

NPT Treaty

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

What is it?

1970 treaty that defines States Parties as nuclear weapon states (**NWS**) and non-nuclear weapon states (**NNWS**)

USA, Russia, China, France, UK are the only Treaty-recognized NWS

A Grand Bargain: NWS must not share or transfer weapons technology, NNWS **must not acquire** nuclear weapons and all States Parties to the Treaty must work toward general and complete disarmament and may access **peaceful nuclear technology** under IAEA safeguards

NWS must have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before **1 January 1967**

Why is it important?

191 States Parties – India, Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan, all of which have nuclear weapons, are notable **non-members**

Cornerstone of the global nonproliferation regime: dozens of other treaties and initiatives are based on the NPT; **IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements** were negotiated to facilitate treaty compliance

What should I know?

North Korea is the only State Party to withdraw from the NPT, in 2003

Was originally in force for 25 years, but was extended **indefinitely** in 1995; Review Conferences (**RevCons**) are held every **5 years**, and each RevCon is preceded by three annual Preparatory Committee (**PrepCom**) meetings

The 1995, 2000, and 2010 RevCons resulted in **agreement** on forward-looking steps, but slow or nonexistent **implementation** continues to frustrate non-nuclear weapon states. The 2015 and 2022 RevCons failed to agree on a final document.

The 1995 indefinite extension included an agreement to negotiate the creation of a **Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDfz)** in the **Middle East**. Lack of progress toward that goal is a contentious issue.