The outreach activities of the Commission 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.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016
- Increased high level engagement with States
- Comprehensive public and media outreach strategy
- Establishment of the CTBTO Youth Group

"Science and Diplomacy for Peace and Security: the CTBT@20" (Vienna).
TOWARDS ENTRY INTO FORCE AND UNIVERSALITY OF THE TREATY

The CTBT 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 1996 and possessed nuclear power reactors or nuclear research reactors at that time. Eight of the 44 States have not yet ratified.

Nonetheless, the Treaty continued to gather momentum towards entry into force and universalization, with Myanmar and Swaziland becoming the most recent States to ratify the Treaty. In addition, Cuba, a non-signatory State, was granted observer status by the Commission. As of 31 December 2016, 183 States had signed and 166 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 2016. 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 AND CTBTO YOUTH GROUP

The Group of Eminent Persons was established by the Executive Secretary in 2013 to advance entry into force of the Treaty. Its members met on the margins of the Ministerial Meeting on 13–14 June 2016 in Vienna to examine political and technical developments related to the CTBT as well as to identify concrete action and new initiatives that could be explored to accelerate entry into force.

The group adopted the Vienna declaration, underscoring the value of maintaining continuous, real time global nuclear test monitoring to detect,
identify and locate nuclear test explosions whenever they may occur and declaring its unwavering commitment to pursue all avenues available and utilize all means at its disposal to support and complement international efforts to advance the entry into force of the CTBT. The group delivered a statement at the Ministerial Meeting.

Twenty years after the opening for signature of the CTBT, it is clear that entry into force and implementation will be in the hands of the next generation of leaders and policy makers. Therefore the CTBTO Youth Group was launched at the symposium “Science and Diplomacy for Peace and Security: the CTBT@20”, held in Vienna from 25 January to 4 February 2016. Promoting youth engagement in the Treaty and its verification technologies was one of the main objectives of the symposium.

The objectives of the Youth Group are to revitalize the discussion around the CTBT among decision makers, academia, students, expert society and the media; to raise awareness of the importance of the nuclear test ban; to build a basis for knowledge transfer to the younger generation; to involve new technologies in the promotion of the CTBT (social media, digital visualization, interactive means of delivering information); and to place the CTBT on the global agenda.

The group is open to all students and young graduates who are directing their careers to contribute to global peace and security and who wish to actively engage in promoting the CTBT and its verification regime.

INTERACTING WITH STATES

The Commission continued efforts to facilitate the establishment of 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 Roch Marc Christian Kaboré of Burkina Faso, Vice-President Jorge Glas of Ecuador.
and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

During his visits and in Vienna, the Executive Secretary also met with several foreign ministers and other ministers of States Signatories and observers. These included the foreign ministers of Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, the Comoros, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, France, the Gambia, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Montenegro, the Republic of Korea, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, and the EU High Representative. He also met the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of China; the Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba; the Minister for Industry, Labour, Trade, Energy and Foreign Affairs of Denmark; the State Minister of Science and Technology of Ethiopia; the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and Multilateral Relations of Iraq; the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; the Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan; the Minister of Science of Montenegro; the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and the Environment of Morocco; the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Executive Training of Morocco; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco; the Vice Minister and Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs of the Republic of Korea; the Minister of Higher Education and Research of Senegal; the Minister of Defence of Slovakia; the Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion of Somalia; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan; the State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sudan; and the Secretary of Energy of the United States of America.

In addition, the Executive Secretary met other senior government representatives from the following States Signatories and observers: Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the EU, Finland, France, Germany, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United States of America.

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 Conference on Disarmament, the
African Union, the IAEA, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United Nations General Assembly and its First Committee, 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 Director-General of the OPCW; the Chair of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) and the Executive Secretary of AFCONE; the United Nations Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations.

In January, the Executive Secretary gave the opening keynote address at the symposium “Science and Diplomacy for Peace and Security: the CTBT@20” in Vienna. The Executive Secretary also closed the event with Mr Des Browne, vice-chairman of the Nuclear Threat Initiative and former Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom.

In February, the PTS was represented at the twelfth retreat of the Independent Commission on Multilateralism entitled “Weapons of Mass Destruction, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament”, held in Geneva.

The Executive Secretary participated in a panel discussion on the 20th anniversary of the Treaty held at the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) in March.

In April, the Executive Secretary hosted the high level event “CTBT@20” in Vienna. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was one of the panellists.

In May, the Executive Secretary was the guest of honour at a luncheon held by the Presidency of the European Union, where Permanent Representatives of EU member states discussed current issues pertaining to the Commission.

