

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Protocol: Possible Hindrance for On-Site Inspection Obligations

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Compared to many other Treaties and international conventions, one of the unique and in-built characters of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is its Protocol. Considering the sensitivity that is required to address the verification regime, having limitations and even restrictions on matters pertaining to national security is understandable. Yet, listing the tools as a part of the Protocol is having a negative impact particularly on on-site inspection (OSI) functions, as accommodation of novel technologies is discouraged. The “National Technical Means (NTM)” might bridge the gap between the advanced technologies and listed stalled tools of the Protocol. The NTM could serve well in the planning stage of the OSI as the waveform analysis of the verification regime (International Monitoring System) could be integrated with NTM inputs. However, once the inspection is initiated the inspected State Party (ISP) could limit the NTM information flow and most importantly the inspection team has to rely on the outdated tools provided in the Protocol for the OSI inspection. Maintaining the balance between the successes of OSI objectives while securing national interests, the States Parties shall identify an agreeable solution towards upgrading OSI tools in par with the technological advancement.

Promotional text

The advancement of OSI tools and technologies are hindered by the Protocol, and may not be developed in par with concealment tactics/strategies of potential violations.

E-mail

nalinsilva@hotmail.com

Oral preference format

in-person

Primary author: Mr DE SILVA, Nalin (Geological Survey and Mines Bureau)

Presenter: Mr DE SILVA, Nalin (Geological Survey and Mines Bureau)

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