

**OPENING STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
AT THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF
THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION**

INTRODUCTION

1. I am pleased to welcome Ms Angela Kane, High Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. We are delighted to have her participate at this session of the Preparatory Commission and appreciate her inspiring address.
2. I had the honour to receive the former President of Nigeria, Mr Olusegun Obasanjo, and the President of Armenia, Mr Serzh Sargsyan, here in Vienna on 27 March and 12 June respectively. We discussed various issues related to the Treaty, including its security benefits. I should note that we are heartened by their commitment to advancing the Treaty and their good offices in this respect. On behalf of the Commission I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Obasanjo and President Sargsyan for their vision and readiness to lend support to the ongoing efforts towards universalization of the Treaty.
3. During the Forty-Fifth Session of Working Group A (WGA) I briefly reported on my visits to States Signatories since February.
4. I visited Israel from 18 to 20 March. I had very useful meetings with the Foreign Minister, Mr Avigdor Lieberman, the Minister of Strategic and Intelligence Affairs, Mr Yuval Steinitz, and the head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, Mr Shaul Chorev.
5. From 12 to 16 April I went to Argentina, where I held very constructive discussions with the Foreign Minister, Mr Héctor Timerman, who is also a member of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM). In addition, I visited our International Monitoring System (IMS) facilities in Bariloche and Buenos Aires and discussed the establishment of the remaining stations to be hosted by Argentina. This was my first visit to Latin America as the head of this organization.

6. I travelled to Ecuador from 20 to 23 April and met with Leonardo Arízaga, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, and several high level officials. State officials expressed their firm commitment to the swift establishment of the two planned IMS stations in Ecuador. These include infrasound station IS20 and radionuclide station RN24, both to be located on Isla Santa Cruz in the Galapagos Islands.
7. I also met with Mr Marty Natalegawa, Foreign Minister of Indonesia, on the margins of a regional conference on the Treaty in Indonesia on 18 and 19 May. We discussed the promotion of the Treaty globally as well as in the South East Asia, the Pacific and the Far East (SEAPFE) region.
8. We thank Israel, Argentina, Ecuador and Indonesia for their dedication to the Treaty and the work of the Commission and their full cooperation with the organization.
9. On 10 March, I met with United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and Ms Angela Kane in New York to discuss advancements in the establishment of the verification regime and measures to promote the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty.
10. On 16 March, I addressed the 130th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva, Switzerland, and also met with Mr Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, and Ms Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, to discuss our mutual interests.
11. I appreciate the expression of strong support for the Treaty and its entry to force by the Group of Seven in its declaration on nonproliferation and disarmament issued on 5 June. The declaration refers to the Treaty as an essential component of security and urges its early entry into force and universalization. It calls for completion of the verification regime and strengthening of the Provisional Technical Secretariat. It also welcomes the establishment and activities of GEM.

GROUP OF EMINENT PERSONS

12. The second meeting of GEM was held in Stockholm on 10 and 11 April. The meeting was an occasion for focused discussions on possible strategic approaches and modes of action for promotion of the Treaty and its entry into force.
13. After two days of brainstorming, GEM members agreed to work closely with the Commission to promote universality of the Treaty. To that end, a number of strategies were identified. These include media outreach activities, participation in high level events, direct engagement with policy makers, and networking and promotion of the Treaty.
14. I wish, once again, to thank the Government of Sweden for hosting the meeting and its generous contribution.

15. Upon the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Hungary, the next GEM meeting will be held in Budapest in November. In addition, the Foreign Minister of Italy has extended an invitation to host a GEM event and a scientific conference in Rome in March 2015.

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEM

16. The IPSAS-compliant Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system was successfully launched on 5 May and has been functioning effectively.
17. The project was completed on time, within budget and according to plan. Compared with the experience of other international organizations, in terms of time and budget, this can be considered a major accomplishment of the Commission.
18. Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to States Signatories for their continuous and instrumental contributions throughout the project. You made this success possible. Therefore this success is indeed yours.
19. I equally thank the staff of the organization, in particular the ERP team, and our implementation partners for their tireless efforts during the last two years.

2014 ON-SITE INSPECTION FIELD EXERCISE

20. We have made further headway in preparations for the 2014 Integrated Field Exercise (IFE). This is the largest field exercise ever undertaken. Very close coordination has been established with Jordan as the host country.
21. More than two hundred experts, from States Signatories, the host country and the organization, will take part in the exercise. Plans have been made to allow representatives of States Signatories to observe the IFE activities, through a VIP visit and observer programmes. We encourage you to make use of these unique opportunities.
22. Furthermore, the work on scenario implementation has continued in order to ensure a comprehensive and scientifically credible scenario. Members of the IFE project management team visited Jordan in March. Discussions centred on site preparations, various logistical arrangements and legal issues. Upon completion of a detailed site modification report, another visit to Jordan is scheduled at the end of this month for quality control of the site preparations.
23. Here I should express our appreciation to the Government of Jordan for its cooperation with the Commission.
24. Most of the equipment supplied by States Signatories as contributions in kind has been delivered to the Equipment Storage and Maintenance Facility (ESMF) for final testing and training purposes.

