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On-Site Inspection: A Multidimensional Example of Science Diplomacy

As the concept of science diplomacy has evolved and is becoming consolidated in the wider epistemic community, a taxonomy of this concept has been developed. This taxonomy for science diplomacy consists of three dimensions: 1. diplomacy for science; 2. science in diplomacy; and 3. science for diplomacy. This concept has also more recently come into the purview and parlance of the political and multilateral diplomatic community including International Organizations such as the CTBTO. Despite the broad use of the science diplomacy concept as an overarching theme and approach, a gap exists in effectively translating and providing more practical examples of the various dimensions of science diplomacy. Our presentation will apply and operationalize these three dimensions of science diplomacy to a key specific element —On-site Inspection (OSI)—of the verification regime of the CTBT. By applying and fleshing out these dimensions of the four phases of an OSI, the aim is to provide a more tangible and practical overview of the interactions and interface between science and diplomacy that are required in this one specific element of the CTBTO's verification mandate.

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