

# Research Report

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## Security Council

Question of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and of weapons of mass destruction



# MUNISH '11



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<b>Forum</b>	Security Council
<b>Issue:</b>	Question of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and of weapons of mass destruction
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## Introduction

Since the outbreak of the atomic bombs in Japan during the Second World War, nuclear weapons have developed and several countries now possess these dangerous weapons. There have been many wars about nuclear weapons, especially where countries that do not have them have a lack of security and those that do threaten the security of the world's population. Quoted from the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, "A world free of nuclear weapons would be a global public good of the highest order." The UN's goal for the past few years has been the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass-destruction.

## Definition of Key Terms:

### Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are defined as: "A device, such as a bomb or warhead, whose great explosive power derives from the release of nuclear energy."<sup>1</sup> Some examples of nuclear weapons are the atomic bomb, hydrogen bomb, fusion bomb, nukes, and atomic warhead. Since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the Second World War, nuclear weapons have been detonated on over two thousand occasions, it is said that this is for just testing purposes or demonstrations. Only a few nations actually possess nuclear weapons.

### WMD

WMD stands for weapons of mass destruction. It is defined as "a weapon that kills or injures civilian as well as military personnel (nuclear and chemical and biological weapons)"<sup>2</sup> A WMD has the potential to threaten a significant amount of lives and cause damage to infrastructures.

### Non-proliferation

Non-proliferation is defined as "the prevention of something increasing or spreading"<sup>3</sup> It especially refers to the prevention of an increase in the number of nations possessing nuclear weapons and the

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<sup>1</sup> [The Free Online Dictionary](#)

<sup>2</sup> [The Free Online Dictionary](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Free Online Dictionary](#)



production of them to reduce the amount that each nation possesses. It is very similar to the term nuclear disarmament.

## NWS

NWS stands for nuclear weapon states. Five states are recognized by the NPT as a NWS: China, France, Russian Federation, United States, and United Kingdom. The US, UK and Russia were the only states that possessed such weapons when they signed the NPT in 1970. These five nations are also the five permanent members of the UN's Security Council and known as the "powerful five???"

## NWFZ

A NWFZ is defined by the UN as having "the statute of total absence of nuclear weapons to which the zone shall be subject, including the procedure for the delimitation of the zone; and an international system of verification and control is established to guarantee compliance with the obligations deriving from that statute"<sup>4</sup>

## General Overview:

### Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

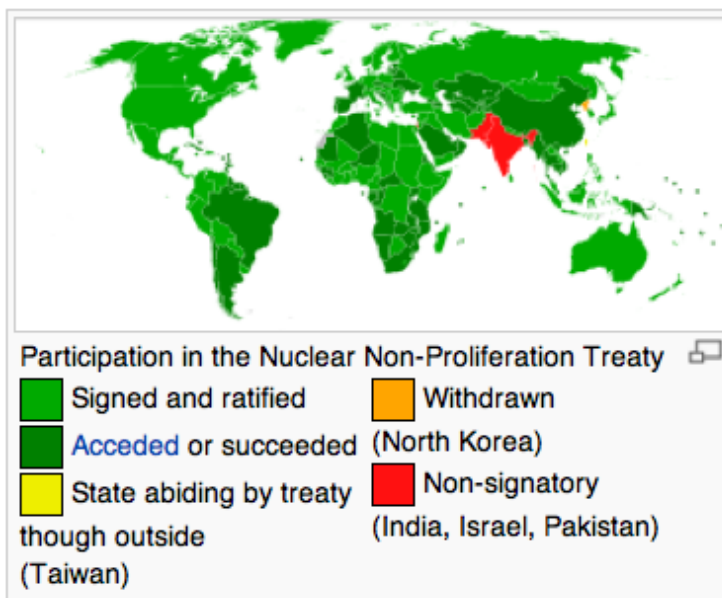
The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is an international treaty with the objective of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology. This is aimed to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and disarmament as a whole. The treaty entered to force on March 5, 1970. There are currently 189 members of the treaty, five of which are recognized as a nuclear weapon state (NWS): China, France, Russian Federation, United States, and United Kingdom.

However, there are four non-members to the treaty that are believed to possess nuclear weapons: India, Pakistan and North Korea (whom have openly declared them for testing purposes), whilst Israel has remained very standoffish about its own nuclear weapons program.

Source: [Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_Non-Proliferation_Treaty)

The treaty is closely monitored. It is reviewed every 5 years in

Review Conferences. Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conferences also take place every year between the Review Conferences.



<sup>4</sup> <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NWFZ.shtml>



The treaty was originally limited for the duration of 25 years. On 11 May 1995 during the Review Conference, the Treaty was extended indefinitely and without conditions.

The NPT contains eleven articles, and is interpreted to have three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology.

