POLICY MAKING
HIGHLIGHTS

Review of developments on the Korean Peninsula

Adoption of 2020-2021 biennial Programme and Budget Proposals

Appointment of the Chairperson of Working Group A

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 OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN 2019

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MEETINGS IN 2019

The Commission and its subsidiary bodies each met in two regular sessions in 2019.

Among the major issues addressed by the Commission during 2019 were the promotion of the Treaty and advances towards its universality, including ratification of the CTBT by Zimbabwe and the intention of the government of Cuba to sign the CTBT; encouraging initiatives to further advance the Treaty; calling for signature and ratification of the Treaty by the remaining States, especially the Annex 2 States; welcoming the eleventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty on 25 September 2019; the importance of the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula; 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.

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 diplomatic efforts, including through holding summits by all Parties involved in this process, and encouraged a continued dialogue to this end.

They took note with encouragement the statement by the People’s Democratic Republic of Korea in April 2018 concerning a moratorium on nuclear tests, and efforts towards the dismantlement of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site.

State Signatories reiterated the importance of the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, including through Six-Party Talks.

They also called upon the People’s Democratic Republic of Korea to sign and ratify the CTBT.

REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

The Commission and WGA 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 OF WORKING GROUP A

The Commission appointed Ambassador Nada Kruger of Namibia as the Chairperson of WGA for a term expiring on 31 December 2021.