as a core element of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Significantly, Indonesia, an Annex 2 State, announced its intention to initiate the ratification process for the Treaty. Over seventy countries attended the fifth Ministerial Meeting to promote the entry into force of the Treaty, of which 24 were represented at the ministerial level. The Treaty promises to remain, as it has always been, a unifying force in the multilateral system, and these events clearly demonstrated that the Treaty continues to be a rallying point for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

The political support for the Treaty and the work of the Commission has reached an unprecedented level, as evinced by the near universal recognition in the international community that the Treaty is an effective instrument of collective security and an important pillar of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. A growing number of States, politicians and representatives of civil society are spearheading the campaign for ratification of the Treaty by the remaining States, including the Annex 2 States. Through their efforts, the international community is sending a resounding message that the Treaty has a critical role to play in today’s security environment. A strong and verifiable final barrier to acquiring a nuclear weapons capability is of vital importance for a comprehensive approach to addressing common security challenges. An all-inclusive and non-discriminatory legal instrument, the Treaty constitutes a unique political and scientific arrangement in the area of cooperative security. The political determination to bring this instrument into full legal standing is based on a strong belief in the multilateral security architecture buttressed by verifiable and enforceable treaties, the desire to put an end to nuclear testing, and the drive to achieve the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Maintaining and building on the momentum created in support of the Treaty requires the Commission to seize upon every suitable occasion to further its objectives and explore modalities of engagement with States, as well as with civil society and the international scientific community. Any worthwhile endeavour – and bringing about an end to nuclear testing constitutes such an endeavour – is achieved only through sustained investment in its realization. In terms of the Treaty, what is necessary now and in the future is sustained political, technical and financial investment in the Treaty and its verification regime. This investment will pay dividends not only through enhancing international peace and security by verifiably ending nuclear testing, but also by building on the multilateral security architecture designed to create the conditions for a world free of nuclear weapons.

TOWARDS ENTRY INTO FORCE AND UNIVERSALITY OF THE TREATY

The Treaty moved closer to universalization in 2010 with ratification by the Central African Republic and Trinidad and Tobago. Indonesia announced its intention to pursue and complete the ratification process. In addition, during the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Guatemala, Iraq, Papua New Guinea and Thailand announced their intentions to ratify the Treaty.

As of 31 December 2010, the Treaty had been signed by 182 States and ratified by 153 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

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 2010 the PTS maintained a 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 France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Norway, the Philippines, Switzerland, Thailand and the USA with a view to strengthening their interaction with the Commission and highlighting the significance of entry into force of the Treaty.

NPT Review Conference

On 6 May 2010, the Executive Secretary addressed the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The NPT States parties stood firm in their resolve to overcome their failure in 2005 and they granted the NPT a renewed lease of life. The conference unanimously adopted a Final Document that contained conclusions and recommendations with an action plan on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, where the CTBT was prominently featured.

The CTBT received unprecedented high level attention during the conference. The announcement by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia that his country intends to ratify the Treaty created a positive atmosphere from the outset. In the Final Document, States parties reaffirmed the essential
role of the CTBT in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and the vital importance of its entry into force. Moreover, NPT States agreed that the CTBT plays a significant role in constraining the development of nuclear weapons as well as the acquisition of nuclear weapons capability. It is imperative that the international community implement the undertakings set forth in the action plan. There is no shortcut to implementation of these commitments. The CTBT can only exist with a strong NPT regime. As the last barrier against nuclear weapons, the CTBT offers a systematic approach to addressing the challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

The PTS conducted a comprehensive and proactive media campaign before, during and after the conference. The opening of a CTBT exhibition in the visitors’ lobby of the United Nations Headquarters in the first week of the conference attracted over three hundred guests, including foreign ministers, ambassadors and delegates, and representatives of civil society, academic institutions and the media. The exhibition served as an effective outreach tool, providing the setting for events such as guided tours and briefings on the CTBT. It remained open for the public until the end of June and attracted about one hundred thousand visitors.

Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Promoting the Entry into Force of the Treaty

On the eve of the 14th anniversary of its opening for signature, foreign ministers gathered for the fifth Ministerial Meeting on promoting the entry into force of the CTBT in New York. The biennial meeting, held on 23 September 2010, was convened by Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Japan, Morocco and the Netherlands. More than seventy countries participated in the meeting, of which 24 were represented at the ministerial level. The Executive Secretary joined the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and the Australian Foreign Minister and chairperson of the meeting, Kevin Rudd, for the high level meeting. In a Joint Ministerial Statement released at the meeting, foreign ministers committed themselves to making the Treaty a focus of attention at the highest political level and implementing measures to facilitate the signature and ratification process as recommended in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. More than seventy countries have officially endorsed the Joint Ministerial Statement.