Even with the NPT in place, there is a lot of disagreement on the issue, as and nations without nuclear power question their security, protesting that "the non-proliferation treaty was just a plot to maintain the dominance of those who already had nuclear weapons"

## Key Articles of the NPT:

### **Article I:**

Each NWS undertakes not to transfer, to any recipient, nuclear weapons, or other nuclear explosive devices, and not to assist any non-nuclear weapon state to manufacture or acquire such weapons or devices.

### **Article II:**

Each NNWS party undertakes not to receive, from any source, nuclear weapons, or other nuclear explosive devices; not to manufacture or acquire such weapons or devices; and not to receive any assistance in their manufacture.

### **Article III:**

Each NNWS party undertakes to conclude an agreement with the IAEA for the application of its safeguards to all nuclear material in all of the state's peaceful nuclear activities and to prevent diversion of such material to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

### **Article IV:**

1. Nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of this Treaty.

2. All the Parties to the Treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Parties to the Treaty in a position to do so shall also co-operate in contributing alone or together with other States or international organizations to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.

### **Article VI:**

The states undertake to pursue "negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament", and towards a "Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control".

### **Article X:**



Establishes the right to withdraw from the Treaty giving 3 months' notice. It also establishes the duration of the Treaty (25 years before 1995 Extension Initiative)

Source: <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/Others/infcirc140.pdf> (also found in Appendices)

## Major Parties Involved:

### IAEA:

The IAEA stands for the International Atomic Energy Agency. The main goals of the IAEA are to facilitate peaceful uses of nuclear energy and ensuring assistance is not used for military purposes. To further the goal of non-proliferation and as a confidence-building and assurance measure between Nation parties, the NPT established a safeguards system under the responsibility of the IAEA. As safeguards, the IAEA conducts inspections to confirm compliance with the NPT. Safeguards especially focus on the prevention and diversion of fissile material for weapon use.

### Iran

Iran is a party to the NPT, but was found in non-compliance with its NPT safeguards agreement and the status of its nuclear program remains in dispute. In 2003 the IAEA reported that Iran had repeatedly and over an extended period failed to meet its safeguards obligations, namely by failing to declare its uranium enrichment program. Iran states it has a legal right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes under the NPT, and further says that it has constantly complied with its obligations under the NPT and the IAEA. Iran also states that its enrichment program is part of its civilian nuclear energy program which complies with the NPT. The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has welcomed the continued collaboration between Iran and the IAEA, and has called for a peaceful resolution to the issue.

### Libya

Libya had signed the NPT and was subject to IAEA nuclear safeguards inspections, but undertook a secret nuclear weapons development program. This violated its NPT obligations. In 2003, Libya then began secret negotiations with the United States and the United Kingdom over potentially eliminating its WMD programs. Libya soon announced that it had agreed to eliminate all its WMD programs, and permitted US and UK teams, and IAEA inspectors into the country to assist this process and verify its completion. Libya's non-compliance with its IAEA safeguards was reported to the U.N. Security Council, but no action was taken, and Libya's return to compliance with safeguards the NPT was welcomed.



## India

India has never signed the NPT. India has publicly confirmed their possession of nuclear weapons and that they have detonated nuclear devices in tests. In 2006, India and the US finalized an agreement, to provide India with US civilian nuclear technology. Under the deal India has committed to classify 14 of its 22 nuclear power plants as being for civilian use and to place them under IAEA safeguards. In 2008 the IAEA approved the India Safeguards agreement.

## Pakistan

Pakistan has never signed the NPT. Pakistan has publicly confirmed their possession of nuclear weapons and that they have detonated nuclear devices in tests. The Nuclear Suppliers Group currently rule out nuclear exports by all major suppliers to Pakistan. It seems that the track record of Pakistan as a nuclear proliferator makes it impossible for it to have any sort of nuclear deal in the near future.

## North Korea

North Korea originally acceded to the NPT. However, they openly tested and declared that they possess nuclear weapons. Consequently they violated the NPT and withdrew from it in 2003.

## Israel:

Israel has never signed the NPT. It is widely believed that Israel possesses nuclear weapons. Israel however, does not acknowledge having them. In 2009 the General Conference of the IAEA called upon Israel to open its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection and adhere to the non-proliferation treaty as part of a resolution on Israeli nuclear capabilities. The Israeli delegate stated that Israel will not cooperate in any matter with this resolution, this gives a general overview of Israel's refusal on the matter.

## South Africa:

South Africa admitted to having fabricated nuclear weapons by themselves but they disassembled them and acceded to the NPT, opening itself up for IAEA inspection. By 1994 the IAEA declared the country had fully dismantled its nuclear weapons program.

