

INTEGRATED CAPACITY BUILDING

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

Continued focus on capacity building activities

Integration of NDC capacity building with policy and educational outreach activities

Further development of e-learning

Data analysis demonstration at the IDC (Vienna).

The Commission offers States Signatories training courses and workshops on technologies associated with the three pillars of the verification regime – the IMS, the IDC and OSI – as well as on political, diplomatic and legal aspects of the Treaty. These courses help to strengthen national scientific and decision making capabilities in relevant areas to assist in developing capacities in States Signatories to effectively confront the political, legal, technical and scientific challenges facing the Treaty and its verification regime.

In some cases, the Commission provides equipment to NDCs to increase their capacity to participate actively in the verification regime by accessing and analysing IMS data and IDC products. There is a need to update the knowledge and experience of national experts as technologies expand and improve.

By enhancing the technical capabilities of States Signatories, these activities empower all stakeholders to participate in the implementation of the Treaty and to enjoy the civil and scientific benefits of its verification regime.

Training courses are held at the Commission headquarters in Vienna and at other locations, often with the assistance of hosting States. The capacity building programme is funded through the Regular Budget of the Commission and through voluntary contributions. All training activities have a well defined target group, offer detailed content, and are complemented by the educational platform and other outreach activities to the broader scientific community and civil society.



“Science and Diplomacy for Peace and Security: the CTBT@20” (Vienna).

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

As part of its integrated capacity building approach, the Commission continued to expand its education and outreach activities in 2016.

The activities included 6 NDC training courses, 11 station operator training courses, 13 technology workshops and technical meetings, 2 NDC workshops, 7 donations of capacity building systems, 11 installations of capacity building systems (maintenance) and continued development of the extended NDC in a box software package. Services also included responses to queries from States Signatories and members of the accredited CTBTO community in general.

The symposium “Science and Diplomacy for Peace and Security: the CTBT@20” was held from 25 January to 4 February 2016 and served as the first in a series of events in the year of the 20th anniversary of the Treaty. The symposium comprised online e-learning modules and a two week seminar-style symposium in Vienna that was also live-streamed online.

Topics included nuclear testing and the arms race, the role of the Treaty in the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and multilateral arms control and verification. The symposium concluded with a simulation of a future CTBTO Executive Council deliberation on an OSI request, which enabled the participants to apply concepts covered during the symposium.

Approximately 650 participants from all of the geographical regions of the Treaty took part in the symposium in person or online. Participants included Vienna based diplomats, representatives of other international organizations, NDC staff, station operators, academics and representatives of civil society and the media. Almost all of the non-ratifying and non-signatory Annex 2 States were represented at the symposium.

A national seminar to facilitate the completion of the Treaty ratification process by the Government of Myanmar took place in Myanmar on 6–7 July 2016. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs opened the seminar.

The Commission hosted an activity of the United Nations Programme of Fellowship on Disarmament in September 2016, including a series

of presentations on the verification regime and an OSI tabletop exercise.

On 27–28 October 2016, approximately 40 scientists from China, India, Norway, Pakistan, the United States of America and the PTS convened in Beijing for the Second Scientist-to-Scientist Workshop. The workshop provided a platform for substantive technical discussions between scientists from Annex 2 States while also developing capacity in technical areas of Treaty verification. It aimed to build relationships between scientists who are involved in fields related to nuclear test monitoring in the remaining Annex 2 States and to discuss the capabilities of the verification regime.

The Infrasound Technology Workshop 2016 was held in Ecuador on 7–11 November 2016. It attracted 84 participants from 28 countries and served as an international forum for presenting and discussing advancements in infrasound research.

The Commission also promoted online education and training material on the Treaty through its iTunes U site, which currently has 17 collections, including 4 seminar courses with more than 415 free, shareable files. By the end of 2016, the site had more than

2750 subscribers, with more than 16 000 visitors and nearly 20 000 downloads of content.

OSI REGIONAL INTRODUCTORY COURSE

OSI Regional Introductory Course 21 was held on 10–17 April 2016 at the Denel Overberg Test Range near Arniston, Western Cape, South Africa. It was hosted by the Council for Geosciences and the South African Council for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The course was designed to familiarize trainees with the Treaty and its OSI related provisions and to provide an overview of OSI activities and equipment and hands-on training. The programme featured a two day field training exercise, which offered participants the opportunity to apply their newly acquired expertise in a practical and integrated manner. The field exercise also highlighted the tasks carried out by a field team during an OSI mission and the potential challenges.

A total of 73 trainees from 33 States Signatories in the broader Africa region participated in the course. The trainees represented government ministries and national technical and scientific institutions such as seismological

observatories, nuclear energy commissions, research bodies and academia. In addition, facilitators from Austria, Iraq and Israel as well as OSI experts from the PTS participated.

PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Commission continued to implement a project, initiated in 2007, to facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in its official technical meetings. The aims of this project are to strengthen the universal character of the Commission and to build capacity in developing countries. In November 2015, the Commission extended the project for three years (2016–2018), subject to the availability of sufficient voluntary contributions. The latest detailed annual report on the status of implementation of the project was issued in November 2016.

In 2016, the project supported the participation of experts from 11 States: Albania, Argentina, Ecuador, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, the Sudan and Viet Nam. These experts took part in the Forty-Sixth and Forty-Seventh Sessions of WGB, including formal meetings and meetings of the expert groups. In

addition, the experts benefited from technical discussions with the PTS on key verification related issues.

Since its inception in 2007, the project has supported 36 experts from 32 States, including 10 women. Ten of these States are or were least developed countries. The participants came from 9 States in Africa (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, South Africa, the Sudan, Tunisia), 1 in Eastern Europe (Albania), 8 in Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru), 5 in the Middle East and South Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Yemen), and 9 in South East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East (Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam).

Voluntary contributions from China, Norway, Turkey and the United Kingdom were used to finance the project in 2016, and part of these funds has been carried over to 2017. The Commission continues to seek additional voluntary contributions to ensure the financial sustainability of the project.

OSI Regional Introductory Course
(South Africa).



