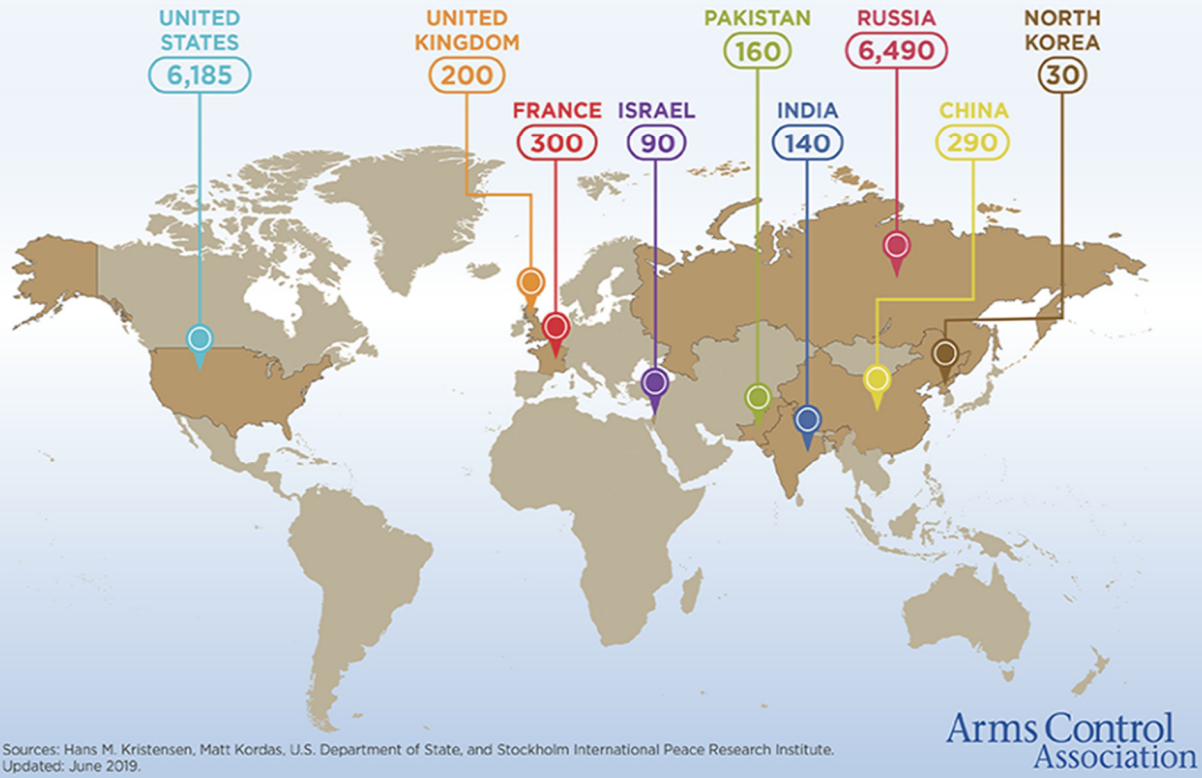




BACKGROUND GUIDE
Model Security Council 2020
NPT Review Conference
Osgood Center for International Studies

2019 ESTIMATED GLOBAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD INVENTORIES

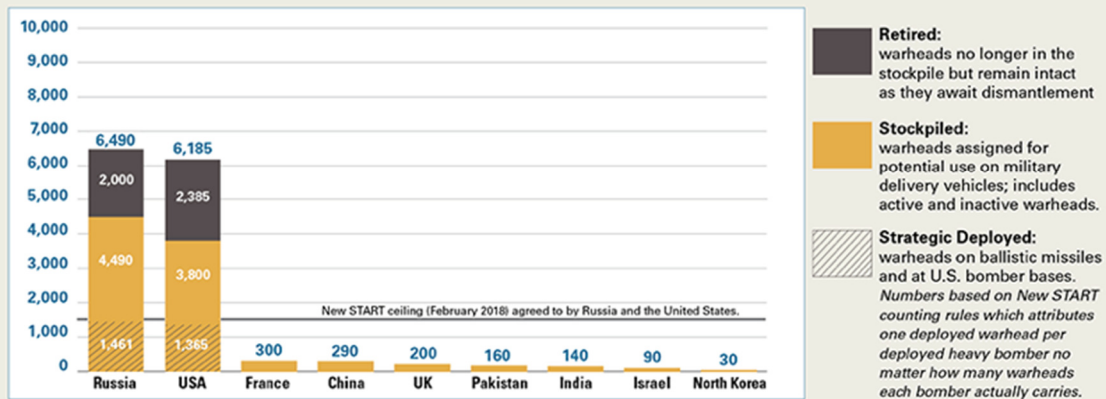
The world's nuclear-armed states possess a combined total of nearly 14,000 nuclear warheads; more than 90% belong to Russia and the United States. Approximately 9,500 warheads are in military service, with the rest awaiting dismantlement.



