

- participating in the technical committees of the CTBTO on an as-needed basis; and
- leading Canadian participation in the CTBTO in the areas of radionuclide monitoring technologies.

The National Data Centre (NDC) is located at the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) of NRCan, with direct communications links to an NDC annex at the Radiation Protection Bureau of Health Canada. It executes the following to fulfil the responsibilities of the National Authority:

- receiving data from Canadian IMS stations and onward transmission via the Global Communications Infrastructure (GCI) to the International Data Centre (IDC) of the CTBTO;
- acting as central repository for information provided by Canadian industrial organizations and other bodies, to provide routine reporting of the Treaty-stipulated Confidence Building Measures (CBM);
- receiving technical data from IDC for use by the National Authority for verification of compliance with CTBT, and disseminating in Canada such verification-related data to appropriate organizations; and
- participating in nuclear explosion event identification exercises, as necessary.

What's Ahead

The Treaty has been signed by 150 States Party and ratified by 21 as of September 15, 1998. For entry into force, it requires 44 designated States to ratify. India, Pakistan and North Korea are the only three designated States that have not signed. In the aftermath of the recent Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests, it still remains uncertain whether these States would join the CTBT regime. Canada is expected to ratify the Treaty in Fall 1998. A review conference is expected to take place in Fall 1999 to accelerate the ratification process in order to facilitate the early entry into force of the Treaty.

The National Authority expects that all Canadian IMS stations will be fully operational before the Treaty enters into force, in accord with the CTBTO time lines. The National Authority, along with domestic CTBT stakeholders, will continue to work together with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (PTS/CTBT) and other States Party to fulfil our shared international commitments.