International Day Against Nuclear Tests

The first observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August was marked by a comprehensive public information campaign which included activities both in Vienna and in New York as well as a broad use of social and other Web based media. The PTS maintained a dedicated area on its public web site; contributed to the special web site of the United Nations, the production of a film, presentations in

“As we mark the first International Day against Nuclear Tests, I look forward to working with all partners to rein in spending on nuclear weapons and rid the world of this nuclear threat. A central pillar of this strategy is the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (C TBT)… We cannot pass these challenges to succeeding generations. We must each do our part to build a safer, more secure world today.”

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General
New York and Astana and an exhibition in the Vienna International Centre initiated by Kazakhstan; provided video and photographic packages for journalists; and launched a campaign on Facebook.

United Nations

The Executive Secretary visited the United Nations in New York on several occasions during 2010. On 8 January, he met with the Secretary-General and with heads of other intergovernmental organizations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation for a round table discussion and a general exchange of views on subjects of common interest. On 3 February, in Paris, the Executive Secretary signed a cooperation agreement between the Commission and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and held meetings with UNESCO officials. On 14 July, the Executive Secretary visited the headquarters of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Copenhagen and held discussions with its Executive Director, Jan Mattsson, with a view to deepening the relationship between the Commission and UNOPS.

The Executive Secretary took part in the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from 22 to 25 September. On the margins of the session, he met with a number of senior officials and government representatives. The Executive Secretary addressed the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations convened by the Secretary-General on 24 September. On 13 October, the Executive Secretary participated in a panel of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly to discuss the “Current State of Affairs in the Field of Arms Control and Disarmament and the Role of the Respective Organizations”.

On 13 December, the Executive Secretary addressed the United Nations General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. The General Assembly subsequently adopted its resolution on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization” without a vote. On the same day, the Executive Secretary again met with the Secretary-General to discuss an increased level of cooperation between the two 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 (IAEA) in Vienna on 21 September. On the margins of the General Conference, the Executive Secretary held meetings with high level officials, including the Executive Director of the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission, the Director General of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology of Iraq, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Minister for Higher Education and Science and Technology of Kenya, the Secretary of Energy of the USA and the Director-General of Energy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay.

Multilateral Organizations

The Executive Secretary attended the 122nd and the 123rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which were held from 27 March to 1 April in Bangkok and from 4 to 6 October in Geneva. On the margins of the IPU events, the Executive Secretary met with legislators from France, Ghana, Indonesia, Morocco, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste, as well as representatives from the IPU Secretariat.

The Executive Secretary participated in the 5th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), held from 28 to 30 October in Rabat. During the meeting, he delivered the keynote address at the 1st Standing Committee of the PAM on matters pertaining to political and security related cooperation.

Further Activities

The Executive Secretary participated as a speaker on the first day of a workshop entitled “Working Towards a Successful 2010 NPT Review Conference”, which was held in Manila from 1 to 2 February.
From 2 to 4 February, the Executive Secretary attended the Global Zero Summit in Paris, which gathered more than two hundred current and former political and military leaders, diplomats, clerics, academics and arms control experts from around the world for discussions on advancing global nuclear disarmament. During the summit, he participated in a panel discussion on “Verifying Nuclear Arms Reductions” together with Gareth Evans, the former Australian Foreign Minister, and Hans Blix, the former Director General of the IAEA.

On 23 March, the Executive Secretary travelled to Dublin to participate in a seminar held by the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA), which was one of a series of events held by the IIEA in 2010 to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. The Executive Secretary briefed members regarding, inter alia, the status of the Treaty, its prospects for entry into force and progress in establishing the verification regime.

The Executive Secretary addressed the conference on “Semipalatinsk: From Rehabilitation to Development”, convened in Astana on 26 August. The conference was held shortly before the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

On 9 September, the Executive Secretary participated in a high level workshop organized by the EastWest Institute in New York, entitled “Prioritizing the NPT Action Plan”. During the workshop, participants discussed the opportunities and challenges associated with implementing the action plan in the Final Document of the NPT Review Conference, as well as identifying leadership opportunities in global efforts towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Executive Secretary visited Oslo on 12 October to participate in an international conference on “A Nuclear Weapon-Free World: Nuclear Disarmament Strategies, Non-Proliferation and Export Control”. The Government of Kazakhstan, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs jointly convened the conference.