<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

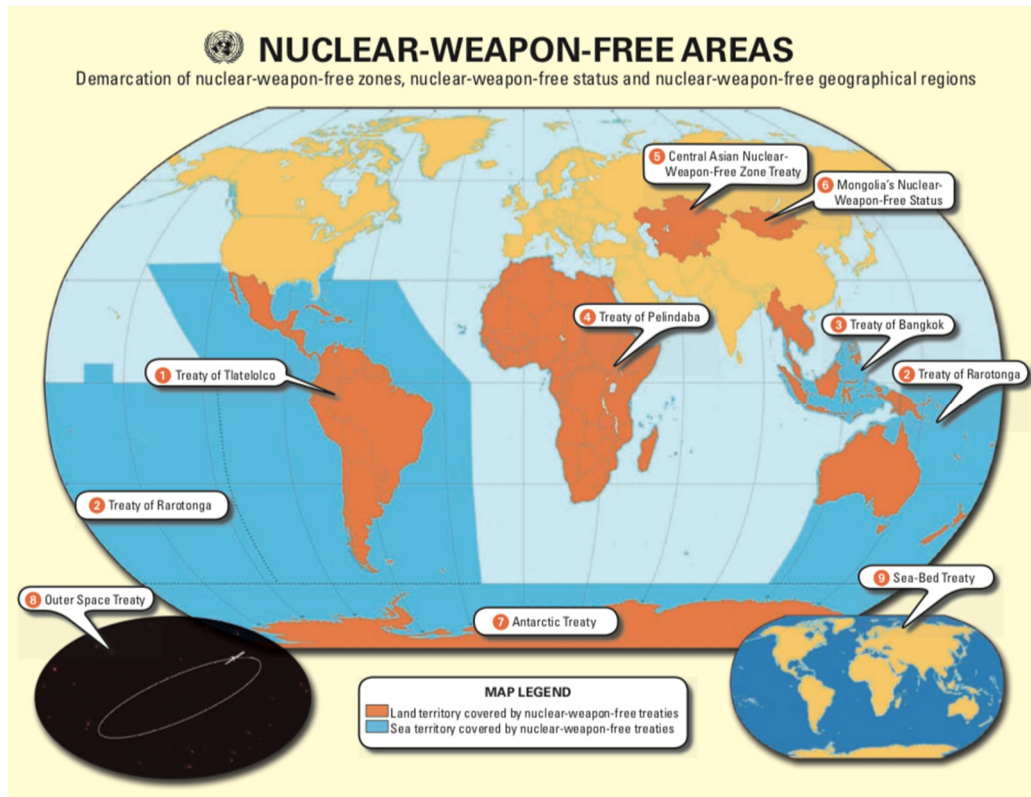
2019 Estimated Global Nuclear Warhead Inventories

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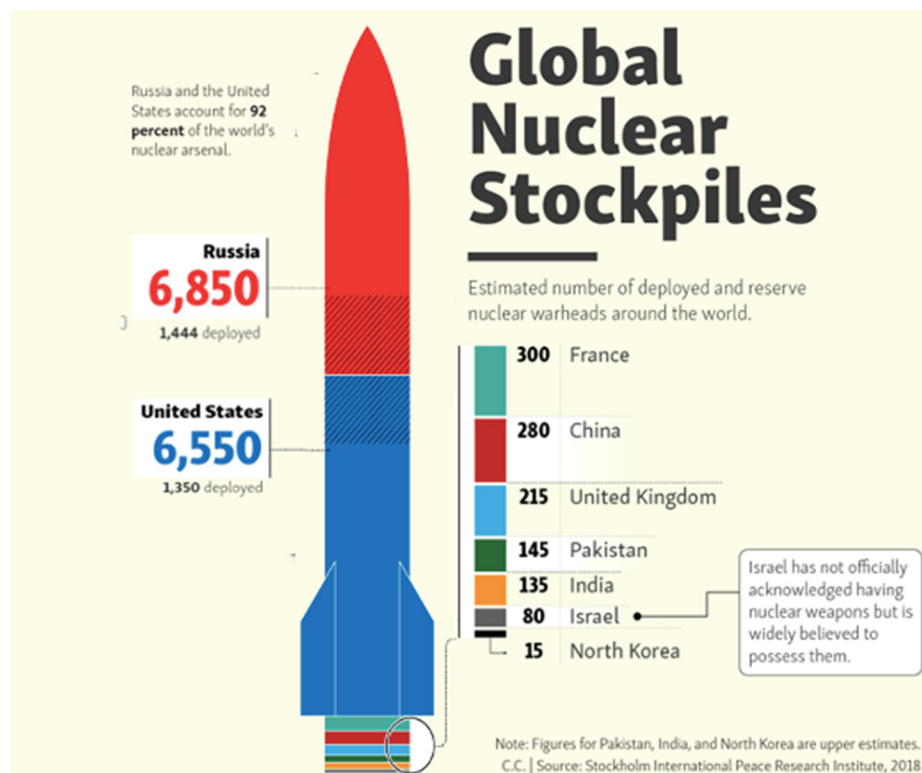


