CTBTO Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo was awarded the title of Commander of the National Order of Burkina Faso, the country’s highest honour, in January 2015. He received the award for his work towards the preservation of peace and international security as head of the CTBTO and prior to this, as Director of the organization’s International Data Centre Division. Zerbo received the award from the Grand Chancellor of the National Orders of Burkina Faso, Mamadou Djerma, in the name of the President of Burkina Faso.

Austria’s Director for Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Alexander Kmentt was elected as the “2014 Arms Control Person of the Year” for his significant achievements and contributions to reducing the threats posed by the world’s most dangerous weapons in the past year. This commendation has been issued by the Arms Control Association since 2007. Among the past winners are CTBTO Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo (2013), Kazakhstan’s Deputy Foreign Minister Kairat Umarov (2010), U.S. Senator Richard Lugar (2009), and former Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre (2008). Between 2006 and 2011 Kmentt served as the Special Assistant to the CTBTO’s Executive Secretary.

Thierry Dubourg joined the CTBTO as Director of the Administration Division in early 2014. Previously Dubourg held positions in Budget, Finance and Internal Administration with the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA). From 1997 to 2009, he was the first Chief of the Financial Services Section at the CTBTO, where he was responsible for setting up its structure, procedures and reporting tools. Among his successes was the implementation of a split currency system, which protected the organization against US Dollar/Euro fluctuations.

Former British Defence Secretary Desmond Browne (left) and former Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor S. Ivanov (right), both members of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM, see also page 4), are this year’s recipients of the Nunn-Lugar Award for Promoting Nuclear Security.

The Nunn-Lugar Award was initiated in 2012 in honour of U.S. Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, who were also the award’s first recipients. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Carnegie Corporation of New York created the award to recognize an individual or institution whose work has helped strengthen global security and further peaceful co-existence among nations by preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and reducing the risk of their use.

Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Jayantha Dhanapala, received the 2014 Inter Press Service International Achievement Award for Nuclear Disarmament.

The award for championing a world free of nuclear weapons is co-sponsored by the Tokyo-based Soka Gakkai International, which is leading a global campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Dhanapala is currently the President of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, Deputy Chairman of the Governing Board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, a member of the GEM, and a member of several other advisory boards of international bodies.