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public perception and science: understanding the global awareness of the CTBTO's mission

The CTBTO plays a pivotal role in the prevention of nuclear weapons testing and the enhancement of global security. The fulfilment of its mission is contingent upon the continued development of its technological capabilities, as well as the maintenance of a positive public perception of its relevance and effectiveness. This study examines the manner in which public perceptions of science and technology interact with the role of the CTBTO, by examining the relationship between public awareness and trust in science and support for the CTBTO's objectives. Quantitative surveys on public attitudes towards S&T with qualitative interviews with stakeholders involved in disarmament policy were used. The results indicate that a significant proportion of respondents (aware of the CTBTO's mission) held a favourable view of its work. There was a positive correlation between trust in S&T and support for the CTBTO. Interviews with policy experts corroborate the hypothesis that the credibility and scientific rigour serve to reinforce CTBTO's capacity to garner international support for nuclear non-proliferation. An analysis of news-coverage indicates that regions with greater reporting on nuclear disarmament exhibit stronger public support for the CTBTO, whereas those with less exposure demonstrate lower awareness, underscoring the necessity for more effective outreach strategies.

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