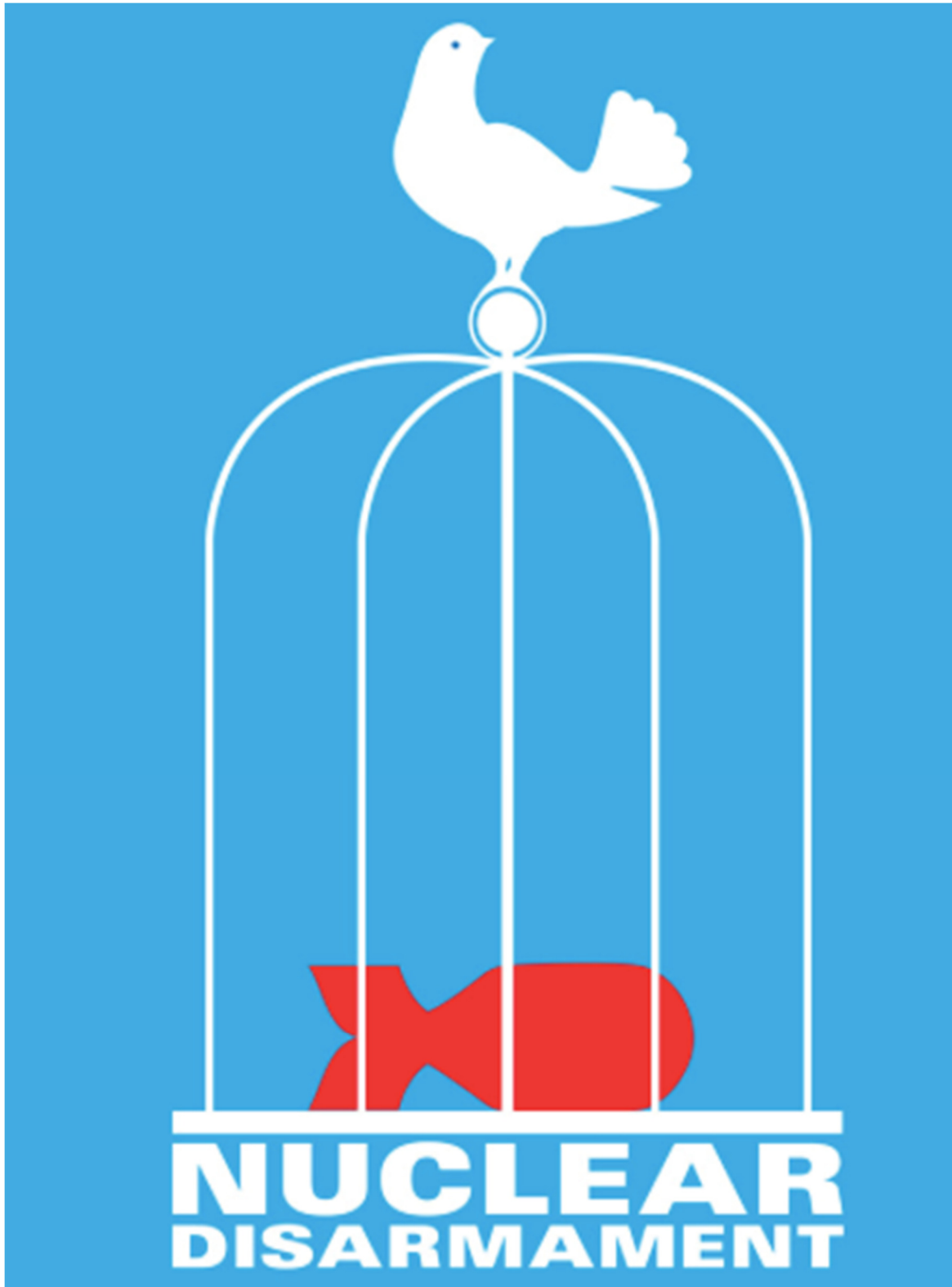
Sources: Hans M. Kristensen and Matt Korda; U.S. Department of State; Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Updated June 2019.

Arms Control Association



<https://unoda-web.s3-accelerate.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/assets/WMD/Nuclear/pdf/NWFZ-postcard-2010.pdf>





Security Council

Committee Overview



After the devastating effects of two world wars, the international community established the United Nations (UN) as an intergovernmental organization with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, creating the conditions conducive to economic and social development, and advancing universal respect for human rights.¹ The Security Council was established as one of its six principal organs and was given the primary responsibility of preserving international peace and security.²

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House in London.³ After its first meeting, the Council relocated to its permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City.⁴ At that time, five permanent members and six non-permanent members comprised the membership of the Council.⁵ However, over subsequent years, discussions regarding the structure of the Council began to take place.⁶ In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to 10, and although membership has not changed since then, discussions regarding a change in configuration take place frequently.⁷

¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Preamble.

² UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 32.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 10.

Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to disarmament, peacekeeping missions, political processes, the protection of human rights, and humanitarian crises.⁸

However, with the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council began to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability, and peace and security.⁹ Some important cross-cutting issues the Council is currently addressing include human rights and the protection of civilians for conflict prevention and sustainable development; women, peace, and security; and the prevention of conflict and sustaining peace.¹⁰ At a meeting on 17 November 2015, members of the Security Council highlighted that the goals outlined in the post-2015 development agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on achieving peaceful and inclusive societies, cannot be attained without the promotion of peace and security.¹¹

The Security Council's Role in the Disarmament Agenda

Disarmament has been historically an important issue for the United Nations, more specifically for the Security Council and the First Committee whose works are informed by the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) for the achievement of international peace. In fact, the very first General Assembly resolution, entitled "Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy", [https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/1\(I\)](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/1(I)) was adopted by consensus on recommendation by the First Committee established a commission of the UN Security Council to make specific proposals to:

- (a) For extending between all nations the exchange of basic scientific information for peaceful ends;
- (b) For control of atomic energy to the extent necessary ensure its use only for peaceful purposes;
- (c) For the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction;
- (d) For effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying States against the hazards of violations and evasions.

⁸ Council on Foreign Relations, *CFR Backgrounders: The UN Security Council*, 2015; Encyclopaedia Britannica, *United Nations Security Council*, 2014.

⁹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; UN DPA, *Politically Speaking, Sustaining peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.

¹⁰ UN DPA, *Politically Speaking, Sustaining Peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.

¹¹ Lebada, *UN Security Council Discusses Links with 2030 Agenda, SDG Knowledge Hub*, 2015.

As new threats arise and complicate the question of disarmament, addressing nuclear disarmament, the use of arms in outer space, and cyber security threats have become even more relevant. Efforts such as those made to promote the involvement of civil society representatives in the implementation of the **Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** are critical to create a safer world. For instance, from 2 to 12 May of 2017, representatives from 48 accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. It included a plenary meeting with NGOs presentations conducted on May of 2017 in the afternoon sessions, as well as side events and exhibitions.

Prior to those meetings, in 2004, the Security Council unanimously adopted a [resolution 1540](#) (2004) under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter which affirms that ***the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security***. The resolution obliges States, inter alia, to refrain from supporting by any means non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

Likewise, resolution 1540 (2004) imposes binding obligations on all States to adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, and establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking. It also encourages enhanced international cooperation in this regard. The resolution affirms support for the multilateral treaties whose aim is to eliminate or prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the importance for all States to implement them fully; it reiterates that none of the obligations in resolution 1540 (2004) shall conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, or the Biological Weapons Convention or alter the responsibilities of the IAEA and OPCW.

On 27 April 2006, the Security Council extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a further two years with the adoption of [resolution 1673](#).

