The outreach activities of the Commission aim to encourage the signature and ratification of the Treaty, to enhance understanding of its objectives, principles and verification regime and of the functions of the Commission, and to 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 2018, 184 States had signed and 167 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 2018. 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

To ensure an integrated and proactive approach to advancing ratification of the CTBT by the remaining Annex 2 States, a group comprised of eminent personalities and internationally recognized experts was launched by the Executive Secretary in 2013. Through the expertise, experience and personal networks of its members, the Group of Eminent Persons has supported and complemented efforts to raise the profile of the Treaty. The CTBTO Youth Group was launched in February 2016 to transfer knowledge of the CTBT to the next generation of leaders and, in turn, revitalize the discussion on the Treaty amongst civil society. The CTBTO Youth Group has become a robust platform to build peer-to-peer relationships and foster much needed dialogue, facilitating an understanding of the CTBT, its verification regime and the invaluable benefits it provides to the planet and its citizens. The group, which started out with fewer than a dozen members, now has approximately 650 members, representing more than 90 countries. The CTBTO Youth 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.

These two outreach bodies aim to support and complement the work of the Commission towards the further universalization and entry into force of the Treaty. As a result of their political standing and influential network, members of the Group of Eminent Persons can help place the CTBT at the top of the global security agenda by outlining strategic priorities necessary for entry into force. Members of the CTBTO Youth Group, with their energy and ability to quickly mobilize, can help execute activities to support the strategic priorities of the Commission.

Revitalizing the discussion around the CTBT, members of the Group of Eminent Persons and the CTBTO Youth Group participated in a number of events around the world, including the 2nd CTBT Science Diplomacy Symposium, the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT and the Paris Peace Forum. They also organized two side events in connection with the Second Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), on the mutually reinforcing relationship between the CTBT and the NPT and on the role of the CTBT as a potential blueprint for a nuclear-weapon-free zone on the Korean Peninsula.

Together with members of the Group of Eminent Persons, CTBTO Youth Group members have worked on developing global and regional strategies to promote universalization and entry into force of the Treaty, notably during a joint international conference in Kazakhstan in August 2018.

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. He participated in several bilateral meetings and other high level events at which he met several Heads of State and Government. These included the Presidents of Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Iceland, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation and the Emir of Kuwait. The Executive Secretary also met with the Prime Ministers of Madagascar and the Republic of Korea, as well as the Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
During his visits and in Vienna, the Executive Secretary met with Foreign Ministers and other ministers of States Signatories and observers. They included the Foreign Ministers of Austria, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, China, the Comoros, Japan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Niger, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda and Spain. He also met the Minister of Energy of Algeria; the Minister for Science and Technology of Ethiopia; the State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of Slovenia; the Minister of Defence of Côte d’Ivoire; the Minister for Science, Technology and the Environment of Cuba; the Chief Scientific Adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, of the United Kingdom; the Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan; the Vice Minister of Energy of Ecuador; the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq; the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy; the Deputy Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change of Malaysia; the Minister of Mines and Energy of Namibia; the Minister of Defense of Tunisia, the Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa; and the Deputy Minister of Energy of South Africa.

The Executive Secretary also met other senior government representatives from the following States Signatories and observers: Belgium, Denmark, France, Jordan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

Promoting parliamentary engagement, the Executive Secretary met the speakers of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, as well as parliamentarians from Austria, the Comoros, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Madagascar and the European Parliament.

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 International Atomic Energy Agency, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the African Union, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations General Assembly and its First Committee, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

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 the United Nations, the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Chair of the African Union Commission, the
Chairperson of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, the Chair of the Political Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie and the United Nations Acting Special Representative for the Central African Republic.

The Executive Secretary addressed the seventy-third session of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, the ninth Friends of the CTBT Ministerial Meeting, and several international gatherings, including the Forum for Security Co-operation of the OSCE, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meeting, the Fourth Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba, the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, the Academy of Science South Africa–World Academy of Sciences–American Association for the Advancement of Science Regional Workshop on Science Diplomacy, the Annual Meeting of the African Aeronautics and Space Organisation and the Political Affairs Committee of the Francophonie Parliamentary Assembly. He also attended the Paris Peace Forum and the Valdai Discussion Club.

On the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, the Executive Secretary participated in an international conference hosted by Kazakhstan in Astana and attended by the Group of Eminent Persons and the CTBTO Youth Group. He also delivered a keynote speech at the high level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

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

The CTBTO public web site and social media channels averaged more than 381 000 visits per month in 2018. The Commission continued to expand its presence on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. As of December 2018, the CTBTO Twitter page had approximately 16 000 followers and the CTBTO Facebook page had over 14 000 likes.

Twenty-one new videos were added to the CTBTO YouTube channel in 2018. There were 64 000 video views over the course of the year. Videos from the 2nd CTBT Science Diplomacy Symposium and the video “Putting an End to Nuclear Explosions”, in which a data analyst describes what it was like to work at the PTS on the day the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea announced it had conducted a nuclear test, were the most viewed.

On Flickr, images from the 2nd CTBT Science Diplomacy Symposium were the most viewed. The inaugural issue of “Newsroom”, the magazine of the CTBTO Youth Group, also generated significant interest.

The International Day against Nuclear Tests was another highlight. As part of the commemorations, an international conference was hosted by Kazakhstan and attended by members of the Group of Eminent Persons and the CTBTO Youth Group. In addition, a global art campaign was jointly launched by the Commission and Paz y Cooperación, a Spanish non-governmental organization. There were 75 media articles covering events related to the International Day against Nuclear Tests, with more than 20 articles covering the international conference in Kazakhstan.

Exhibits on the work of the Commission were posted at a wide range of external meetings, conferences and similar events, such as the International conference in Kazakhstan; the Paris Peace Forum; the International Convention on Science, Technology and Innovation in Cuba; and the Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the CTBT, where the video “Putting an End to Nuclear Explosions” was shown.

Global Media Coverage

Global media coverage of the Treaty and its verification regime remained high, with more than 3900 articles and citations in online media. These included interviews with the Executive Secretary by AFP, AP, The Astana Times, BBC, CNN, France 24, Nature, NHK World, Reuters, Sky News, Vesti, the Wall Street Journal and 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 2018, 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.
Poster announcing the global art campaign for the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

Inaugural issue of “Newsroom”, the magazine of the CTBTO Youth Group.

Twitter feed of the Commission.