



Monthly Newsletter



Working Group B, Thirty-Eighth Session, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation, 6-24 February 2012

Building an Effective Verification Regime

The Permanent Mission of the UAE to the IAEA participated in the working group on verification issues of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), which took place from 6 to 24 February 2012 in Vienna, Austria. Representatives of Member States and scientific experts from 84 States participated in the two-week session.

The agenda of the Thirty-Eighth Session of Working Group B followed the work agreed on the Thirty-Seventh Session and highlighted the achievements of the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) since the last working group, and also presented the outlook for work to be undertaken in 2012.

The issues discussed this year included key challenges in 2011, the continuation of elaborating the draft OSI Operational Manual, and key developments and future endeavours of the On-Site Inspections Major Programme, as well as the International Monitoring System, and the International Data Centre Major Programme.

Working Group B reviewed a number of important technical issues of relevance

to enhance the Treaty's verification regime, including:

- Preparation for the Commission's planned On-Site Inspection (OSI) Integrated Field Exercise (IFE) in 2014;
- A technical report by the Provisional Technical Secretariat on its response to the nuclear events in Japan caused by earthquake and tsunami on 15 March 2011;
- The Commission's verification-related programme and budget for 2013, including the build-up of stations and facilities in the International Monitoring System;
- The Draft International Monitoring System and International Data Centre Operational Manuals.

There was a joint meeting on 20 February of the Working Group B and Working Group A, the subsidiary body of the Commission responsible for budgetary and administrative matters. The joint meeting discusses the programme and budget for 2013, the Provisional Technical Secretariat's medium Term Plan for 2013-2018.

Issue: February 2012

Highlights of the month (February 2012):

- Building an Effective Verification Regime with CTBTO Working Group B
- CTBTO Celebrates 15 Years Anniversary
- Planning the Further Work of IAEA TC Programme
- UAE Permanent Representative Participates in GCC Meeting on Nuclear Energy Cooperation in Riyadh
- UAE Stakeholder Receive Technical Skills on Nuclear Medicine

The **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)** is an international organization created for the build-up and preparation for entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The UAE signed the CTBT in 1996 and ratified the Treaty in 2000. As a State Signatory, the UAE contributes to the work of the organization to continue the development the Treaty's verification regime and to promote the signature and ratification of the Treaty, and ultimate entry in force of the treaty.



CTBTO Celebrates 15 Years Anniversary



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon congratulates the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO with its 15 year anniversary

The Permanent Mission of the UAE to the IAEA joined the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) at the Vienna International Centre in Austria 17 February 2012.

The event was marked by special visits of the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other high-level officials to applaud CTBTO for outstanding achievements in fighting against nuclear testing and urging entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

"As a diplomat, I devoted a great deal of energy to disarmament and non-proliferation, including through the CTBT. As Secretary-General, I am even more committed to

this cause – and to realizing our vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. Ending nuclear testing is essential to eradicating nuclear arms. That is why I am pushing hard for the CTBT to enter into force," said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his opening speech.

The CTBTO team consisted over 260 staff members from over 70 countries, headed by the Executive Secretary Tibor Tóth from Hungary received congratulations and complements from distinguished delegations of its Member States and special guests.

"At age 15, we are proud of our achievements. The family of the CTBT Member States has grown to 182, 157 of which have ratified. The network has grown, station by station. Currently, 285 facilities, more than 80% of the International Monitoring System are up and running. An around the globe and around the clock system. A system of 1 billion dollars and 10,000 scientist years of investments", said CTBTO Executive Secretary in his address to guests of the event.

The CTBTO's main tasks are the promotion of the Treaty and the build-up of the verification regime so that it is operational when the Treaty enters into force. The annual budget is around US\$120,000,000 or €82,000,000.

UAE Participates in GCC Meeting in Riyadh to Discuss Peaceful Nuclear Energy Cooperation

UAE delegation headed by Ambassador Alkaabi, the Permanent Representative of the UAE to the IAEA met with senior officials and nuclear experts of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh on 28-29 February 2012 to discuss cooperation in peaceful nuclear energy between GCC countries and the IAEA.