Later, on 25 April 2008, the Security Council adopted [resolution 1810](#), which extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a further period of three years, with the assistance of a Group of Experts, until 25 April 2011. Through Resolution 1810 (2008), the Security Council urged the 1540 Committee to continue strengthening its role in facilitating technical assistance, including by engaging actively in matching offers and requests for assistance, thereby strengthening its clearinghouse function. The Security Council also requested the 1540 Committee to consider a [comprehensive review](#) of the status of implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004). The report of this comprehensive review was published on 1 February 2010.

On 20 April 2011, the Security Council adopted [resolution 1977](#), which reaffirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of ten years to 2021. Resolution 1977 (2011) also provides for two further comprehensive reviews, one after five years and one prior to the renewal of the Committee's mandate. Additionally, the 1540 Committee is mandated by resolution 1977 (2011) to continue to strengthen its role to facilitate the provision of technical assistance and to enhance cooperation with relevant international organizations. The Committee is also mandated to continue to refine its outreach efforts, and to continue to institute transparency measures. On 29 June 2012, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2055 (2012), which enlarged the number of members of the Group of Experts supporting the work of the 1540 Committee from eight to up to nine.

Following the submission of the report of the 2016 comprehensive review to the Security Council, [resolution 2325](#) was adopted unanimously on 15 December 2016. This resolution reaffirmed the obligations in resolution 1540 (2004). Among other things this resolution calls upon all States to intensify their efforts to achieve full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), focusing, when and where appropriate, on areas where measures should be taken and strengthened. Of relevant significance is also resolution 7171 of December of 2016 with its request to the President of the General Assembly to organize, on 26 September every year, a one-day high level plenary meeting of the Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

http://www.unfoldzero.org/wp-content/uploads/UNGA-Resolution-71_71-1.pdf

The next comprehensive review is required to be conducted by 25 April 2021 when the mandate of the 1540 Committee is due to expire.

Conclusion

The Security Council and other UN bodies have proposed a new disarmament agenda to exercise their primary responsibility of creating a world free of nuclear weapons. The existence of nuclear weapons poses a continuing threat to the world. Their total elimination can only be attained through reinvigorated dialogue and serious negotiations and a return to a common vision leading towards nuclear disarmament.

The States that possess nuclear weapons must take steps to reduce all types of nuclear weapons, ensure their non-use, reduce their role in security doctrines, reduce their operational readiness, constrain the development of advanced new types, increase transparency of their programs and build mutual trust and confidence. All States must work together to achieve concrete and irreversible steps to prepare for a world free of nuclear threats, including making the nuclear test ban permanent, developing approaches for nuclear disarmament verification, and ending the production of fissile material for use in weapons.

As indicated in *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament* (2018), <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/sg-disarmament-agenda-pubs-page.pdf#view=Fit>, produced by UNODA, ***“we are on the brink of a new cold war. Unlike the first, which emerged from a world wearied from a devastating global conflict, the second has come during an era of converging global challenges, a more complex international system and diminishing respect for international norms and institutions. At this moment, global military spending and capabilities exceed those seen at any point since the fall of the Berlin Wall.*”**

Governance, Structure, and Membership

The Security Council is the only UN body that has the power to adopt **legally binding resolutions**, which places an obligation on Member States to accept and carry out the Council’s decisions under Article 25 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).¹² The Security Council also has a variety of tools to address issues on its agenda.¹³ For example, the President of the Security Council may issue **press statements** or **presidential statements** to communicate the Council’s position.¹⁴ Although these are not these are not legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to ongoing conflicts.¹⁵



Security Council Considers Non-proliferation
Gbolíé Desiré Wulfran Ipo, Deputy Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire (sitting) with his delegation ahead of the Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East.



Security Council Considers Non-proliferation
Kelly Craft, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations and President of the Security Council for the month of December, chairs the Security Council meeting on the implementation of Resolution 2231 (2015) and the preservation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Membership

The Security Council is comprised of five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.¹⁶ The five permanent members of the Security Council are: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, often referred to as the “P5.”¹⁷

¹² UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 25.

¹³ UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.

¹⁴ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the United Nations Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010*, 2010, p. 11.

¹⁵ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the United Nations Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010*, 2010, p. 15.

¹⁶ UN Security Council, *Current members*, 2018.

¹⁷ Ibid.



Conference officers hold up empty ballot boxes before collecting ballots from delegates.

Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.¹⁸ Elections for non-permanent seats on the Council can be competitive, with states expressing interest and campaigning years in advance.¹⁹ States elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests of their region; they usually have an influence at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest to their foreign policy.²⁰



Norway's ambassador to the United Nations, Mona Juul, casts a vote during U.N. elections, June 17, 2020, at U.N. headquarters in New York.



Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid, casts a vote during U.N. elections, June 17, 2020, at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Niger Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, and Viet Nam are the current non-permanent members for the term 2020-2021.²¹

Security Council elections are held in June, six months before the term starts.²² This change allows Member States sufficient time to prepare for their new role.²³ The 10 non-permanent members represent countries from five groups: Africa, the Asia-Pacific Group, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Eastern European Group, and Western European and Other.²⁴

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.

²⁰ Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 6.

²¹ <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members>

²² UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/307)*, 2014, p. 4.

²³ UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.

²⁴ UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure*, 2017.



German Ambassador to the United Nations Christoph Heusgen, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, South African Ambassador to the UN Jerry Matthews Matjila,

South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Lindiwe Sisulu, Dominican Foreign Minister Miguel Vargas, Dominican Ambassador to the UN Francisco Cortorreal, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Indonesian Ambassador to the UN Dian Triansyah Djani, Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders and Belgian Ambassador to the UN Marc Pecsteen (from L to R) pose for a photo in the Security Council chamber at the UN headquarters in New York, June 8, 2018. **The UN General Assembly on Friday elected South Africa, Indonesia, the Dominican Republic, Belgium and Germany to serve during 2019-2020 in the UN Security Council.**



The newly elected members of the United Nations Security Council pose for a group photo in the Security Council headquarters, Friday, June 7, 2019. From left are St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves, Nigerian Foreign Minister Kalla Ankourao, Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid, Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui and Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung.