## Timeline of Key Events:

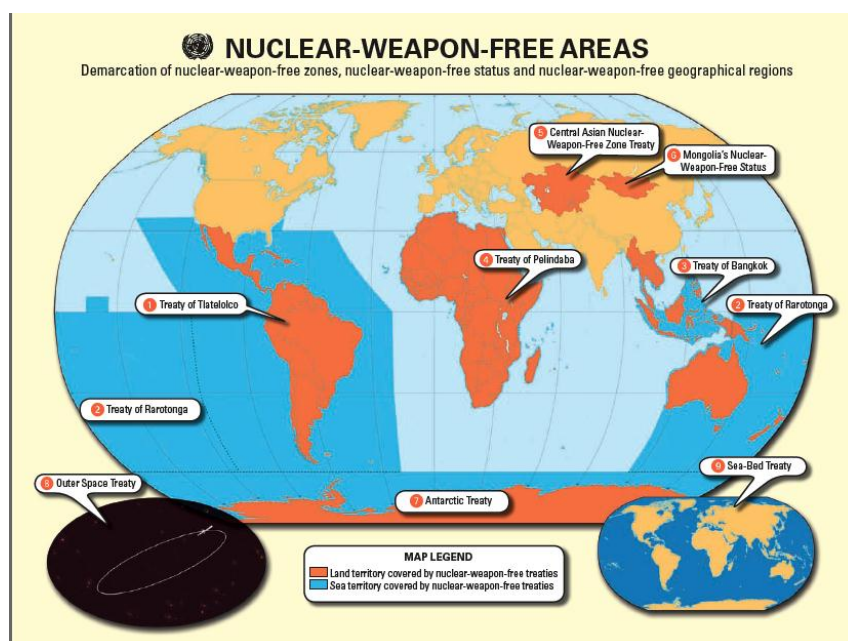
Date	Description of Event
<b>16 July 1945</b>	The United States successfully tested its first nuclear bomb.
<b>August 1945</b>	Atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima (6 August) and Nagasaki (9 August).
<b>3 October 1952</b>	The United Kingdom tested its first nuclear bomb
<b>29 July 1957</b>	The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) comes into force.
<b>1 December 1959</b>	The Antarctic Treaty signed in Washington
<b>13 February 1960</b>	France tested its first nuclear bomb.
<b>1961</b>	The IAEA establishes its first safeguards system.
<b>8 August 1963</b>	The Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water is open for signature
<b>16 October 1964</b>	China tested its first nuclear bomb.
<b>14 February 1967</b>	The Treaty of Tlatelolco is opened for signature
<b>1 January 1968</b>	The Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) enters into force.
<b>5 March 1970</b>	The NPT enters into force. The IAEA establishes its safeguards system for NPT parties.
<b>11 February 1971</b>	The Sea-Bed Treaty is opened for signature.
<b>6 August 1985</b>	The Treaty of Rarotonga is opened for signature.
<b>July 1991</b>	South Africa joins the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State after terminating its nuclear weapons programme
<b>9 March 1992</b>	China joins the NPT.
<b>2 August 1992</b>	France joins the NPT.
<b>April - May 1995</b>	NPT extended indefinitely in Review Conference



<b>11 April 1996:</b>	The Pelindaba Treaty is opened for signature.
<b>27 March 1997</b>	The Bangkok Treaty enters into force.
<b>May 1998</b>	India tests its nuclear devices on 11 and 13 May.
<b>May 1998</b>	Pakistan tests its nuclear devices on 28 and 30 May.
<b>25 November 2002</b>	The Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC) is launched.
<b>10 January 2003</b>	DPRK announces its withdrawal from the NPT.
<b>May 2010</b>	Most previous NPT Review Conference

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue:

The NPT has the more consent from nations than any other arms limitation or disarmament agreement. Since the establishment of the NPT, there have been nine other treaties which have established nuclear weapon-free areas:



The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) stated that “The establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ) is a regional approach to strengthen global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament norms and consolidate international efforts towards peace and security.”





Additionally, in the 2010 Review Conference (found in appendices) of the NPT, members agreed to a final document with agreed conclusions and recommendations for follow up actions. The action plan consists of measures to advance nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and regional issues. One of the new developments is the focus of the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

## Possible Solutions:

There are many ways to go about solving the issue of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. First and foremost, NNWS must be ensured that they will not be harmed. The most obvious way of doing this is ensuring that all NWS accede to the NPT. New treaties should also continue to be formed. Secondly, measures will have to be implemented with regards to the admission of the IAEA; this should make any NWS or any potential NWS transparent towards the IAEA and the UN. So the enforcement of IAEA Safeguards and NPT regulations should become stricter.

Measures should also be taken to reduce the development of Nuclear weapon states, for example limiting the production of nuclear material such as enriched or depleted uranium.

## Appendices:

- 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee:

<http://disarmament.un.org/vote.nsf/91a5e1195dc97a630525656f005b8adf/f0c70265f67a2a2985256af40071e52c?OpenDocument>

- 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/498/63/PDF/N0649863.pdf?OpenElement>

- March 5, 1970. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

<http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/Others/infcirc140.pdf>

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