This clearly describes the importance of the test ban regime, and also shows the link that exists with other NACD regimes.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is the operational body that will monitor the CTBT after EIF. Until EIF is achieved, the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO (sometimes referred to as the "PrepComm") was established by states that signed the CTBT to prepare for the verification responsibilities of the CTBTO, and also to ready the Organization for the first meeting of the Conference of States Parties (the meeting of all states party to the CTBT), also after EIF.

The CTBTO will be established upon entry into force of the Treaty, and its headquarters will be situated in Vienna, Austria. The CTBTO will be charged with ensuring the implementation of the Treaty, including issues regarding international verification, and compliance, and will also provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among member states. To this end, member states agreed to establish a Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO on 19 November 1996. The objectives of the PrepComm were to begin work on the required international verification regime for the CTBT, and to organize for the first meeting of States Parties after EIF.

In late 1997, the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO developed recommendations on goals and tasks for the establishment of the verification system, presented assessments of the cost implications, and defined requirements and technical specifications where needed. These tasks included the formulation of plans, policies, guidelines, procedures and documentation on issues related to the International Monitoring System (IMS), the International Data Centre (IDC), communications and on-site inspections. Seismic, radionuclide, hydroacoustic, and infrasound monitoring technologies have been specified for the IMS, which is under the authority of the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the CTBTO. The IMS is slated to have a network of 50 primary and 100-150 auxiliary stations for seismic monitoring, 11 hydroacoustic stations and two American Missile Impact Location Systems (MILS), 75-100 sites for radionuclide monitoring, and 70 infrasound detectors.[12]

With the interim span of six years, the Preparatory Commission has developed the most

[12]Rebecca Johnson, "Ending Nuclear Weapon Testing: Getting and Keeping the CTBT," in Richard Guthrie, ed., Verification 1997: The VERTIC Yearbook, (Boulder: Westview Press, 1997), 27.