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the Role of National Data Centres in CTBT Verification: A Framework for Capacity Building

National Data Centres (NDCs) are pivotal to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) verification regime, enabling States Parties to independently analyze data from the International Monitoring System (IMS). Beyond treaty verification, NDCs contribute to national security, scientific research, and disaster management. The abstract outlines a comprehensive framework for establishing and operating an NDC, emphasizing capacity building through two pillars: individual competence and organizational capability. Individual competence focuses on knowledge, skills, and abilities development through foundational education, technical training, and workforce planning. Organizational capability encompasses infrastructure, data management systems, and collaboration mechanisms to ensure operational efficiency. Key roles of NDCs include secure data handling, independent IMS data analysis, event screening, and advisory support to national authorities. Tools and processes are highlighted for effective event classification, reporting, and integration with the broader verification regime. The abstract also underscores the importance of capacity-building resources provided by the International Data Centre (IDC), regional collaboration, and knowledge networks to enhance technical proficiency and operational sustainability.

A practical self-assessment checklist is introduced to guide NDCs in evaluating their effectiveness and aligning with CTBT obligations, fostering a robust verification network and contributing to global security and scientific advancements.

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