Introduction

New York is the political hub of UN multilateral diplomacy where some of the world’s leading diplomats with considerable political clout in their respective governments are assigned. United Nations Headquarters and specifically the UN General Assembly First Committee delegates, should be targeted by the CTBTO as an important source of political and diplomatic support in the efforts of the Organization to achieve Entry into Force of the Treaty as well as for the work of the Preparatory Commission in implementing its mandate. UNHQ is also home to the Security Council, the Organization’s main organ charged with the maintenance of international peace and security and in which the CTBT has been discussed and acted upon.

All UN Member States are represented in New York. Seventy-five of these are not physically present in Vienna as Permanent Missions but accredited, some, from Geneva, Paris, Brussels, etc. This makes the seat of the leading multilateral organization an ideal venue for promoting the CTBTO and the Treaty.

Workshop

A half-day workshop should be held at UNHQ for the target group, following on the success of the one organized in 2018, bearing in mind that many of those that already participated completed their respective assignments in New York and moved on. This would increase awareness and stimulate understanding of the Treaty and promote its entry into force and universalization. The training would include lectures and discussions on specific aspects of the CTBT and related issues relevant to the work of the Organization, that could include the following:

- Brief history of the CTBT negotiations
- Evolution of seismic monitoring
- The International Monitoring System
- The International Data Centre
- On-Site Inspections
- The Provisional Technical Secretariat and the Preparatory Commission
- The sustainability of the verification regime
- The Article XIV Process
- Legal aspects of the Treaty
- National Implementation Measures
- The role of the CTBT in international peace and security
- Monitoring and reporting on the DPRK nuclear tests
- Civil and scientific applications of monitoring data, including NDC4All initiative
- Knowledge exchange between science and diplomacy
• Reinvigorating strategic support for the CTBT and the importance of preparing the next generation of leaders and policy makers in all aspects of the CTBT
• Expanding the pool of expertise to the New York based disarmament experts to increase active engagement on the critical issues underpinning the Treaty
• Promoting leadership among diplomats whose political influence may sway decisions in favour of entry into force.
• Upcoming training and capacity building activities
• PTS staffing and human resources
• Financing the CTBTO

While similar and more extensive workshops of this nature have in the past been held periodically in Vienna, home of the CTBTO, as noted previously many countries are not represented there. This is particularly true for Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific region.

The workshop will be held to coincide with the activities relating to the Observance of the International Day Against Nuclear Tests (IDANT), scheduled for 29 August 2023. This could include the participation of the Executive Secretary who will travel to address the General Assembly on the IDANT. A half day event, on Wednesday, 30 August is being organized.

The Head of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research New York Office has renewed his support for this initiative, which UNITAR co-sponsored with the CTBTO during the 2018 edition.

The meeting is being arranged in Conference Room 5 that can host 75 participants. Which is in the vicinity of the Vienna Café.

The New York Liaison Office would actively seek the participation of Permanent Representatives and UNODA staff in the discussions, to the extent that their busy schedules would allow.

Conclusion

The benefits of this initiative are manifold for the above stated reasons and considering that it has not been done since 2018. The 2020 edition was being successfully organized but forced to be cancelled due to UN’s shutdown due to the Covid pandemic. Recent events concerning nuclear tests in the Asia Pacific region render this project timelier and will spur further interest in the CTBT and its Preparatory Commission.