Presidency

Each member of the Security Council holds the presidency of the Council for one month, rotating according to alphabetical order.²⁵ Security Council meetings can be held at any time when convened by the President, and by the request of any Member State.²⁶ Under Rule 3 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention.²⁷ In accordance with the mandate of the Security and the Charter of the UN, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention.²⁸

Participation

Any Member State of the UN may attend the Council's sessions if the body decides to extend an invitation.²⁹ Member States are invited if the Security Council is discussing an issue that directly concerns the interests of the Member State.³⁰ Invited Member States do not have the right to vote, but are allowed to submit proposals and draft resolutions.³¹ Furthermore, invited Member States can inform the Council about a current crisis in their region.³² However, such proposals may only be put to a vote at the request of a member of the Council.³³



Majid Takht Ravanchi, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, briefs the Security Council on the implementation of Resolution 2231 (2015) and the preservation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

²⁵ UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982. ²⁶ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2017.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 31.

³¹ UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

Subsidiary Organs

The Security Council consists of many subsidiary bodies established under Article 29 of the Charter, including: the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, sanctions committees, and ad hoc committees, such as the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Namibia, among others.³⁴ Aside from these subsidiary bodies, the Security Council also works with the General Assembly to oversee the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).³⁵ Additionally, Security Council Member States participate in various **working groups**, which discuss the topics of concern of the Security Council.³⁶ These working groups consist of some or all of the Security Council Member States and focus on regional issues, as well as improving the working methods of the Security Council itself.³⁷ For instance, established by Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), a committee was created to monitor and promote the implementation of the legal measures to domestically prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. <https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>



Participants at the African Union 1540 Review and Assistance Conference in Addis Abba, Ethiopia, 2016



National Round Table on the Implementation of Resolution 1540, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 2016

The mandate of the Committee was renewed by resolution 1977 (2011) until 25 April 2021. Along with collecting and reviewing national reports, the 1540 Committee has also created matrices <https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/1540-matrices/committee-approved-matrices.shtml> to present a fuller picture of the status of implementation in all states that have submitted their mandated implementation reports. The Permanent Representative of Indonesia is the current Chair of the 1540 Committee, with Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland serving as Vice-Chairs. <https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>

The 1540 Committee decided in its sixteenth program of work to continue to operate in a system of four Working Groups, open to all of its members. The Working Groups focus on important and recurring issues. Each Working Group has specific tasks related to the program of work, which are set out below. Each Working Group is coordinated by a member of the Committee and is supported by the Secretariat and the Committee's Group of Experts.

Structure, 2018.

³⁶ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁴ UN Security Council,

³⁵ Ibid.

The 1540 Committee meetings include periodic feedback by the Working Groups responsible for tracking progress with respect to: (i) monitoring and national implementation; (ii) assistance; (iii) cooperation with international organizations, including the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and Counter-Terrorism Committee; and (iv) transparency and media outreach.³⁸

Voting



Ambassadors to the United Nations raise hands in a Security Council resolution vote to sanction North Korea at U.N. headquarters on June 2, 2017 in New York.

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote.³⁹ Votes on all matters require a majority of nine Member States.⁴⁰ However, if one of the five permanent members of the Security Council votes “no” on a matter of substance, such as a draft resolution, it does not pass.⁴¹ This is known as “**veto power**.”⁴² In the 1950s, Security Council Member States, in particular the former Soviet Union, made frequent use of their veto power, but its usage declined in the 1960s, rising again in the 1970s and 1980s.⁴³ In the last decades, the use of the veto power has been a comparatively rare.⁴⁴ In recent years, the Council has adopted many resolutions by consensus and has only been divided on a very limited number of issues, a prominent recent example being the case of Syria.⁴⁵

China's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun (C, Front) vetoes a UN Security Council draft resolution on Syria at the UN headquarters in New York, on Sept. 19, 2019. Zhang Jun said Thursday that China has to vote against a Security Council draft resolution on Syria as the text missed the essence of the humanitarian issue and failed to address China's core concerns.



³⁸ <http://www.pf.gov.br/servicos-pf/imigracao/onu.pdf>

³⁹ UN Peacekeeping, *Role of the Security Council*.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 27.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 52.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013; Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

Chapters VI and VII of the Charter specifically concern the Security Council and the range of actions that can be taken when settling disputes.⁴⁶ Chapter VI by itself aims to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation and judicial settlement. Additionally, according to Chapter VI, the role of the Security Council is to determine the severity of the dispute brought before the body and the impact of the dispute internationally.⁵¹ Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken in regard to threats to peace, branches of peace, and acts of aggression.⁵² This chapter also authorizes the Security Council to implement provisional measures aimed to de-escalate the situation.⁵³

The Charter also provides the Security Council with several powers to guarantee international security, which include **sanctions**, diplomatic tools, military action, and international and regional partnerships.⁵⁴ Under Article 41 in the Charter, the Council can call on its members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or end violence.⁵⁵ Some of these measures include arms embargos, **enforcing disarmament**, or calling upon international criminal mechanisms to become active.⁵⁶ Regarding diplomatic tools, the Council is mandated to investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to aggression between states, with other non-state groups, or within states' territories.⁵⁷ Aside from diplomatic instruments, the Council may also take military action against a state or other entity threatening international peace and security, and may further decide on the deployment of troops or observers.⁵⁸ Article 39 of the Charter states that the Council “shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression.”⁵⁹ The Council may also decide upon the deployment of new UN peacekeeping operations to be led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).⁶⁰ The Council also cooperates with a number of international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental

organizations to implement its decisions.⁶¹ Cooperation between the Security Council and other entities, such as the **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** and **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**, is significant.⁶² Partnerships with independent regional organizations, such as the European Union and the African Union, are also of paramount importance for addressing a broad range of issues such as disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, terrorism, and extreme violence from non-state actors.⁶³

⁴⁶ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 1.

