OUTREACH
HIGHLIGHTS

Growing high level engagement with States

Comprehensive public and media outreach strategy

Active involvement of youth in outreach activities of the organization

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 2019, 184 States had signed and 168 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 2019. 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. 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.

Members of the Group of Eminent Persons restated their “unwavering commitment” to promoting the Treaty as a pillar of the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture.

At their annual coordination meeting, held on 24 to 25 June in Vienna’s Hofburg Palace, the Group of Eminent Persons agreed a declaration reaffirming their commitment to advancing a world free of nuclear testing and enhancing cooperation to promote the Treaty’s entry into force.

The declaration recognizes that “the CTBT constitutes the most effective and practical non-proliferation and disarmament measure within grasp of the international community,” and calls on all countries to “continue their support in advancing the entry into force of the Treaty as the most practical step towards nuclear disarmament, notably during the upcoming 2020 NPT Review Conference”.

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 CTBTO 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 and interactive means of delivering information); and to place the CTBT on the global agenda. Since its launch in 2016, the CTBTO Youth Group has grown to over 800 members. A considerable number of its members come from the Annex 2 States whose ratification is needed for the CTBT to enter into force.

In 2019, CTBTO Youth Group members participated in, among other events: the Paris Talks on 15 March; a Youth for Peace and Disarmament event co-hosted with the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizenship on 31 May in Seoul, Republic of Korea; SnT2019 from 22 to 28 June; a workshop on New Tools for Verifying Disarmament and Nonproliferation hosted by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies from 8 to 10 July in Monterey, United States of America; a Science Diplomacy Workshop from 12 to 13 September in Quito, Ecuador; the eleventh Article XIV Conference; the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Mexican Geophysical Union from 27 October to 1 November in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; and the Moscow Nuclear Non-Proliferation Conference and young professionals seminar on CTBT: Treaty’s Impact on the International Non-Proliferation Regime and Assessment of the Current State of Affairs from 7 to 12 November.

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

On 31 May 2019, the Executive Secretary delivered a keynote speech at a youth event with former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and former Austrian President Heinz Fischer in Seoul, Republic of Korea, together with Korean members of the Group of Eminent Persons and CTBTO Youth Group.
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.

The Executive Secretary participated in several bilateral meetings and other high level events at which he met several heads of State and Government, including President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe, President Adama Barrow of the Gambia, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan, President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré of Burkina Faso, former Prime Minister Enele Sosene Sopoaga of Tuvalu, the late Prime Minister Samiuʻelā ‘Akilisi Pōhiva of Tonga and Prime Minister Manasseh Damukana Sogavare of the Solomon Islands.

During his visits and in Vienna, the Executive Secretary also met with foreign ministers and other ministers of States Signatories and observers. They included foreign ministers of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Malta, Mongolia, Rwanda, Slovakia, Sweden and Zimbabwe.

Promoting parliamentary engagement, the Executive Secretary also met the Speaker of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, a parliamentary member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, and the chair of the National Defense Committee of the Republic of Korea.

A high level delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF) visited the Executive Secretary in Vienna on 19 February 2019. The delegation included the Parliamentary Secretary General of the APF, the President of the National Assembly of Madagascar and Vice-President of the APF, the Chairman of the APF Political Committee as well as several advisers.

The Executive Secretary addressed the forty-fifth plenary session of the APF, held from 7 to 8 July 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in the context of an international campaign for the entry into force of the CTBT initiated and launched by the APF in February 2019 in Vienna.
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.

During these meetings and conferences, the Executive Secretary met with a number of heads and other senior officials of international and regional organizations.

On 23 January, the Executive Secretary participated in the panel discussion “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: Possible Measures to Strengthen the Treaty’s Normative Standing”, hosted by the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

On the margins of the Munich Security Conference in Germany from 15 to 17 February, the Executive Secretary met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, the Minister for the Armed Forces of France, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Speaker of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the German Federal Government Commissioner for Disarmament and Arms Control, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda and the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security of the United States of America.

While in the Dominican Republic from 27 February to 2 March, the Executive Secretary met with the Rector and senior faculty members of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and visited the NDC located at the National Seismic Institute of the university. The Executive Secretary also met with senior faculty members and students at the Santo Domingo Institute of Technology.

On 10 April, the Executive Secretary met with the Director of the Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI), at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C., who was accompanied by the PONI Mid-Career Cadre of experts.

From 24 to 29 April, the Executive Secretary participated in a roundtable at the Council on Foreign Relations on the CTBT, met with leading academics and think tank experts, visited the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, held a meeting with the President of the seventy-third Session of the United Nations General Assembly and met with the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Japan and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan.

The Executive Secretary delivered a lecture on “Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the role of CTBTO” at the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea on 29 May.

On 1 June, the Executive Secretary participated in the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, and had several bilateral meetings with senior government officials.

From 13 to 14 June, the Executive Secretary visited Trieste, Italy, where he delivered an address to The World Academy of Sciences and held meetings with its President and other officials.

On 28 June, on the margins of the SnT2019 conference, the Executive Secretary again met with the Rector of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and a delegation from the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic.

