

The Prospects of Establishing an NDC in The Gambia

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INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

This presentation provides highlights on the significance of an NDC for The Gambia, giving an overview of the steps taken so far, including examples of the benefits and trainings attended in preparation of establishing an NDC to address Global Nuclear Disarmament and complement efforts geared at addressing Global nuclear proliferation and disarmament.

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Introduction

The Gambia, the smallest mainland African country, is located on the west coast, nearly surrounded by Senegal. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), through the International Monitoring System (IMS) and National Data Centers (NDCs), supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which seeks to end nuclear weapons testing. The Gambia is a signatory to the CTBT, but its ability to access and evaluate IMS data on its own is restricted because it does not have an NDC.

The Gambia must establish an NDC in order to:
bolster security both domestically and internationally.
Develop technical and scientific expertise.
Boost the management of disaster risk.
Strengthen regional and global collaborations while meeting international obligations.



Establishment of a National Data Centre (NDC) in The Gambia

An NDC would strengthen The Gambia's ability to monitor and analyze global nuclear activities, enhancing national security against nuclear threats.

As a CTBT signatory since 9th April 2003 and Ratified on 24th March 2022, The Gambia needs an NDC to fulfill its international obligations in nuclear non-proliferation and verification.

The 2 days Regional workshop that was held in Banjul 31st May-1st June 2024, on promoting non-proliferation and disarmament across Africa was when the process of establishing an NDC in The Gambia began.

The Gambian Ministry of Foreign Affairs identified the National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Coordination Centre (NCCRM) to be the CTBTO NDC in September 2024, with the Ministries of Defense, Environment and the University of The Gambia as beneficiaries.

Staff of the NCCRM attended trainings in Kenya in August 2024, March 2025 in Austria, and finally the NDC workshop in Beijing later in October 2024 followed by online training on SHI.

Equipment was delivered through the NDC for all initiative to the Gambia on 4th April 2025,

Results

The motive behind the establishment of the NDC is to position The Gambia as a key player in regional peace and security efforts, particularly within ECOWAS and the African Union. The picture shows the CTBTO equipment delivered to the National Early Warning Center for the establishment and implementation of the National Data Center.



The Gambia eagerly awaits the installation of the received NDC equipment, with a view to practically contributing to regional and global efforts for monitoring nuclear explosions.