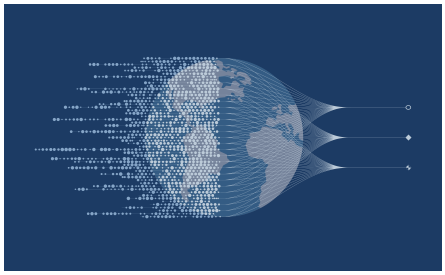

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ITF framework for condensed OSI exercises

Wednesday 10 September 2025 14:15 (15 minutes)

The inspection team functionality (ITF) is the conceptual framework that guides the inspection team during a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) on-site inspection (OSI). ITF provides a structured thinking space, which limits the impact of cognitive bias and noise on the decisions taken by the inspection team. With that purpose, ITF acts as a regulatory system that slows down the human impulse to quickly reach conclusions based on incomplete information and expert bias. The rigor and safety provided, however, collides with the artificial time pressure imposed on the inspection team during abridged OSI exercises. This has led to the implementation of ad-hoc shortcuts that inadvertently erode the protections provided by the ITF. In this paper we present an approach to be used during time condensed OSI field exercises. This approach emphasises the importance of the information collected, the foundations of objective decision making, and the resourcing of field missions through the search logic. Time compression can also be accommodated through modification to meeting formats and template schedules for the implementation of the ITF cycle over several days. We have also developed guidance on exercise and scenario planning to protect the quality of inspection and decision making processes under the time pressure often imposed when implementing ITF.

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