⁴⁷ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.

⁴⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 41.

⁴⁹ Malone, *The UN Security Council: From the Cold War to the 21st Century*, 2004, p. 111.

⁵⁰ UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.

⁵¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ *Ibid.*, Art. 1.

⁵⁴ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.

⁵⁵ UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2018; UN Security Council, *Middle East (S/RES/2118(2013))*, 2013.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ UN DPKO, *Forming a New Operation*.

⁵⁸ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.

⁵⁹ UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2018; UN Security Council, *Middle East (S/RES/2118(2013))*, 2013.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*



China's Deputy UN Ambassador Wu Haitao. Wu told the Security Council on March 2019 that
be decided by the Venezuelan people".

"Venezuelan affairs should



NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY - N P T -

1970

Year of entry into force



A cornerstone of
collective security
An irreplaceable
component of
peacekeeping

Aim

Limiting the quantity of
nuclear weapons
worldwide.



191

States Parties

NON-STATES PARTIES

India
Israel
Pakistan
South Sudan

The NPT recognizes
FIVE nuclear weapons
States (NWS):

China
France
Russia
United Kingdom
United States

North Korea initiated a procedure to withdraw in **2003**.

**Iran is an NPT member and the nuclear deal
rests on enhanced IAEA* inspections.**

* The IAEA is the International Atomic Energy Agency.

THREE PILLARS

Non-proliferation



Not transferring nuclear
weapons, or **assisting in**
manufacture or
acquisition

Disarmament



Pursuing **negotiations**
in good faith on
nuclear disarmament
measures

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy



Facilitating access
to **peaceful applications**
of nuclear energy

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

*"All countries must show greater commitment to the universal goal of a world without nuclear weapons. **The nuclear-weapon States have a special responsibility to lead. Today, proliferation is creating unimaginable danger, and disarmament is paralyzed. There is an urgent need to prevent proliferation, to promote disarmament and to preserve gains made in these directions. These goals are linked. Progress on one will generate progress on the other.**"*

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
United Nations Secretary-General

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) the cornerstone agreement in efforts to constrain the spread of nuclear weapons globally and to achieve nuclear disarmament, entered into force in 1970. One hundred and ninety-one States have joined the NPT, including the five States recognized under the Treaty as possessing nuclear weapons: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. Three countries that have or are suspected of having nuclear weapons are currently outside the NPT: India, Israel and Pakistan. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced its withdrawal from the Treaty in 2003.

The NPT is often described as a "grand bargain" between the nuclear-weapon States and the non-nuclear-weapon States. In exchange for the commitment of non-nuclear-weapon States not to acquire nuclear weapons, the nuclear-weapon States agreed to cease the nuclear arms race and accomplish the elimination of their nuclear arsenals. All States parties agreed to recognize the right of the parties to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in conformity with the basic non-proliferation obligations of the Treaty.

"A world free of nuclear weapons would be a global public good of the highest order."

Then United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his address to the East-West Institute, October 2008

Non-Proliferation and Safeguards

Under the treaty, the non-nuclear-weapon States agreed not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices, not to receive the transfer or accept control over such weapons or devices, and not to seek or receive assistance in the manufacture of such weapons or devices. For the purpose of verifying their obligations under the Treaty, the non-nuclear-weapon States agreed to accept safeguards administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on all source and special fissionable material in their territory or under their control. The IAEA is responsible for certifying that non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty have not diverted nuclear material from peaceful purposes for use in nuclear weapons.

Since coming into force in 1970, the NPT has largely been successful, although not perfect, at containing the spread of nuclear weapons globally. Several States remain outside the Treaty and are believed to have acquired nuclear weapons after the NPT entered into force. To strengthen and expand IAEA safeguards against the diversion of nuclear material by non-nuclear-weapon States, the voluntary Additional Protocol was adopted in 1997.

To fully understand the history of the NPT, check the timeline of the NPT created by the Arms Control Association and the fact sheet produced with UNODA : <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Timeline-of-the-Treaty-on-the-Non-Proliferation-of-Nuclear-Weapons-NPT>
https://www.armscontrol.org/system/files/NPT_Timeline.pdf



First meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT in Geneva, Switzerland, 1974.

Nuclear Disarmament

The Treaty contains the only legally binding commitment requiring the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish nuclear disarmament. **Article VI of the Treaty requires all States parties to negotiate in good faith on effective measures related to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament, as well as on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.** Progress towards implementing this obligation has been incremental. The countries possessing the largest nuclear arsenals, the Russian Federation and the United States, have concluded numerous bilateral agreements since the 1970s aimed at reducing their nuclear arsenals and enacting transparency measures to enhance stability in crises and facilitate verification.

Despite the entry into force of the NPT, global nuclear arsenals continued to increase until the mid-1980s, peaking at around 70,000 warheads (Kristensen and Norris). Today the total number of warheads has been reduced to approximately 15,395, with about 4,120 of those actively deployed (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)). Efforts on further reductions have continued since the end of the Cold War, though at a slower pace over the past decade. In April 2010, the Russian Federation and the United States signed the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START), which takes over from the 1991 Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, which expired on 5 December 2009. It supersedes the 2002 Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions. France and the United Kingdom have also undertaken unilateral reductions of their nuclear forces, as well as some transparency measures.

While the number of nuclear weapons has decreased, their potential to destroy the planet many times over has not. About 1,800 nuclear weapons are kept on high alert, ready to be launched within minutes. Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, at the conclusion of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, expressed hope **“that the growing awareness of the devastating humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons continues to compel urgent actions for effective measures leading to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons”**.

Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

The Treaty recognizes the inalienable right of all parties to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The parties also 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 and are encouraged to consider the needs of the developing parts of the world in these matters.

