

POLICY MAKING

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016

Holding resumed sessions to address the announced nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Appointment of the Vice-Chairpersons of Working Groups A and B

Renewal of the appointment of the Executive Secretary



Live streaming of the Preparatory Commission in January 2016.

The plenary body of the Commission, which is composed of all States Signatories, provides political guidance and oversight to the PTS. The plenary is assisted by two Working Groups.

Working Group A (WGA) deals with budgetary and administrative matters, while WGB considers scientific and technical issues related to the Treaty. Both Working Groups submit proposals and recommendations for consideration and adoption by the plenary meeting of the Commission.

In addition, an Advisory Group of experts serves in a supporting role, advising the Commission through WGA on financial and budgetary matters.

MEETINGS IN 2016

The Commission and its subsidiary bodies each met in two regular sessions in 2016. There was also a joint meeting of WGA and WGB on 1 September and three resumed Sessions of the Commission on 7 January, 22 August and 9 September.

Among the major issues addressed by the Commission during 2016 were the promotion of the Treaty; the 20th anniversary of the Treaty and the Commission; responding to the announced nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the decision to allocate the 2014 cash surplus to the establishment of a permanent ESMF, capacity building activities and financing of an Article XIV conference in 2017; and renewal of the appointment of the Executive Secretary for a four year term (2017-2021).

SUPPORTING THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The PTS is the body that executes the decisions adopted by the Commission. It is multinational in composition: staff are recruited from States Signatories on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The PTS provides substantive

and organizational support for the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies and in the periods between sessions, thus facilitating the decision making process.

With tasks ranging from organizing conference facilities and arranging interpretation and translation to drafting official documents of the various sessions, planning the annual schedule of sessions, and providing substantive and procedural advice to the Chairpersons, the PTS is a vital element in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

VIRTUAL WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Through the ECS, the Commission provides a virtual working environment for those who are unable to attend its regular meetings. Using state of the art technology, the ECS records and transmits the proceedings of each official plenary meeting live around the globe. Meetings are then archived for reference purposes. In addition, the ECS distributes supporting documents for each session to States Signatories and alerts participants of new documents by email.

In January 2014, the ECS was integrated into the single sign-on infrastructure of the Commission. Since then, the ECS has become an even more important tool for continuous and

inclusive discussion among States Signatories and experts on scientific and technical issues related to the verification regime. In 2016, additional enhancements were introduced to the ECS, making it more user friendly and facilitating access to documents and other meeting related information.

As part of the virtual paper approach, through which the Commission is seeking to limit its output of printed documentation, the PTS continued to provide a 'print on demand' service at all sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

INFORMATION SYSTEM ON PROGRESS IN FULFILLING THE MANDATE OF THE TREATY

The Information System with Hyperlinks on Tasks Assigned by the Resolution Establishing the Preparatory Commission monitors progress made in meeting the mandate of the Treaty, the Resolution establishing the Commission and the guidance of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. It uses hyperlinks to the official documentation of the Commission to provide up to date information on the tasks that remain to be completed in preparing for the establishment of the CTBTO at entry into force and the first session of the Conference of the States Parties. The system is available to all ECS users.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN 2016

BODY	SESSION	DATES	CHAIRPERSON
PREPARATORY COMMISSION	RESUMED	7 JANUARY	AMBASSADOR CRISTIAN ISTRATE (ROMANIA)
	FORTY-SIXTH	13-15 JUNE	
	RESUMED	22 AUGUST	
	RESUMED	9 SEPTEMBER	
WORKING GROUP A	FORTY-SEVENTH	7-9 NOVEMBER	AMBASSADOR ADNAN OTHMAN (MALAYSIA)
	FORTY-NINTH	30-31 MAY	
WORKING GROUP B	FIFTIETH	17-19 OCTOBER	MR JOACHIM SCHULZE (GERMANY)
	FORTY-SIXTH	22 FEBRUARY - 4 MARCH	
	FORTY-SEVENTH	22 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER	
ADVISORY GROUP	EXTRAORDINARY	9 NOVEMBER	MR MICHAEL WESTON (UNITED KINGDOM)
	FORTY-SIXTH	3-6 MAY	
	FORTY-SEVENTH	12-14 SEPTEMBER	

HOLDING RESUMED SESSIONS TO ADDRESS THE ANNOUNCED NUCLEAR TESTS BY THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

In response to the announced nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Commission held several informal briefings and two resumed sessions on 7 January and 9 September 2016.

Delegations made statements regarding their national positions on the announced nuclear tests, expressing universal concern about the effect of any such test on international peace and security and rejecting any and all nuclear explosive tests.



RENEWAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Commission, acknowledging the commitment and efforts of the Executive Secretary in promoting the Treaty and the work of the Commission, decided by acclamation to renew his appointment for a term of four years to commence on 1 August 2017.



APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS OF WORKING GROUPS A AND B

The Commission appointed Ambassador Alfredo Raul Chuquihuara Chil, Permanent Representative of Peru, as the Vice-Chairperson of Working Group A. It also appointed Ms Zeinabou Mindaoudou Souley (Niger) and Mr Sergey Berezin (Kazakhstan) as the Vice-Chairpersons of Working Group B.

The term of office of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Groups is three years.



Sessions of the Policy Making Organs in 2016.



