The Continued U.S. Commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Peace and Security of a World Without Nuclear Weapons

“Thanks to worldwide collective efforts and commitment, the NPT has become the cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime, reinforcing international peace and security, and preventing the further spread of nuclear weapons while promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Today, global nuclear stockpiles are at their lowest levels since the 1950s.”

– President Barack Obama on 45th anniversary of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty’s entry into force.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the NPT, rests on three interrelated and mutually reinforcing pillars: nonproliferation, disarmament, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In the 45 years since its entry into force, the NPT has proven essential to the promotion of international peace, security, and development. It is the cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime, fundamental to our efforts at nuclear disarmament, and the foundation of cooperation and commerce in peaceful nuclear uses. Preserving and strengthening the NPT, in all its aspects, are vital to our eventual achievement of a world without nuclear weapons.

Nonproliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy are mutually reinforcing “pillars” of the NPT that provide vital benefits to the global community. The United States is committed to working closely with other NPT Parties to reinforce the NPT as the foundation for our common security.

Stay Connected with ISN

@ISNAsstSecy
@USNPT

www.facebook.com/StateDepartment
ISNBureau

isninfo@state.gov

www.state.gov/t/isn/

Produced in Coordination with the Bureau of Public Affairs

© AP Photo

Signature of the NPT, July 1, 1968.

President Obama addresses the UN General Assembly, September 24, 2014.
Advancing Nonproliferation

Under the nonproliferation pillar, the United States continues to lead international efforts to ensure the International Atomic Energy Agency has the necessary resources and political support it needs to verify that nuclear programs in non-nuclear weapon states are exclusively peaceful. The United States allows the IAEA to apply safeguards measures, including the Additional Protocol, to its own civil nuclear program.

The United States is working with other NPT Parties to remedy cases of noncompliance and discourage abuse of the Treaty’s withdrawal provision.

The United States has cooperated with other States and nongovernment stakeholders to also address proliferation involving non-state actors. The Nuclear Security Summit process and other U.S.-led efforts have made significant progress in securing nuclear materials worldwide. Since 2010, three metric tons of vulnerable, weapons-grade materials have been disposed, ensuring against their unauthorized diversion for non-peaceful purposes. U.S. contributions of $59 million to the IAEA’s Nuclear Security Fund between 2010 and 2014 have supported the IAEA’s essential role in this work.

Complementary initiatives such as UN Security Council Resolution 1540, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and the U.S.-led Counter Nuclear Smuggling program have made significant gains in advancing shared nonproliferation and security goals. The United States signature of protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties in Latin America, Africa, the South Pacific, and Central Asia, as well its encouragement of regional states in the Middle East to begin discussions of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, demonstrates sustained U.S. commitment to this goal.

Progress on Disarmament

The United States remains committed to its obligations under Article VI of the Treaty and continues to make significant progress in reducing both the numbers of nuclear weapons and their role in U.S. military strategy. The United States has reduced its active nuclear weapons stockpile 85 percent since its Cold War peak in 1967. The New START Treaty with Russia has paved the way for a reduction in strategic nuclear forces to a level not seen since the 1950s.

The United States has ceased all nuclear explosive testing and production of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons, and has eliminated entire classes of nuclear weapons. The U.S. nuclear complex has been transformed into an enterprise that supports science-based stewardship of a safe and secure stockpile alongside other critical missions, which assist in U.S. implementation of our NPT commitments. For example, the complex supports future disarmament verification efforts through a test bed at the Nevada Nuclear Security Site to demonstrate potential monitoring approaches to follow a nuclear weapon through its lifecycle, including retirement and dismantlement.

The United States understands the catastrophic impacts of nuclear weapons and is working to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again. U.S. efforts to promote both nuclear nonproliferation and advance disarmament are equally essential to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.

Providing Benefits to Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

The United States reaffirms its commitment to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as called for under Article IV of the NPT. Since President Eisenhower’sAtoms for Peace speech in 1953, the United States has been a leader in international civil nuclear cooperation and in facilitating access worldwide to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with the highest standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation. The United States fully supports the right of all Parties to the NPT to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in conformity with their nonproliferation obligations. Now more than ever, the United States supports NPT Parties in compliance with their NPT obligations to help them develop the infrastructure needed for safe, secure and safeguarded nuclear power programs and other peaceful nuclear applications.

Nuclear energy and technology play an increasingly prominent role in addressing the spread of infectious disease, food and water security, as well as climate change and the health of the earth’s oceans. Developing countries need both the energy resources and tools to support growing economies and healthy people, and nuclear techniques provide real solutions. The United States is dedicated to ensuring that such technologies can be used safely and securely, without increasing the risk of proliferation.

The United States works with 47 countries, the IAEA and Taiwan, under civilian nuclear cooperation agreements that enable nuclear commerce and have resulted in the production of more than 70 gigawatts of energy. The United States also is the largest single contributor to both the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund and the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative. Since 2010, the United States has provided more than $190 million to the IAEA to promote peaceful nuclear applications.