

4.1-P23. STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ACADEMIA IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CTBTO PROGRAMMES IN WEST AFRICA

The Science and Technology of the CTBT offer very important opportunity for collaboration in Research and Development efforts which holds potentials for identifying new areas where the use of the CTBT data and products, verification technologies, education resources and the e-learning availability can be effective towards making the world more secured. Participation in the 2014 CTBT Academic Forum was an eye-opener for us at the Nigerian NDC. It showed us the critical importance of the Academia in achieving the overall goal of strengthening and effectively implementing the CTBT and its established verification regime. It is to address this huge gap that informed this study. It is focussed on carrying out survey, questionnaire administration, focussed group discussions, one-on-one communication etc to determine the level of awareness on what the CTBT and CTBTO stand for within the various academic environments in the sub-region and the level of involvement of the members of the academia. The results showed only a paltry 27% know what the CTBT is all about. It is the object of this study to identify possible ways and means on how to get the academic community from the region to be fully involved.

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