
REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the decision of the Thirty-First Session of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBT/PC-31/1/Annex XIV), the Preparatory Commission held its Thirty-Second Session from 8 to 9 June 2009 at the Vienna International Centre (VIC).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. The session was opened on 8 June by the Chairperson of the Commission, HE Ambassador Peter Shannon, Permanent Representative of Australia. Mr Bozorgmehr Ziaran, of the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS), served as Secretary of the Commission and Secretary on Working Group A (WGA) matters. Mr Arne Bell served as Secretary on Working Group B (WGB) and Advisory Group (AG) matters.
3. The following States Signatories participated in the session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, the Holy See, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe. Pakistan attended as an observer.

4. The list of documents for the Thirty-Second Session of the Commission is contained in document CTBT/PC-32/3.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. At its first plenary meeting on 8 June, the Commission adopted the agenda as contained in CTBT/PC-32/INF.3 with the following agenda items:
 1. Adoption of the agenda
 2. Report of the Executive Secretary
 3. Consideration of the report of Working Group B and appropriate action thereon
 4. Consideration of the report of Working Group A and appropriate action thereon
 5. Consideration of the report of the Advisory Group and appropriate action thereon
 6. Consideration of the initial draft 2010 Programme and Budget
 7. Appointments and elections
 8. Date and possible agenda of the next session
 9. Consideration of the report of the Credentials Committee
 10. Any other business
 - 10.1. Request from Palestine for observer status with the Commission
 11. Adoption of the report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

6. At the first plenary meeting, Mr Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary, made his opening statement (CTBT/PC-32/ES/1). The statement focused on the announced nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the performance of the Treaty's verification system after the test, the International Scientific Studies (ISS) Conference, the ongoing preparations for the September 2009 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in New York, the evaluation of the 2008 on-site inspection Integrated Field Exercise (IFE) in Kazakhstan, the 2010 Programme and Budget proposals and the entry into force of the Treaty.
7. The Commission considered the written reports of the Executive Secretary (CTBT/PC-32/INF.1 and Corr.1, as well as CTBT/ES/2009/1) and his opening statement. The Commission also considered the Executive Secretary's annual report for 2008 (CTBT/PC-32/INF.2 and Corr.1). The Commission expressed appreciation for the reports of the Executive Secretary and the work of the PTS, and especially for its prompt response to the announced nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 25 May 2009.

8. The Commission took note of the reports of the Executive Secretary. Recent ratifications by Lebanon and Malawi were welcomed and the need for all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay was emphasized.
9. Particular note was taken of the Executive Secretary's comments regarding the alleged nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The meeting of States Signatories on 26 May 2009 was recalled during which a large number of States Signatories had made statements regarding the announcement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it had conducted an underground nuclear test on 25 May 2009, expressing their deep concern, condemnation and firm opposition. The performance of the monitoring system of the Treaty in response to the announced test was noted with satisfaction. It was stated that the test served to underscore the need for the Treaty to enter into force as soon as possible.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF WORKING GROUP B AND APPROPRIATE ACTION THEREON

10. At the second plenary meeting on 8 June, Mr Hein Haak (Netherlands), Chairperson of WGB, presented the report of the Thirty-Second Session of WGB (CTBT/PC-32/WGB/1) and the report of the Extraordinary Session of WGB (CTBT/PC-32/WGB/2). In his presentation, Mr Haak highlighted, in addition to the four recommendations contained in the report of the Thirty-Second Session of WGB, other key technical issues considered by the Working Group at both sessions. He also referred to: the paper outlining elements of a work plan for WGA and WGB over the next three years; and the intention of the Chairpersons to produce a revised version of their earlier paper in advance of the next session of WGB in August–September 2009.
11. The Commission invited WGB to examine its method of work with a view to enhancing its efficiency and effectiveness. The examination might take into account the workload of WGB, the greater use of intersessional work and greater use of electronic communication, but without loss of transparency and involvement of all members. WGB is requested to report thereon to the Thirty-Third Session of the Commission.
12. The Commission adopted the reports of WGB as a whole, including all recommendations contained therein.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF WORKING GROUP A AND APPROPRIATE ACTION THEREON

13. At the second plenary meeting, Ambassador Abdulkadir Bin Rimdap (Nigeria), Chairperson of WGA, presented the report of the Thirty-Fifth Session of WGA (CTBT/PC-32/WGA/1). In his presentation, Ambassador Rimdap highlighted the following issues in addition to the four recommendations contained in the report: consideration of the AG recommendation on restoration of the voting rights of Georgia; and the decision of WGA to postpone consideration of the status of on-site inspection inspectors and inspection assistants as well as the proposed mechanisms to manage post-certification activity costs to its Thirty-Sixth Session.