25. Training and field testing have intensified since January. Activities included a field test in Jordan in March to approve the configuration of the airborne gamma radiation spectroscopy system and the multispectral including infrared imaging system. Deep ranging electromagnetic and reflection seismic equipment were tested in Hungary in March. A joint test of the Geographical Information System and the Integrated Information Management System was undertaken at the ESMF in March. A noble gas equipment test and a noble gas and radionuclide in-depth technical training course were held at the ESMF in April and in May respectively.
26. We are presently conducting training at the ESMF for IFE participants. These are our last training and testing activities prior to the IFE. They address methodology, data processing and information flow as well as health and safety. Interaction between the inspected State Party and the inspection team, communications and navigation issues are also included in the programme.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF HYDROACOUSTIC STATION HA3

27. I am pleased to inform you that after four years of continuous work the repair of hydroacoustic station HA3 in the Juan Fernández Islands (Chile) has come to completion. The station is now reconnected to the International Data Centre.
28. This has been the most complex reconstruction project in the history of our organization. The key factor in this undertaking was your dedication, for which I am grateful.

2015 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET PROPOSALS

29. The initial draft programme and budget proposals for 2015 (CTBT/PTS/INF.1280 and Corr.1) were presented to you in April. The budget has been the subject of discussions during informal open-ended consultations, the recent session of the Advisory Group and the Forty-Fifth Session of WGA.
30. The 2015 Programme and Budget and its resource allocation are based on two overarching factors. These are the strategic goals of the Midterm Strategy (MTS) for 2014-2017 and the current environment of financial austerity.
31. In my opening statement at WGA, I presented a summary of our programmes and activities planned for 2015. In brief, they include continued build-up and sustainment of our verification regime, further advancement of the on-site inspection capabilities of the organization as well as capacity building activities.
32. In spite of the numerous tasks planned for next year, the proposed budget remains at zero real growth. Nevertheless, we shall carry on seeking cost saving measures and efficiency gains. You can find additional information on such measures in the initial draft budget document.

VOLUNTARY SUPPORT FORUM

33. The Voluntary Support Forum (VSF) will be initiated on 17 June. Invitations have been sent to approximately 50 States Signatories which have provided voluntary contributions to the activities of the Commission in the past. Participation in the forum will be open to future donors.
34. On previous occasions, I have elaborated on the purpose of this initiative. The main objective is to ensure that voluntary contributions serve the strategic goals of the MTS.
35. The forum will attempt to consolidate our efforts in mobilizing extrabudgetary funding. It aims to strengthen our interaction with donors. It seeks increased transparency regarding the appropriation of voluntary contributions and their outcomes, thus enhancing accountability.
36. We will keep you informed on the activities of the VSF and report on the results of its first meeting at the next session of the Commission.

CONFERENCE FOR THE SOUTH EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC AND THE FAR EAST REGION

37. The conference for States in the SEAPFE region was held on 19-20 May in Jakarta.
38. The conference was opened by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Mr Marty Natalegawa. Senior officials from the region, including the Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, attended the conference. Several members of GEM also addressed the gathering.
39. We held a high level panel discussion on entry into force and universalization of the Treaty and the role of the Treaty in regional and international peace and security.
40. Following the discussion, four substantive sessions covered issues related to the verification regime and its technologies. Other topics included the civil and scientific applications of the verification technologies, capacity building, and the legal framework and assistance available to States Signatories.
41. I consider such initiatives at the regional level to be very useful vehicles for raising the profile of the Treaty and emphasizing the significance of its entry into force.
42. I thank the Governments of Indonesia and Japan as well as the European Union for their full cooperation before and during the conference.

ACADEMIC FORUM

43. Approximately 40 academics from a diverse range of universities and research institutes, representing 20 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America, attended our second academic forum from 8 to 9 May. Sponsored by

the European Union and Norway, the event was part of our educational and capacity building activities, which seek to train and educate the next generation of CTBT experts.

44. Participants exchanged ideas on the educational and research opportunities with regard to the Treaty and the activities of the Commission. Educators shared their experience in teaching courses on policy, as well as on the legal, technical and scientific aspects of the Treaty. The online educational resources developed by the Commission were reviewed. Participants also devised ways of integrating Treaty related material into international security and nuclear disarmament curricula at their institutions. The format and content of potential courses were also debated.
45. It is encouraging that a number of universities offer specific courses on the Treaty or have included it in studies of broader security issues.
46. With academic backgrounds ranging from international relations and law to science, engineering and physics, participants repeatedly stressed the importance of interdisciplinary research based on both policy and technical expertise.
47. In this context we announced the creation of fellowship opportunities for advanced research in these areas. Integrated in our organizational structure, the fellows will carry out research on developments in the verification technologies and their impact on the prospects for the entry into force of the Treaty. These fellowships will be funded by the European Union.
48. The gathering noted the sharing of monitoring data with academic institutions by the Commission through its virtual Data Exploitation Centre, which enables scholars to use the data for research purposes. It also reviewed other avenues of collaboration between the Commission and academic institutions.

CONCLUSION

49. Finally, we are working hard to secure additional ratifications of the Treaty, thereby reinforcing the established international norm against nuclear tests.
50. Our attempts in this respect are focused on some States Signatories in Africa and Asia. Registering 165 ratifications is within reach. I hope we will witness the fruit of our efforts by the end of 2014.