In December, the Executive Secretary and the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs held an interactive dialogue with youth entitled “Ending Nuclear Tests: Why Should I Care”, organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in partnership with the Commission, the United Nations Information Service Vienna and VCDNP.

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 conference of the Academic Council on the United Nations System entitled “New Approaches for a Peaceful and More Sustainable World” in Vienna, Austria (January); the “Munich Security Conference” in Munich, Germany (February); the event “The Hunt for Weapons of Mass Destruction: Leveraging New Technology”, co-hosted by the United States Department of State, the Center for International Security and Cooperation, the Preventive Defense Project and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, United States of America (April); the “US–Russian Dialogue on Nuclear Issues”, co-organized by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, United States of America, and the Center for Energy and Security Studies, Moscow, Russian Federation (April); a CTBT workshop organized by the Russian Center for Energy and Security Studies in Moscow, Russian Federation (April); the conference “Creating New Momentum for Nonproliferation and Disarmament in the Middle East/Gulf After the Failed NPT Review Conference (II)”, organized by the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, in Berlin, Germany (May); the twelfth Annual NATO Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-proliferation” in Ljubljana, Slovenia (May); the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in Mexico City, Mexico (July); the “Foreign Policy Review Conference” in Windhoek, Namibia (July); the sixth “Tokyo International Conference on African Development” in Nairobi, Kenya (August); the international conference “Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World” in Astana, Kazakhstan (August); the eleventh Strategic Forum, entitled “Safeguarding the Future”, at Lake Bled, Slovenia (September); the international conference “Emerging Technologies and Global Security: An Agenda for the 21st Century” organized by the PIR Center and the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow, Russian Federation (September); the fifth “EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference 2016” in Brussels, Belgium (November); the “Nuclear Policy Talks” forum in Washington, D.C., United States of America (November); the event “Nuclear Explosion Monitoring: 60 Years of Science and Innovation”, organized by the United States Departments of State and Energy in Washington, D.C., United States of America (November); and the annual Wilton Park conference “Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Planning for 2020” in the United Kingdom (December).

During these conferences, meetings and seminars, the Executive Secretary met with a number of prominent figures from academia, leading think tanks and other non-governmental entities.
During 2016, the public web site and social media outlets of the Commission received an average of more than 400,000 visits per month, representing an increase of about 85% compared to 2015. The web site was updated with 56 highlight articles, 12 press releases, and 6 media advisories. The Commission also continued to expand its presence on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr.

The 38 videos that were added to the YouTube channel of the Commission attracted approximately 100,000 views, with a total viewing time of more than 211 days. To mark the 20th anniversary, the new YouTube video series “20 Years - 20 Voices” was launched. The Executive Secretary, members of the Group of Eminent Persons, former negotiators of the CTBT and members of the Youth Group, among others, expressed their thoughts on the importance of the entry into force of the Treaty. The Commission also produced a short film on the installation of hydroacoustic station HA4 (Crozet Islands, France), which was widely viewed and broadcast by the United Nations, as well as Reuters TV and Science magazine.

The publication CTBT20 Special was published for the 20th anniversary Ministerial Meeting in June. It was widely disseminated in print and online throughout the remainder of the year.

A number of exhibits featuring the technical capabilities of the verification regime as well as relevant artwork were organized in 2016, including in Washington, D.C., and at the United Nations headquarters in New York and in Vienna. One of the highlights was the launch in September of a dedicated set of United Nations stamps on the CTBT, featuring works by prominent Chinese artists.

Global media coverage of the Treaty and its verification regime remained high, with more than 1340 articles and citations in online media, an increase of nearly 50% compared with 2015. These included interviews with the Executive Secretary by Al Jazeera, the Associated Press, CNN, France 24, i24NEWS, L’Opinion, Mainichi Shimbun, Nature, Russia Today, Xinhua News Agency, and other media outlets.


Impressions from the “20 Years/20 Voices” video series.
ART FOR THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN

The “longest sought and hardest fought” international treaty was opened for signature 20 years ago: the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The Treaty uses modern science to detect and verify nuclear explosions anywhere on the planet and makes our world safer and more secure. Yet the CTBT has still not entered into force.

To mark the anniversary, artists from China have lent their voices and visions to raise awareness on the importance of bringing the Treaty into force.

UNITED NATIONS stamps on the Treaty, featuring works by Chinese artists.

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 2016, 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.

Art exhibition on the 2016 International Day against Nuclear Tests (Vienna).