Outreach

Highlights in 2015

Increased high level engagement with States
Implementation of a comprehensive public
and media outreach strategy
Outreach activities by the Group of Eminent
Persons

The Commission’s outreach activities
aim to encourage the signature and
ratification of the Treaty, enhance
understanding of its objectives,
principles and verification regime and
of the functions of the Commission,
and promote the civil and scientific
applications of the verification
technologies. These activities entail
interaction with States, international
organizations, academic institutions,
the media and the general public.
Towards Entry into Force and Universality of the Treaty

The Treaty will enter into force when it is ratified by the 44 States listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty. These are States that formally participated in the final stage of the negotiation of the Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament in 1996 and possessed nuclear power reactors or nuclear research reactors at that time. Eight of the 44 have not yet ratified.

 Nonetheless, the Treaty continued to gather momentum towards entry into force and universalization, with Angola becoming the most recent State to ratify the Treaty. In addition, Cuba, a non-signatory State, was granted observer status by the Commission. As of 31 December 2015, 183 States had signed and 164 States had ratified, including 36 Annex 2 States.

Despite the lack of ratifications by the remaining eight Annex 2 States, the Treaty is already widely considered to be an effective instrument of collective security and an important pillar of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Political support for the Treaty, for its urgent entry into force and for the work of the Commission continued to be strong in 2015. This was shown by the emphasis placed on the Treaty at numerous high level events and by many senior governmental officials and non-governmental leaders.

An increasing number of States, key decision makers, international and regional organizations, and representatives of civil society participated in activities aimed at advancing further ratifications of the Treaty, including by the remaining Annex 2 States. The Commission conducted consultations with many of the States that had not yet ratified or signed the Treaty.

Group of Eminent Persons

The Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) was established by the Executive Secretary in 2013 to advance entry into force of the Treaty. It held two major meetings in 2015.

GEM gathered in Seoul in June to rally support for the Treaty’s entry into force and highlight the threat posed by nuclear weapons testing. During the meeting, which was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, GEM members considered the current status of the Treaty, identified ways to advance its entry into force, and assessed developments on the Korean peninsula and their implications for regional peace and security. The group issued the Seoul Declaration, containing a strong call for the Treaty’s entry into force.

GEM also met in Hiroshima, Japan, in August to discuss practical ways to advance the efforts towards the entry into force of the Treaty. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Japan and the city of Hiroshima. The group adopted the Hiroshima Declaration, which reaffirmed GEM’s commitment to achieving the global elimination of nuclear weapons and, in particular, to
the entry into force of the Treaty as “one of the most essential practical measures for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation”. The declaration also called for a “multilateral approach to engage the leadership of the remaining eight Annex 2 States with the aim of facilitating their respective ratification processes”.

**Interacting with States**

The Commission continued efforts to facilitate establishing the verification regime and to promote participation in its work. It also maintained a dialogue with States through bilateral visits in capitals and interactions with Permanent Missions in Berlin, Geneva, New York and Vienna. A major focus of such interactions was on States that host IMS facilities and States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, in particular those listed in Annex 2.

The Executive Secretary increased his proactive engagement at high level with States to promote the Treaty, advance its entry into force and universalization, and promote the use of the verification technologies and data products.

The Executive Secretary participated in several bilateral meetings and other high level events at which he met several heads of State and Government. These included President Michel Kafando of Burkina Faso, Pope Francis of the Holy See, President Hassan Rouhani of the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, President Maithripala Sirisena of Sri Lanka, King Mswati III of Swaziland, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan and President Barack Obama of the United States of America.

During his visits and in Vienna, the Executive Secretary also met with several foreign ministers and other ministers of States Signatories and observers. They included the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, Finland, Gambia, the Holy See, Japan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Niger, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Swaziland, Sweden and Turkmenistan and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. He also met the Minister of Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development of Belgium; the Minister of Science and Technology of Ethiopia; the Minister of Strategic and Intelligence Affairs of Israel; the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco; the Minister of Science and Technology of South Africa; and the Ministers of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, of Information and Communication Technology, and of Education and Training of Swaziland. The Executive Secretary also met with a former Secretary of State and a former Secretary of Defense of the United States of America and a former...
Minister of Justice and of Foreign Affairs of Israel.

