

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES FOR THE 1996 COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT)

FACTS ABOUT THE TREATY

The 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) opened for signature on 24 September 1996. It has yet to enter into force.

The treaty has 176 signatories and 132 ratifications. The treaty depositary is the United Nations Secretary General.



Nuclear test site in Nevada, USA. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty will ban all nuclear explosions in all environments.

Photo courtesy of National Nuclear Security Administration / Nevada Site Office

IS MY STATE UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO IMPLEMENT THE CTBT?

Article III of the treaty requires all parties to take any necessary measures to implement their obligations under the treaty. All states parties must have such measures in place when the treaty enters into force.

WHAT FORMS OF LEGISLATION SHOULD MY STATE CONSIDER?

- National legislation should *criminalize* acts which are prohibited by the treaty. This should apply to acts committed in your state's territory and in any other areas under its jurisdiction or control. These measures should apply to citizens and legal persons (such as companies). They also must be extended to your state's citizens and legal persons acting outside your state's territory.
- Other treaty obligations may also require national implementing legislation, for example verification provisions. Each state party must be capable of performing its responsibilities under an on-site inspection. Moreover, if your state hosts a treaty monitoring station, national measures relating to the hosting, maintenance and operation of that station will be required.
- Since many treaty provisions are technical, requirements could be promulgated by your state's executive branch under authority granted in implementing legislation or any other authority in your state's internal law.



WHERE SHOULD MY STATE'S LEGISLATIVE DRAFTERS TURN FOR ASSISTANCE?

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) has a legislative assistance programme. The CTBTO provides the following services to member states:

- seminars and workshops on national implementation measures;
- bilateral advice on required national implementation measures;
- access to a database of national implementation measures taken by other states; and
- on request, sample implementing legislation adopted by other states.

HOW CAN MY STATE CONTACT THE CTBTO?

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