On mission in the United States of America from 21 to 26 July, the Executive Secretary held meetings at the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the National Academy of Sciences and the United States Institute of Peace. Technical discussions were also held at the Air Force Technical Applications Center.

On 29 July, the Executive Secretary delivered an address at the Centennial Celebration of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris, France.

The Executive Secretary addressed the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland, on 30 July.

On 6 August, the Executive Secretary participated in the annual Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony and had bilateral meetings with the mayor of Hiroshima, Mr Kazumi Matsui.
The Executive Secretary attended the 50th Pacific Islands Forum in Funafuti, Tuvalu, from 10 to 16 August, during which he addressed the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting on issues related to the CTBT and the contributions of the monitoring technologies to climate change and other civil and scientific applications.

On 22 August, in Vienna, the Executive Secretary met with the President of the United Nations General Assembly, and, together with representatives from other Vienna based organizations, attended a luncheon that was hosted in honour of the President.

The Executive Secretary participated in a ceremony in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, from 28 to 29 August in commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests. During the ceremony, the Executive Secretary and the late Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano, were named laureates of the Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World and Global Security, acknowledging their contribution to global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

The Executive Secretary delivered a keynote speech at the High-Level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests, held in New York, United States of America, on 9 September.

The Executive Secretary participated in the panel entitled “Picking Up the Pieces in a Fractured World: Rebuilding Trust in Multilateralism for Peace and Security” held at the International Peace Institute in New York, United States of America, on 23 September.

The Executive Secretary attended the 50th Pacific Islands Forum held in Brussels, Belgium, from 4 to 6 October, where he received a Development Champion Award. He also held a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Forum.

The Executive Secretary delivered a speech at the Cuba Science Diplomacy Workshop Serie de Talleres Internacionales, held in Havana, Cuba, on 14 October.

The Executive Secretary visited the Dominican Republic to deliver an address to the Dominican Republic Science Diplomacy Workshop, held in Santo Domingo, on 15 October. During the mission, the Executive Secretary was awarded an honorary professorship from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo.

Upon an invitation from the Government, the Executive Secretary visited Switzerland from 4 to 5 November. The visit marked the twentieth anniversary of the ratification of the Treaty by Switzerland. During the visit, the Executive Secretary met with the Foreign Minister of Switzerland and gave a lecture at the university of ETH Zurich.

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Commission recorded a monthly average of more than 760,000 visits to the CTBTO public web site and social media channels YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Flickr during 2019. This was roughly double the previous year’s total, helped by coverage of important biennial events such as the SnT2019 conference and the Article XIV conference. As of December 2019, the CTBTO Twitter page had nearly 19,000 followers and the Facebook page had over 14,600 likes.

Multimedia production also rose, with 49 videos posted to the CTBTO YouTube channel in 2019, gaining almost 83,000 views. Social media channels further expanded their impact, generating nearly 97,000 video views on the CTBTO’s Twitter account and reposts on the United Nations account, and more than 12,000 views on the CTBTO Facebook page. The most viewed videos were “How to Find a Nuclear Test?” which showcases the training of OSI inspectors, and “Early Monsoon Warning Using Beryllium-7” on how scientists have found a way to predict coming monsoons at least 30 days in advance by observing natural radioactivity in the air.

On Flickr, the most viewed images were from the SnT2019 conference, held from 24 to 28 June. There was also considerable interest in images from the joint Commission and Paz y Cooperación Global Scholar Art Campaign, launched in 2018 and concluded in 2019.

The Commission took full advantage of meetings, conferences and events throughout the year to extensively promote and explain its work. It provided extensive coverage of the SnT2019 conference through its web site and social media channels, and facilitated coverage by a range of media including journalists from France, India, Israel and Zimbabwe. Social media reach was greatly boosted through the innovation of a direct collaboration with a social media specialist from the United Nations Department of Public Information. CTBTO Youth Group members took part in a journalism project during the conference to hone their reporting, writing and social media skills, producing video and social media materials and publishing a daily update on the conference.

The International Day against Nuclear Tests was strongly highlighted. A joint message from the Executive Secretary and
the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan was actively promoted through social media and the web site and formed a key pillar of an event commemorating the day at the CTBTO’s Vienna Headquarters. The event also included a message from the United Nations Secretary-General and an exhibition of winning artworks from the Global Scholar Art Campaign. In Kazakhstan, the awarding of the Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World and Global Security to the Executive Secretary and the late Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano, received widespread attention in the media and on social media. In total, approximately 270 media articles covered events related to the International Day against Nuclear Tests, including the United Nations high level plenary meeting that was subsequently held in New York on 9 September.

The Commission provided live streaming of the full Article XIV conference in New York on 25 September via United Nations Web TV, and also posted live tweets of key comments throughout the day. A two minute video on the conference and a series of shorter video pieces and interviews were rolled out through the following weeks and featured on CTBTO’s social media channels, which highlighted the continued need for the entry into force of the CTBT.

GLOBAL MEDIA COVERAGE


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 2019, 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.
SnT2019 Global Art Campaign Award Ceremony.

Facebook page of the Commission.

CTBTO visit for Indian journalists, May 2019.