In addition, the Executive Secretary met other senior government representatives from the following States Signatories and observers: Angola, Australia, Argentina, Canada, Chile, the EU, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Niger, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. He also met with the President of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The Commission took advantage of the following events to promote the Treaty and raise awareness of its activities:

- Part I of OSI Workshop-22, held in Israel in April;
- A mission by the Executive Secretary to Swaziland in June to advance the ratification process;
- The ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in August;
- A mission by the Executive Secretary to Argentina in October to obtain the necessary high level approvals to secure the land for the establishment of RN2 in Salta, among other outcomes;
- A mission by the Executive Secretary in November to visit several US national laboratories and the former Nevada test site, which are overseen by the NNSA;
- The OSI regional introductory course held in Sri Lanka in November–December;
- The signing ceremony for the facility agreement with the Government of Turkmenistan in December.

Outreach Through the United Nations System, Regional Organizations, Other Conferences and Seminars

The Commission continued to take advantage of global, regional and subregional conferences and other gatherings to enhance understanding of the Treaty and to advance its entry into force and the build-up of the verification regime. The Commission was represented at meetings of the African Union (AU), the IAEA, the United Nations General Assembly, the NPT Review Conference, the World Economic Forum, the European Leadership Network and the OPCW, among others. The Executive Secretary also participated in several conferences and seminars organized by leading think tanks.

During these meetings and conferences, the Executive Secretary met with a number of heads and other senior officials of international and regional organizations including the Chairperson of the AU Commission; the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States; the Director General of the IAEA; the Director-General of the OPCW; and the Secretary-General and the Under Secretary-General and acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations.

In January a representative of the Commission delivered a statement at the opening session of the annual conference of the Academic Council on the United Nations System in Vienna. Later in January, a representative of the organization participated in the 24th AU Summit in Addis Ababa. On the margins of the summit, meetings were held with the AU Commission as well as with delegations from non-ratifying States.

In late January and early February a representative of the organization was invited as a guest speaker at the Kshitij 2015 conference organized by Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur.

In February a representative of the Commission delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary at the ceremony for the handover of the G77 chairmanship in Vienna.

In March the Executive Secretary attended the opening ceremony of the International Women’s Day event in Vienna and the panel discussion on...
women in power. Also in March a representative of the Commission attended the high level conference on the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals organized in Vienna by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development. Later in the month, Secretariat staff members took part in the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, where they shared information on the role of the IMS in disaster warning. Staff members also participated in a special forum on recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, hosted by the Reconstruction Agency of Japan.

In April the Executive Secretary made a keynote presentation on the CTBT in the NPT review process during an event organized by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in Vienna. At the end of the month the Executive Secretary participated in the NPT Review Conference, held at the United Nations in New York. He addressed the conference and met with several high ranking government and United Nations officials to discuss ways and means to advance entry into force of the Treaty, with particular emphasis on what could be achieved in the context of the NPT Review Conference. He then participated in a high level panel on “Contributing to International Peace and Security in an Increasingly Unstable World: The Urgency of Action on the CTBT”, organized by the Commission on the margins of the NPT Review Conference.

In June the Executive Secretary participated in the World Economic Forum on Africa, held in Cape Town, South Africa, where he led discussions in the sessions dealing with Africa’s security landscape and with building resilience to global risks. He also served as a panellist in the session on the future of cross-border mergers and acquisitions in Africa.

In August the Executive Secretary participated as a speaker at the 25th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, held in Hiroshima, Japan.

In September Commission representatives participated in the General Conference of the IAEA in Vienna and delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary. Also in September the Executive Secretary addressed 25 United Nations disarmament fellows during their annual visit to the Commission. The fellows received in-depth briefings on the Treaty and its verification regime and on the challenges of bringing it into force. At the end of the month, in New York, the Executive Secretary participated in the general debate of
the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, a UNIDO event on the operationalization of the 2013 agenda for Africa’s industrialization, and the ninth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty (the Article XIV conference). During this time in New York he met with a number of heads of state or government, foreign ministers and high level government officials, the United Nations Secretary-General and other senior officials of the United Nations and other international organizations.

