

animation. The CTBT has taken on an organizational role as a normative forum for a test ban, but lacks the institutional structure that would be provided with a fully operational Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). In addition, it has become increasingly clear that there are two commitments with which states (both Annex 2 states and others) have come to view the Treaty: a commitment to verification, and a commitment to a moratorium on testing. Finally, although no Annex 2 states have ratified the Treaty since Ukraine in February 2001, universalization has continued apace, with growing momentum during the second EIF conference in the fall of 2001.

Efforts to obtain a comprehensive global nuclear weapons testing ban have not taken place in a vacuum. Rather, the CTBT process has been part of a long-standing international commitment to non-proliferation and disarmament with a series of achievements and setbacks over the past forty years. Furthermore, the test ban regime is one facet of a much broader effort to stem the development of both new and existing nuclear weapons program.

### **Background Issues – The Test Ban Regime**

A truly comprehensive nuclear test ban (a total ban of any nuclear weapon test explosion in any environment) has long been considered by the international community to be a crucial stage towards the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament. The Limited, or Partial, Test Ban Treaty (the LTBT, or PTBT) in 1963 outlined the anticipation of signatory states to work towards a more comprehensive test ban treaty. A primary objective of the LTBT, outlined in its preamble, was to “put an end to the armaments race and eliminate the incentive to the production and testing of all kinds of weapons, including nuclear weapons.”<sup>3</sup>

The LTBT prohibits nuclear testing in the air, under water, and in outer space. It was a milestone in the control of nuclear arms, and signalled the beginning of a cooperative side of the largely antagonistic relationship between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The initially bilateral LTBT agreement provided the basis for a more multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament process. The initial proposals of the LTBT (still not signed by two possessing powers, China

---

<sup>3</sup>“Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Under Water,” signed in Moscow 5 August 1963, EIF: 10 October 1963.