The meeting has been convened by the GCC working panel, which has been entrusted with the task to promote cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in member countries.

The meeting discussed a number of topics related to uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including areas for future cooperation such as nuclear emergencies; legal and regulatory framework, capacity building, and nuclear waste management and siting, Matters of on-going technical cooperation projects between the GCC and the IAEA also was given an important attention.



Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi chairing the GCC peaceful nuclear cooperation joint team meeting in December 2011

Participating countries established five expert working groups to implement the recommendations of areas of cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy which were approved at Ministerial level in 2011. The focus of the future work would be on the development of required nuclear infrastructure.



About the Permanent Mission

The UAE has been a member of the IAEA since 1976. The Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the IAEA acts as the main liaison between the UAE government and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria.

The office of the Permanent Mission was established in 2008. The objective of the Mission is to represent the interests of the UAE Government at the IAEA and to facilitate the UAE's engagement and cooperation with the IAEA in the areas of, nuclear safety, nuclear security, non-proliferation and safeguards, technical cooperation and in implementation of relevant international obligations.

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Planning the Further Work of IAEA TC Programme

The UAE Permanent Mission to the IAEA continually ensures cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency's Technical Cooperation (TC) Department and promotes the country's interests at technical meetings throughout the year.

Between 21-24 February 2012, the annual National Liaison Officers Meeting took place at the IAEA Headquarter in order to discuss the work of the TC Programme in Asia and the Pacific regions, from 21 to 23 February, 2012.

Ambassador Alkaabi, UAE NLO along with staff from Permanent Mission participated in the meeting's discussions on the implementation of current TC programme for the TC cycle 2012-2013 and the preparation for the forthcoming 2014-2015 TC cycle.

Discussions were focused on delivery of the TC programme and the implementation of the TC projects.

Key issues that Member States and IAEA experts addressed at the meeting include lessons learned and experience gained on preparation for the 2012-2013 TC programme, the difficulties and the challenges, enhancement of the TC Programme services and strengthen regional cooperation among Asia and the Pacific Member States.

During the meeting NLOs agreed on Plan of Action that outlines enhanced approach for delivery of TC programme in the forthcoming 2014-2015 TC cycle in the region.

The UAE closely cooperates with the TC Department in six ongoing National projects and participates in twenty nine active regional and interregional projects for ARASIA in cooperation with eight other Arab Member states in Asia and the Pacific.

These projects range across a number of the thematic areas of human health, food and agriculture, marine environment, energy planning, cultural heritage, QA/QC of nuclear analysis, and norm.

National Liaison Officer (NLO)

The NLO is the principal interface between the Agency and a national authority on technical cooperation (TC) and related matters. The role of the NLO has been recognized as pivotal in ensuring the optimal performance of the TC programme and in enhancing the benefits derived by Member States.

UAE Stakeholder Receive Technical Skills on Nuclear Medicine



Brachytherapy is a form of radiation therapy which is commonly used in medicine as an effective treatment option for many types of cancer.

The UAE experts received a one-week long technical training on medical use of radioactive materials for cancer treatment. A Regional Training Course on 'Medical Physics Aspects in Low and High Dose Rate Brachytherapy' was organized by the IAEA and hosted in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 25 February to 1 March 2012.

Aimed at providing training in dosimetry, quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) in brachytherapy, the course combined both low and high dose rate brachytherapy for the effective treatment of cancer patients. The course is a training activity under the ARASIA TC project "Supporting a pilot Regional Clinical Training Programme in

Medical Physics for Radiation Oncology in Saudi Arabia" which has been approved for the ARASIA TC programme 2012-2013.

Among twenty-seven experts from other Member States engaged in the implementation of the project, the UAE participants from the Tawam Hospital obtained essential knowledge and practical skills on concepts of dosimetry, planning and related QC procedures during the training course.