While many countries believe that nuclear power is an important component in their energy mix, the March 2011 incident at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima, Japan, has made a number of countries rethink their commitment to nuclear energy. However, most governments believe that the issue is not one of doing away with this important power source, but of further strengthening nuclear safety and security standards.

An Increasingly Fragile State

Thousands of nuclear weapons remain on hair trigger alert. More States have sought and acquired them. Nuclear tests have continued. And every day, we live with the threat that weapons of mass destruction could be stolen, sold or slip away. As long as such weapons exist, so does the risk of proliferation and catastrophic use. So, too, does the threat of nuclear terrorism. ... **Nuclear disarmament is the only sane path to a safer world. Nothing would work better in eliminating the risk of use than eliminating the weapons themselves.”**

Ban Ki-Moon

United Nations Secretary General (2007-2016)

The NPT continues to face many challenges. Its members have for many years been divided over what their priorities should be and how to best balance non-proliferation and disarmament obligations under the Treaty. A major source of tension is the long-standing disagreement on whether non-proliferation or disarmament should take precedence.

Review Process

States parties meet every five years to review the operation of the Treaty to ensure that its purposes and provisions are being realized.

The 1995 NPT Review Conference

The 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, in addition to reviewing the NPT, was charged with deciding whether the NPT should be extended and how to do so: for one period, for a rolling set of periods, indefinitely or not at all. States parties agreed on the indefinite extension of the Treaty, in connection with the adoption of two other decisions and a resolution on establishing a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the



Press Conference by President of Review and Extension Conference of the NPT. Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala, President of the Conference, addressing a press conference at the United Nations headquarters in 1995.

The 2000 NPT Review Conference

When the 2000 NPT Review Conference was convened in New York in April, expectations were low. The three preparatory meetings prior to the conference had failed to reach consensus on important issues and every nuclear-weapon State continued to affirm the central strategic importance of its nuclear weapons. Adding to the pessimism was the fact that the United States Senate had rejected the CTBT just one year prior to the conference (in 1999). The 1998 nuclear-weapon test explosions by India and Pakistan, although not NPT members, also had repercussions for the Conference, highlighting the need for universality. Despite these apparent setbacks, the Conference was able to adopt by consensus a substantive final document: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt2000/final-documents>



Wide view of the General Assembly Hall where Kofi Annan addressed the 2000 NPT Review Conference of the NPT.

The central piece of the final document was agreement on 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons: <https://www.armscontrol.org/pressroom/2002-04/us-implementation-13-practical-steps-nonproliferation-disarmament-agreed-2000-npt>

Key steps agreed upon included an “unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals”; specified “steps by all the nuclear weapon States leading to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all”; and the application of the principle of irreversibility to disarmament and arms control measures. Some scholars argued that there were some relevant aspects which resulted from the 2000 NPT Review Conference. For example, Carlton Stoiber, concluded in his analysis of the evolution of the NPT and its final documents from 1975-2000 that:

“An interesting development at the 2000 Conference was the adoption of **language urging specific non-party states (Cuba, India, Israel, and Pakistan) to accede to the treaty.** (Cuba's recent adherence to the treaty narrows the holdouts to three states.) The parties also noted that “States not currently States parties may accede to the Treaty only as non-nuclear weapon States.” This text explicitly resolves a legal issue that had been recognized, but not heretofore addressed by the parties— namely, whether new NPT parties possessing nuclear explosives would be classified as nuclear weapon states under the treaty. With India and Pakistan having demonstrated their nuclear status through explosive tests in May 1998, and in light of Israel's undeclared—but generally acknowl- edged—nuclear capability, the issue of status has practi- cal implications for bringing the remaining holdout states into the NPT system. The language adopted in 2000 rec- ognizes that, unless the Article IX.3 definition of nuclear weapon state were to be amended, all new parties would be considered non-nuclear weapon states, regardless of their actual nuclear capabilities”.

<https://www.nonproliferation.org/wp-content/uploads/npr/103stoi.pdf>

Additional Resources about the 2000 NPT Review Conference

https://carnegieendowment.org/files/13_steps.pdf

<https://www.amacad.org/publication/management-npt-diplomacy>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt2000>

The 2005 NPT Review Conference

The 2005 NPT Review Conference ended without agreement on a substantive outcome document, amid deep divisions among States parties regarding the status of previously agreed commitments.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2005/dc2969.doc.htm>



Then Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, addressing the 2005 NPT Review Conference on its opening day.

Additional Resources about the 2005 NPT Review Conference

<https://fas.org/nuke/control/npt/docs/o4%20prepcom%20ofinal%20rpt.pdf>

<https://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2005/npt-conf2005-18%20english.pdf>

The 2010 NPT Review Conference

The 2010 NPT Review Conference succeeded in adopting a substantive final document:
[https://undocs.org/NPT/CONF.2010/50%20\(VOL.I\)](https://undocs.org/NPT/CONF.2010/50%20(VOL.I)) [https://undocs.org/NPT/CONF.2015/50\(PartII\)](https://undocs.org/NPT/CONF.2015/50(PartII))
[https://undocs.org/NPT/CONF.2015/50\(PartIII\)](https://undocs.org/NPT/CONF.2015/50(PartIII))

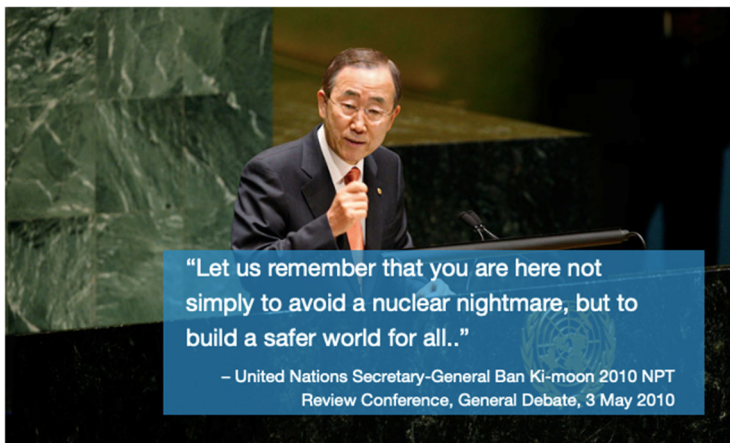


Yukiya Amano, then Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), addressing the 2010 NPT Review Conference.



