

Information Series

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THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Canada

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) bans all nuclear explosions for purposes of developing or qualitatively improving nuclear weapons. The Treaty reflects a significant international norm adhered to by the vast majority of states to eschew nuclear explosions; 150 of 193 United Nations Member States have signed the Treaty. All the declared nuclear-weapon states have signed.

Of the 44 states whose signature and ratification is required before entry into force, all but India, Pakistan and North Korea have signed. India and Pakistan have recently given indications that they may sign soon. North Korea is a signatory to the Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which obligates it not to test.

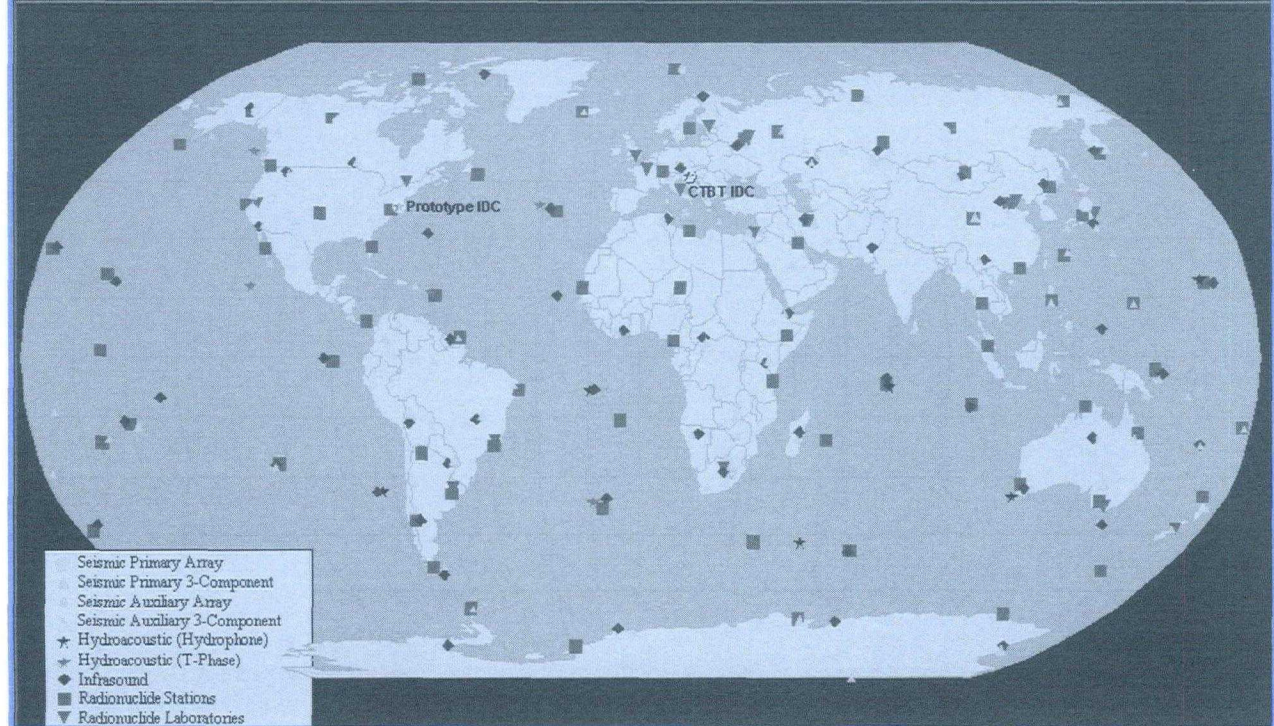
or underground, anywhere on earth. Even while only partially operational, the IMS still was easily able to detect and identify the recent Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests explosions. The IMS provides a great deterrence to any state which might entertain the clandestine development of nuclear weapons.

The CTBT calls for the establishment of an International Monitoring System (IMS) of 321 monitoring stations (see world map) to detect and identify with a high degree of confidence all explosions greater than one kilotonne in the atmosphere, underwater

The Treaty limits the ability of all states to develop nuclear weapons, and limits the ability of the five declared nuclear-weapon states to develop additional nuclear weapons, which in turn provides them with reciprocal assurances, thus encouraging them towards further disarmament.

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CTBT International Monitoring System Network



Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade





The CTBT deals with one aspect of our quest to build a better world which might permit the eradication of all nuclear weapons. The CTBT, with its verification and on-site-inspection regime, is a stronger deterrent to the development of nuclear weapons than all previous disarmament treaties and is a major contribution to a practical and sustainable step-by-step approach to the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons.

Canada will contribute 15 monitoring stations and a radionuclide laboratory as our portion of the IMS. These facilities will be managed by the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Health Canada, in conjunction with Environment Canada.

The Canadian National Authority of the CTBT, chaired by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) within the Nuclear, Non-proliferation and Disarmament Implementation Agency, and including all relevant federal departments, has the overall responsibility to implement the Treaty and to serve as Canada's focal point for liaison with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), located in Vienna, and with other States Parties.

**Nuclear,
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