14. The Commission adopted the report of WGA as a whole, including all recommendations contained therein. In order to minimize the financial burden on States Signatories in 2010 and to avoid increases in the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) budgets for 2011 and 2012, supplementary appropriations of US\$13.5 million for the Capital Investment Fund – Installation (CIF-I) and US\$1.5 million for the Capital Investment Fund – Sustainment (CIF-S) were approved by the Commission (Annex I to the present report). The supplementary appropriations would enable the CIF-I budgets for 2011 and 2012 to remain flat, and could leave room for possible reductions in the CIF-S appropriations in the 2011 and 2012 Regular Budgets. In adopting the third recommendation, the Commission adopted the decision on the 2008 CIF balance (Annex II to the present report).
15. The Commission, taking into account the recommendation of the AG contained in paragraph 66 of the report of Part I of its Thirty-Second Session (CTBT/AG-32/1), decided to restore the voting rights of Georgia.
16. The Chairperson of the Commission informed the Commission that, on 5 June 2009, Costa Rica had also formally requested the restoration of its voting rights and that the necessary steps would be initiated with a view to action being taken at the next session of the Commission.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY GROUP AND APPROPRIATE ACTION THEREON

17. At the second plenary meeting, Mr André Gué, Chairperson of the AG, presented the reports of the Thirty-Second Session of the AG (CTBT/AG-32/1 and CTBT/AG-32/2). The Commission took note of the reports.

CONSIDERATION OF THE INITIAL DRAFT 2010 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

18. At the first plenary meeting, States Signatories, in their general statements, exchanged views on the initial draft 2010 Programme and Budget proposals (CTBT/PTS/INF.1000 and Corr.1). Reference was made to statements on the initial draft proposals made at previous meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies.
19. The Commission requested the PTS to prepare revised draft 2010 Programme and Budget proposals based on zero real growth for consideration by the Commission at its Thirty-Third Session.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Appointments to the Advisory Group

20. At its second plenary meeting, the Commission appointed Mr Joon-yong Park (Republic of Korea), Mr Andrei Kovalenko (Russian Federation) and Mr André Sobral Cordeiro

(Portugal) as members of the AG for a term of three years with effect from the date of their appointment, in accordance with the decision contained in CTBT/PC-11/1/Annex V. (The decision on the appointment is presented in Annex III to the present report.)

21. The Commission also appointed Mr Michael Weston as the Chairperson of the AG for a term of three years starting from 16 June 2009. The Executive Secretary and the Commission expressed their appreciation for the important work done by the outgoing Chairperson of the AG, Mr Gué, during the last 12 years.

Appointment and Reappointment of Directors of the Provisional Technical Secretariat

22. At its second plenary meeting, the Commission approved the recommendation made by the Executive Secretary on the reappointment of the Director of Administration of the PTS, Mr John Sequeira, as contained in document CTBT/PTS/INF.1012.

DATE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE NEXT SESSION

23. At its second plenary meeting, the Commission adopted the decision on the provisional agenda of the Thirty-Third Session of the Commission, as contained in CTBT/PC-32/CRP.4 (Annex IV to the present report).

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

24. At its second plenary meeting, the Commission considered and adopted the report of the Credentials Committee, as contained in CTBT/PC-32/1.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25. A request was made for a review of the AG's methods of work, which would also include an examination of the group's role and possible future development.

Request from Palestine for Observer Status with the Commission

26. At the second plenary meeting, the Chairperson noted that this item had been on the agenda for over three years. The different views of States Signatories had been clearly expressed under an earlier agenda item and were well known. The Chairperson noted that the period since the last session of the Commission had seen an emergence of some important new policy approaches. Every effort should be made by States Signatories to see how these could be used to resolve this matter. The Commission decided to keep this request on the agenda for the Commission and requested that the Chairperson continue to consult with interested delegations with a view to exploring a prompt consensus on this issue at the Thirty-Third Session of the Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

27. At its third plenary meeting on 9 June, the Commission adopted the report of its Thirty-Second Session.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

28. The Chairperson of the Commission closed the Thirty-Second Session on 9 June 2009.

LIST OF ANNEXES

- I. Decision on 2009 Supplementary Appropriations for the Capital Investment Fund (draft decision issued in CTBT/PC-32/CRP.1)
- II. Decision on the 2008 Capital Investment Fund Balance (draft decision issued in CTBT/PC-32/CRP.2)
- III. Decision on Appointment of New Members of the Advisory Group (draft decision issued in CTBT/PC-32/CRP.3)
- IV. Decision on the Provisional Agenda of the Thirty-Third Session of the Preparatory Commission (draft decision issued in CTBT/PC-32/CRP.4).