Wide shot of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

It included a review of the operation of the Treaty, as well as an **action plan containing 64 forward-looking measures** on each of the three pillars of the Treaty—nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy—and on the 1995 resolution on the Middle East:
<https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/non-proliferation-disarmament-arms-control/nuclear-issues/Pages/2010-npt-review-conference-64-point-action-plan>
http://www.nonproliferation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2010_revcon_action_plan_only.pdf (CHECK the last two headings: Middle East and the implementation of resolution 1995 and Other Regional Issues).



"Let us remember that you are here not simply to avoid a nuclear nightmare, but to build a safer world for all.."

– United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon 2010 NPT Review Conference, General Debate, 3 May 2010

The final document called for a 2012 conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. It also established benchmarks to be achieved by the 2015 Review Conference.

Additional Resources about the 2010 NPT Review Conference

<https://www.eastwest.ngo/idea/implementing-npt-action-plan>
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2010/06/17/2010-npt-review-conference-what-happened-and-what-next-event-2939> <https://carnegieendowment.org/2010/06/03/understanding-2010-npt-review-conference-pub-40910>

<https://www.nonproliferation.org/implementation-of-the-2010-npt-action-plan/>
<https://thebulletin.org/2015/06/npt-review-conference-no-outcome-document-better-than-a-weak-one/>
<https://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/coalitions-watch-2015-npt-review-conference/>

The 2015 NPT Review Conference

The 2015 NPT Review Conference faced considerable challenges, including disagreement over how to move forward on two key issues: a Middle East weapons of mass destruction-free zone and a legally binding prohibition on nuclear weapons. The conference was unable to adopt a final document.



Algerian Ambassador Taous Feroukhi (on screen), president of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, closes the conference May 22, 2015 with delegates failing to produce a consensus outcome. The next review conference is planned for 2020.

Additional Resources about the 2015 NPT Review Conference

<http://www.nonproliferation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/NPT-2015-RevCon-factsheet.pdf>
<https://cpr.unu.edu/why-the-npt-review-conference-outcome-matters.html>
<https://www.nonproliferation.org/2015-npt-review-conference-resources/>
<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt2015/prepcom2014>

<https://cpr.unu.edu/a-report-from-the-2015-npt-review-conference-weeks-1-2.html>
<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2015-06/news/npt-conference-fails-reach-consensus>
<https://www.nonproliferation.org/nuclear-negotiations-fail-in-new-york/>
<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2015-07/features/2015-npt-review-conference-future-nonproliferation-regime>
<https://cpr.unu.edu/why-the-2015-npt-review-conference-fell-apart.html>
<https://carnegieendowment.org/files/o8-230315carnegieTragedyfarce.pdf>
<https://www.sipri.org/node/384>

Despite ongoing challenges, the NPT remains vital and its accomplishments should not be overlooked. The Treaty is nearly universal. It alone legally binds nuclear-weapon States to work towards the elimination of

their nuclear arsenals. It has been effective at halting the spread of nuclear weapons. There will, no doubt, be additional challenges, but the Treaty has proved durable and is likely to remain so.

Preparing for the 2021 NPT Review Conference in Model Security Council 2020

Statements to the 2018 NPT Preparatory Committee

As countries prepare for the 2021 NPT Review Conference, different nations have stated their positions: <https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2018/statements>

The works of the NPT Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) are also relevant to be keep in mind:



2020 NPT Review Conference
Chair Argentine Ambassador
Rafael Grossi addressing the third
PrepCom.

<https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2018/national-reportsreports>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13762.doc.htm>

<https://www.wilpf.org/portfolio-items/2019-npt-briefing-book/>

Further Actions

Remember that NPT Review Conferences (RevCons) are preceded by Preparatory Committee (PrepComs) meetings.

SETTING THE AGENDA

Which of the following topics does your nation believe the Council should focus on?

1. Revisiting NPT's previous commitments, timelines, and initiatives for nuclear disarmament.

https://www.icanw.org/first_committee_foreshadows_disarmament_fights_at_2020_npt_review_conference

2. Assessing safeguards agreements, measures, and protocols to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
<https://www.iaea.org/publications/factsheets/iaea-safeguards-overview>
<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/IAEASafeguards>
<https://www.iaea.org/topics/safeguards-legal-framework>
3. Evaluating areas for future exploration in technology and innovation for the peaceful uses of nuclear resources.
4. Addressing issues of specific countries/states, regions, and other relevant non-state actors to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote higher levels of accountability in disarmament efforts.

Additional Resources

<https://strafasia.com/troubled-path-to-npt-revcon-2020/> <https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2019-05-10/reporting-2019-npt-prepcom> <https://www.nonproliferation.org/npt-prepcom-2019-live-cns-updates/> <https://www.indepthnews.net/index.php/armaments/nuclear-weapons/2691-nuclear-non-proliferation-review-conference-could-hit-a-u-s-roadblock>

CHECK THE headings “Challenges and Prospects”, “Outlook”, and “Obstacles to Progress”
<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2018-11/features/unmet-promise-challenges-awaiting-2020-npt-review-conference>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/covid-19-has-given-the-2020-npt-review-conference-a-reprieve-lets-take-advantage-of-it/>

<http://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/quick/meetings/2020>

<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/npt2020>

<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/npt2020>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13762.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt-review-conferences/>

https://www.icanw.org/first_committee_foreshadows_disarmament_fights_at_2020_npt_review_conference

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/publications/library/npt/>

<http://un2020.org/timeline/timeline-nuclear-disarmament/>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>

Nuclear Threat Initiative

<http://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/treaty-on-the-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons/>

