

# 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 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 is a contentious unsolved issue, even after a 2022 RevCon aimed at a resolution

While recent RevCons have resulted in **agreement** on steps forward, slow, nonexistent, or unequal **implementation** continues to frustrate non-nuclear weapon states

**Dangers** posed by Russian military forces to Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant resulted in conversations about protections of **nuclear plants** during the 2022 RevCon