In October, in New York, the Executive Secretary participated in the high level exchange on the current state of affairs in arms control and disarmament and the role of international organizations with related mandates at the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Other participants included the acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high level officials. The Executive Secretary also addressed the opening of the International Conference on Global Emergency Preparedness and Response in Vienna. Later in the month, in his capacity as vice-chairperson of the Global Agenda Council on Nuclear Security, he participated in the World Economic Forum Summit on the Global Agenda in Abu Dhabi, where he met with a range of senior figures from government, academia and civil society.

In late October and early November a representative of the organization participated in the 61st Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in Nagasaki, Japan, and delivered a keynote address on behalf of the Executive Secretary.

In December the Executive Secretary attended the 14th Republic of Korea–United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, held in Seoul, where he participated as panellist in a session on regional non-proliferation issues.

The Executive Secretary also attended several conferences, meetings and seminars, where he gave keynote speeches or participated in panels or discussions on the Treaty. These included the annual NPT diplomatic workshop held in Annecy, France (March), organized by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), where he gave a keynote address; the 2015 Carnegie International Nuclear Policy
Conference held in Washington, DC, where he participated in a plenary panel on the Treaty (March); a diplomatic workshop organized by the VCDNP in Baden, Austria, where he was an opening speaker; an event organized by the European Leadership Network and a roundtable discussion at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London (June); the opening ceremony of an art exhibition entitled “Against nuclear tests and bring peace to the world” in Hefei, Anhui, China (August); the commemoration of the International Day Against Nuclear Testing held at the VIC (August); the opening of an exhibition on the Treaty entitled “Never again nuclear tests” at the German Foreign Office in Berlin (September); meetings and briefings at the Lamont–Doherty Earth Observatory near New York, United States of America (September); a roundtable seminar organized by the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs of Harvard University and a meeting with the president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America (October); and the annual Wilton Park conference on nuclear non-proliferation, where he gave the keynote address (December).

During these conferences, meetings and seminars around the world and at meetings in Vienna, the Executive Secretary met with a number of prominent figures from academia, leading think tanks and other non-governmental entities, including the president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America (October); and the annual Wilton Park conference on nuclear non-proliferation, where he gave the keynote address (December).

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Public Information

During 2015 the public web site and social media outlets of the Commission received an average of nearly 218 000 visits per month, representing an increase of 9% compared to 2014. The web site was updated with 60 highlight articles and 12 press releases and media advisories. The Commission also continued to expand its presence on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Flickr.

The 22 videos that were added to the Commission’s YouTube channel attracted around 144 000 views, with a total viewing time of over one year, an increase of more than 60% compared to 2014. A video illustrating the functioning of the IMS produced in cooperation with the MinutePhysics YouTube channel reached nearly one million views by the end of the year and was translated into three additional languages: French, German and Spanish.

Two issues of CTBTO Spectrum were published, one in April and one in September to coincide with the Article XIV conference. Contributors
include the Foreign Ministers of Japan and Kazakhstan, and Ms Federica Mogherini, a GEM member and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as well as renowned experts in the field of nuclear arms control and verification. Over 4000 copies of each issue were distributed worldwide to States Signatories, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, universities and journalists.

Over 57 000 visitors to the VIC toured the permanent CTBTO exhibition, with over 1000 visitors receiving individual presentations on the Treaty and its verification regime.

The permanent displays on the CTBTO at the United Nations in New York and Geneva were viewed by around 350 000 and 100 000 visitors, respectively. An exhibition featuring works of art relating to the nuclear test ban was shown in Hefei, Anhui, China, at the VIC and at the United Nations in New York.

Global Media Coverage

Global media coverage of the Treaty and its verification regime remained high, with around 900 articles and citations in online media, including 26 interviews by the Executive Secretary with media outlets. Interviews and op-ed articles by the Executive Secretary were published by prominent media outlets.


National Implementation Measures

Part of the mandate of the Commission is to facilitate the exchange of information between States Signatories on the legal and administrative measures for implementation of the Treaty and, when requested, to give related advice and assistance. Some of these implementation measures will be required when the Treaty enters into force and some may already be necessary during the provisional operation of the IMS and to support activities of the Commission.

In 2015 the Commission continued to promote the exchange of information between States Signatories on national implementation measures. It also delivered presentations on aspects of national implementation at workshops, seminars, training courses, external events and academic lectures.