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.
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 the Conference on Disarmament in 1996 and possessed nuclear power reactors or nuclear research reactors at that time. Eight of the 44 States have not yet ratified.

As of 31 December 2017, 183 States had signed and 166 States had ratified the Treaty, 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 2017. This was shown by the emphasis placed on the Treaty at numerous high level events and by many senior governmental 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. The group examines political and technical developments related to the CTBT and identifies concrete action and new initiatives that could be explored to accelerate entry into force of the Treaty.

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 in 2016.

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.

Since its launch in 2016, the Group has grown to approximately 400 members. A considerable number of its members come from the Annex 2 States whose ratification is needed for the CTBT to enter into force.

Revitalizing the discussion around the CTBT, the Youth Group members participated in SnT2017 and were active on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the tenth Article XIV conference and the 8th World Science Forum. They also organized a side event in connection with the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT on enhancing the role of the CTBT in the NPT review process.

Youth Group members have also worked on developing regional strategies for promoting CTBT universalization and ratification, notably during the CTBTO Youth Group Conference in Moscow in October 2017.

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.
Videos posted by CTBTO Youth Group members on the Youth Newsroom of the CTBTO public web site.

Youth Group members interview Executive Secretary Zerbo

Youth makes an impact at #Smt2017

UBC #CTBT Countdown Challenge

Shizuka Kuramitsu, Japan

Bronwyn McCarter, Canada

Christopher Cruz & Lesly Tobon, USA

Sweta Basak, India

Muhammad Qasim, Pakistan

Veronika Ruskova, Canada

Deepak Raj Shah, Nepal

Natalia Zhurina, Russia

Juan Bustamante, Ecuador

Rizwan Asghar, Pakistan

Lyhen Tan, Cambodia

Alan Juarez, Mexico

Veronica Tjokro, Indonesia
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 interaction with Permanent Missions in Berlin, Geneva, New York and Vienna. A major focus of such interaction 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 high level engagement with States to promote the Treaty, advance its entry into force and universalization, and promote the use of the verification technologies and data products.

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 Belarus, Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Finland, France, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Kazakhstan, Tunisia and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. He also met the Minister of Science and Technology of Angola; the Minister for Emergency Situations of Belarus; the Minister of Energy of Burkina Faso; the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment of Cuba; the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Cooperation of Ecuador; the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan; the First Deputy Minister on Multilateral Matters of Romania; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; the Minister of Higher Education and Research of Senegal; the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and the Governor-General of Australia.

In addition, the Executive Secretary met other senior government representatives from the following States Signatories and observers: Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, South Sudan and the United States of America.

Promoting parliamentary engagement, the Executive Secretary also met the speakers of the Parliaments of Burkina Faso, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan, as well as members of the Parliaments of the Russian Federation and Thailand.
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 IAEA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the 2017 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the OPCW, the United Nations General Assembly and its First Committee, UNIDO, UNODC, the Tokyo International Conference of African Development and the World Science Forum.

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 Secretary-General of OPANAL, the Director-General of the OPCW and the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations.

In September 2017, the Executive Secretary attended the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of UNODC at the VIC.

In April 2017, the Executive Secretary attended the commemorative ceremony and related events marking the twentieth anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW in The Hague, Netherlands.

In August 2017, the Executive Secretary participated in the opening ceremony of the Low Enriched Uranium Bank, which was held on the International Day against Nuclear Tests in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Top: CTBTO Youth Group side event during the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT (Vienna). Middle and bottom: CTBTO Youth Group Conference (Moscow).
In December 2017, the Executive Secretary met with the Secretary General of the International Organisation of la Francophonie in Paris, France.

The Executive Secretary also attended several conferences, meetings and seminars, where he gave keynote speeches or participated in panels or discussions on the Treaty. During these events, the Executive Secretary met with a number of prominent figures from academia, leading think tanks and other non-governmental entities.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

During 2017, the public web site and social media outlets of the CTBTO averaged more than 205,000 visits per month. The Commission also continued to expand its presence on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Flickr.

The 42 videos that were added to the CTBTO YouTube channel in 2017 attracted over 100,000 views. Among the most viewed videos were those from SnT2017 as well as the media briefing following the announced nuclear test by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The Public Information Section also released several videos related to the installation of hydro-acoustic station HA4 in the Crozet Islands (France).

SnT2017 generated much attention on social media and online. The conference was among the top trends on Twitter in Vienna in June (#SnT2017). Active participation of CTBTO Youth Group members in the conference and content on the Youth Newsroom of the public web site generated significant interest. Interactive exhibits at SnT2017, such as the OmniGlobe and an exhibit on the installation of hydro-acoustic station HA4, were very popular.

The most newsworthy stories of the year – on the announced nuclear test, SnT2017 and the contribution of the organization to the search for the Argentinian submarine ARA San Juan – highlighted the technical capabilities and effectiveness of the verification regime. These events generated a considerable level of interest in the work of the organization and requests for more detailed information about its activities.

The CTBTO Youth Group was another 2017 highlight, in particular because of the new Youth Newsroom on the public web site, its contribution to SnT2017 and the first CTBTO Youth Conference in Moscow. The conference brought together nationals of seven of the eight remaining Annex 2 States and was widely covered by Russian media.

The year 2017 also offered numerous opportunities to present exhibits on the work of the Commission at a wide range of external meetings, conferences and similar events such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Mexico), the World Science Forum (Jordan), TEDx Adventures (Vienna), the Long Night of Research (Vienna), the Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference (Washington, DC), the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT (Vienna) and the Open Day of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

**GLOBAL MEDIA COVERAGE**

Global media coverage of the Treaty and its verification regime remained high, with more than 1360 articles and citations in online media. These included interviews with the Executive Secretary by Xinhua News Agency,

**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 provide 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 2017, 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.