On 13 November, the Executive Secretary participated in the 10th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates entitled “The Legacy of Hiroshima: a World without Nuclear Weapons”. He delivered a speech at the fourth session of the summit on “Progress towards a world without nuclear weapons: the results of the ongoing international negotiations and the role of cities and of civil society”.

United States Senator Robert P. Casey Jr (third from left), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs of the Foreign Relations Committee, accompanied by Damian Murphy (second from left), Legislative Assistant for Foreign Policy, National Security and Homeland Security, during a visit to the Headquarters of the Commission, 29 March 2010. They are pictured with (left) the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Tibor Tóth, and four of the Directors of the PTS (from left to right): John Sequeira (Division of Administration), Lassina Zerbo (IDC Division), Federico Guendel (IMS Division) and Genxin Li (Legal and External Relations Division).
In 2010, the PTS held two such international cooperation workshops with the overall aim of encouraging political and technical cooperation in areas related to the Treaty, reviewing Treaty related achievements in support of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and promoting the entry into force and universality of the Treaty. 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 2010, the PTS held two such international cooperation workshops: a Regional Workshop on CTBT International Cooperation in Ulaanbaatar from 15 to 16 March, and a CTBT Regional Workshop for Senior African Officials in Rabat from 28 to 29 October.

Jointly organized by the Commission and the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the workshop in Ulaanbaatar gathered about fifty participants from over twenty countries, including representatives of the diplomatic corps and experts from the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. Participants conveyed the importance of sustaining the political momentum surrounding the Treaty as well as signature and ratification by Annex 2 States and non-Annex-2 States that had yet to join the Treaty.

During the workshop in Rabat, delegates from seven African ratifying States joined Commission representatives in efforts to bring forth ratifications from the remaining countries. The current Chairperson of the Commission, Ambassador Xolisa Mabhongo (South Africa), was present, as were representatives from Morocco, which, along with France, is currently jointly coordinating the entry into force process of the Treaty. Representatives of eight non-ratifying countries took part in the workshop and learned about the political and technical advantages of the Treaty.

The opportunity was used to raise awareness about the Treaty and its verification regime among parliamentarians and the media by holding an exhibition at the Moroccan Parliament and giving background briefings. A media
briefing took place during the workshop.

INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON THE TREATY

From 18 to 22 October, the Commission held an introductory course at its Headquarters entitled “Strengthening Verification, Enhancing Security: The Science and Political Significance of the CTBT”. The course was designed to strengthen and broaden participation in global monitoring and verification efforts. It involved legal, political and security related aspects of the Treaty, as well as the scientific and technological issues that underpin the verification regime designed to monitor compliance with the Treaty. More than fifty participants attended the course. They included ambassadors as well as representatives from Permanent Missions, embassies, international organizations, foreign ministries and academia. For those who were unable to attend the course, lectures, presentations and course materials were provided through the public web site. Dozens of academic institutions around the world, as well as numerous think tanks, non-governmental organizations and international organizations, were engaged in order to promote the course and attract ‘virtual’ participation.

PROMOTING THE TREATY AND THE COMMISSION

Public information activities have become an integral part of the outreach efforts of the Commission in the political arena as well as in verification related fields. This is a direct consequence of a planned approach in which special campaigns for particular events and developments are elaborated in advance, proactively and strategically.

Public information efforts were increasingly proactive and targeted in 2010. They included briefings of journalists and interaction with States and civil society. Articles by leading personalities and CTBT experts were published in influential media outlets. The public web site, print products such as the publication Spectrum and the CTBT exhibition remained cornerstones of the outreach activities. The continuous use of social media and the “CTBTO Newsroom” for journalists on the web site resulted in a growing interest in the work of the organization. The PTS also continued to provide presentations to a wide variety of interested audiences.

Video–Audio Project

Over the year, the video–audio project became a centrepiece of efforts by the PTS to raise awareness of the Treaty. The PTS continued to produce and provide tailored television and radio materials and reports on the Treaty, the activities of the Commission and the verification system for use by broadcasters worldwide as well as for publication via web sites and social media.