

# POLICY MAKING

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2018

Developments on the Korean Peninsula

Decision to join the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Review of the functioning of the Advisory Group

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 Working Group B (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 of the Commission and Its Subsidiary Bodies in 2018

Body	Session	Dates	Chairperson
Preparatory Commission	Fiftieth Fifty-First	2-3 July 7-9 November	Ambassador Maria Accili Sabbatini (Italy)
Working Group A	Fifty-Third Fifty-Fourth	11-13 June 17 October	Ambassador Maria Accili Sabbatini (Italy) Ambassador Lotfi Bouchaara (Morocco)
Working Group B	Fiftieth Fifty-First	12-23 March 27 August-7 September	Mr Joachim Schulze (Germany)
Advisory Group	Fiftieth Fifty-First	14-18 May 25-27 September	Mr Michael Weston (United Kingdom)

### Meetings in 2018

The Commission and its subsidiary bodies each met in two regular sessions in 2018.

Among the major issues addressed by the Commission during 2018 were the promotion of the Treaty and advances towards its universality, including ratification of the CTBT by Thailand and signature of the Treaty by Tuvalu; calling for signature and ratification of the Treaty by the remaining States, especially the Annex 2 States; the situation on the Korean Peninsula and latest positive developments; progress towards completion of the verification regime of the Treaty; and the activities of the organization.

### 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 the 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. The ECS is a single sign-on infrastructure of the Commission that provides a platform for continuous and inclusive discussion among States Signatories and experts on scientific and technical issues related to the verification regime.

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.



Sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in 2018.

## ***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.

## **Developments on the Korean Peninsula**

During the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, States Signatories took note of the positive developments on the Korean Peninsula. They welcomed the Inter-Korean Summits, the Panmunjom Declaration, the joint statement by United States President Donald J. Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the Singapore Summit as well as the summits between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

They urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take concrete steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization and to maintain its declared suspension of nuclear weapons testing. The parties were encouraged to engage seriously in the follow-on negotiations.

States Signatories highlighted the importance of verifiable closure and dismantlement of the nuclear test sites of the country and the potential role of CTBT expertise and capabilities, subject to the approval of the Commission. They also urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to sign and ratify the Treaty.

## **Transition from the Provident Fund to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund**

At its Forty-Ninth Session, the Commission mandated the PTS to file an application and enter into negotiations for membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF).

At its Fiftieth Session, the Commission approved joining the UNJSPF as of 1 January 2019. It also approved the draft agreement between the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and the Commission as to the conditions governing the admission of the Commission to the UNJSPF.

With the approval of the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-third session, the Commission became a UNJSPF member organization as of 1 January 2019.



*Fifty-First Session of the Preparatory Commission.*

## **Review of the Functioning of the Advisory Group**

The Commission and Working Group A reviewed the functioning of the Advisory Group. They expressed satisfaction regarding the contribution of the Advisory Group and highlighted the importance of considering its functioning. To that end, it was decided to hold further consultations.

## **Appointment of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of Working Group A**

The Commission appointed Ambassador Lotfi Bouchaara of Morocco as the Chairperson and Ambassador Brendon Charles Hammer of Australia and Ambassador Károly Dán of Hungary as the Vice-Chairpersons of Working Group A for a term expiring on 31 December 2020.