



## **THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY: NONPROLIFERATION**

“As we re-engage the international system, we will address the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons.”

– *President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.*  
*Interim National Security Strategic Guidance*

### **NONPROLIFERATION**

Since its entry into force in 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has proven itself as the cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime and essential to international security. Articles I, II, and III of the Treaty play key roles in preventing the further spread of nuclear weapons. These include prohibiting nuclear-weapon States Parties from helping non-nuclear weapons States Parties acquire nuclear weapons (and in turn non-nuclear-weapon States Parties from receiving such assistance), establishing a link between safeguards and export controls, and by setting requirements for accepting International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards to verify that nuclear material is not diverted to nuclear weapons purposes.

### **CHALLENGES**

The NPT is especially important in times of crisis, including the one we are experiencing right now. Over its more than fifty-year history, the Treaty has remained essential despite serious challenges from cases of States Parties violating their nonproliferation obligations. It should be noted that the vast majority of NPT States Parties abide by their obligations and are implementing enhanced IAEA safeguards. This record is a testament to the critical role international treaties and organizations play in securing all against the risk of nuclear proliferation and creating the assurances necessary to enable robust international cooperation on the peaceful uses of the atom.

The United States remains dedicated to preserving and strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime for future generations. We play a leading role in ensuring the international community both responds to cases of NPT and safeguards noncompliance and provides the IAEA with the resources and political support necessary to carry out its important work. In addition to proliferation challenges posed by states, we address those posed by non-state actors who have been involved in illicit nuclear trade or have expressed concerning interest in nuclear material, technology, and weapons, and work closely with our partners to strengthen our shared security by addressing the full range of nonproliferation threats, including that of nuclear terrorism. Only by working together can we make the nonproliferation regime more resilient against current and future challenges.

U.S. DELEGATION TO THE  
TENTH NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE

**COOPERATIVE U.S. ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN NONPROLIFERATION SINCE 2015**

- Working to strengthen IAEA safeguards and ensure that the Agency has the resources necessary to fulfill its safeguards mandate, including by pledging more than \$450 million in extra-budgetary and in-kind support to the Department of Safeguards.
- Supporting the professionalism, objectivity, and independence of the IAEA.
- Promoting the combination of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol – with a modified Small Quantities Protocol, when applicable – as the *de facto* standard for achieving NPT safeguards goals and assuring NPT obligations are met. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Additional Protocol, and now is the time to reinvigorate efforts in support of its universal adoption.
- Voluntarily implementing IAEA safeguards in the United States, under a safeguards agreement and an Additional Protocol, to adhere to the highest standards of nuclear safeguards and nonproliferation.
- Maintaining rigorous nuclear export controls, working to strengthen nuclear export control regimes, and assisting states to implement regime requirements and secure borders.
- Supporting ratification of the relevant protocols to the Central Asia, South Pacific, and African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone (NWFZ) Treaties.
- Working with the international community to achieve the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the return of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the NPT and IAEA safeguards.
- Working with P5+1 partners and the IAEA on a return by the United States and Iran to full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and on addressing international concerns regarding Iran’s nuclear program, including its insufficient cooperation with the IAEA on outstanding safeguards questions.
- Highlighting Syria’s ongoing noncompliance with its NPT and IAEA safeguards obligations.
- Engaging regularly with regional states to promote inclusive, consensus-based dialogue to advance a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
- Highlighting the need for NPT States Parties to adopt principles that discourage Parties from withdrawing from the Treaty.
- Supporting the efforts of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee and other multilateral efforts to combat illicit nuclear trafficking and nuclear terrorism, including the Proliferation Security Initiative, and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

For more than 50 years, the NPT has made our world safer and more prosperous, and all States Parties continue to reap its benefits. The United States stands ready to work with all our partners to ensure a safer world for everyone, and to lead the way on addressing the existential threat posed by further proliferation of nuclear weapons.

For more information, visit [www.state.gov/tenth-npt-review-conference](http://www.state.gov/tenth-npt-review-conference). Connect with us on Twitter (@StateISN, @USNPT) and on [Facebook](#).