

AUSTRALIA

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT PANEL

As part of the institutional arrangements for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, Australia has suggested the establishment of an International Management Panel. Such a panel would broadly carry out those tasks usually envisaged for the "group of experts" established under other treaties. However in view of the unique character of a CTBT, Australia believes it worthwhile to take a fresh look at the role and responsibilities of the group of experts. The term "International Management Panel" has been chosen both to reflect more accurately the tasks we envisage being undertaken and to distinguish our proposal from those envisaged in the Soviet draft basic provisions (CD/346) and the Swedish draft treaty (CD/381).

The role of an International Management Panel

Assisted by a secretariat, and composed of scientific experts (mainly seismologists and geophysicists but also geologists) the role of the panel would be to ensure the smooth functioning of the monitoring and verification arrangements established under a CTBT. While for practical purposes independent in scientific and technical matters it would be responsible to the Consultative Committee on which all States Parties to the treaty would be represented. It would in effect be the successor body to the Committee on Disarmament's Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts (GSE) to consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events and would build on the experience of that body. (It is envisaged, in order that the treaty provisions be fully operational at the time the treaty enters into force, that the GSE continue its work up to that point.)

Composition and establishment

It is suggested that the panel should be established immediately upon entry into force of the treaty. It could comprise 15 experts appointed by the Depository on the recommendation of the Consultative Committee. In selecting the members due regard should be given to ensuring an appropriate geographical balance. Members would be named for a five year period, with three members being replaced each year. The panel should elect its own Chairmen and establish its own rules of procedure. It should meet at least twice a year and when requested by the Consultative Committee. The panel should decide procedural questions related to the organization of its work by consensus where possible, but otherwise by a majority of those present and voting. There should be no voting on matters of substance. Where consensus cannot be achieved on matters of substance, reports of the panel including an annual report to the Consultative Committee should reflect the views of all participating members. Any State Party may appear before the Panel, through a nominated ex-officio expert, to present submissions or seek information.

Tasks

(a) General

- evaluate the technical operation of the international monitoring, detection and verification measures, including the techniques and procedures for on-site inspections,

- propose changes as required to the equipment and technical procedures used to verify compliance,
- undertake any technical studies that the Consultative Committee may request,
- act as a forum for any State Party to make suggestions as to the functioning of the international monitoring, detection and verification measures,
- act as a forum for technical discussions of events for which a State Party seeks clarification (these may or may not, according to the preference of the Party concerned, be channelled through the Consultative Committee, although the Committee should receive a report on the results.)

(b) Seismic and atmospheric

- ensure that the participating seismological stations and International Data Centres are operated as specified in the treaty,
- act as a contact with WMO on matters of data exchange through its Global Telecommunications System and supervise and review, in co-operation with WMO, the specified data exchange,
- supervise any exchange of data on atmospheric radioactivity if provision for such an exchange is specified in the treaty,
- maintain contact with national authorities of States Parties responsible for seismic (and atmospheric) detection.

(c) On-site inspection

- Conduct international on-site inspections, according to agreed procedures, at the request of the Consultative Committee and report the result of such inspections to the Committee.

The panel should be assisted in this task by the secretariat and where necessary by additional experts drawn from lists compiled in co-operation with the Consultative Committee.

In the event that a request is received for an on-site inspection both the requesting State Party and the accepting State Party should each be entitled to appoint an expert, ex officio, to the panel for the duration of the panel's consideration and implementation of the on-site inspection request.