
V. NUCLEAR WEAPONS TODAY

NUCLEAR ARMS REGIME

Nuclear policies of states or communities of states are not only discussed in the NPT or the CTBT but also in other treaty instruments.

United Nations Conference on Disarmament (UNCD)

The Conference on Disarmament is a multilateral association which focusing on Arms Control, Measures for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. It operates independently from the United Nations, however, is seen represent for them. The agenda of the UNCD includes stopping (nuclear) arms races and establishing more transparency concerning arms control and disarmament. It was the UNCD that created the treaties of Non-Proliferation (NPT) and Comprehensive Test Ban (CTBT). The current task of the UNCD is to develop a treaty for the Cut Off of Fissile Materials (FMCT) as a measure to limit the production und proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ)

There are certain geographical areas or states defined as nuclear weapon free. The region declares not to deploy, develop, test or use nuclear weapons. In return nuclear weapon states should assure not to use nuclear weapons against these locations.

Today there are following Nuclear Weapon Free Zones:

- Latin America and the Caribbean (1968, Treaty of Tlatelolco)
- South Pacific (1986, Treaty of Rarotonga)
- Southeast Asia (1996, Treaty of Bangkok)
- Afrikc (1996, Treaty of Pelindaba – not into force)
- Antarctica (1959)
- Outer Space (1967)
- Sea Bed (1971)

Even though some treaties came into force not all of them are ratified by all nuclear weapons states.

More bilateral disarmament treaties between the US and Russia

SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Talk)

1972: Limits the amount of launch systems for intercontinental missiles on the ground and ballistic submarine missiles.

ABM (Anti Ballistic Missile)

1972: Forbids the deployment of ABMs outside of Washington and Moscow respectively. This treaty has been recalled by the US in 2001.

SALT II

1979: Limitation of carrier systems to the amount of 2400. The US didn't ratify but supported the content.

INF-Treaty (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces)

1987: Every ground INF-missiles (500 – 5500 kilometer) should be destroyed under mutual control.

START I (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)

1991: Limitation of strategic arms with a range over 5000 kilometer to an amount of 25 to 30 percent. The treaty expired in December 2009.

START II

1993: Further reductions and complete renouncement of intercontinental missiles with multiple warheads.

SORT (Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty)

2002: Disarmament of nuclear warheads to the amount of 1700 to 2200 until the year 2012.

NEW START

2010: Renewal of START I. Reduction of nuclear warheads to 1550 and of carrier systems to 800. Expires in 2020.

METHOD: RATING OF TREATIES

MATERIALS: chart as paper for each group, one computer with internet for each group

TIME AND LOCATION: 30-60 minutes, depending on knowledge of participants

The first nuclear test in July 16, 1945 happened over 50 years ago. There are agreements and treaties, however, experts count still more than 20000 nuclear warheads in the world. A critical look into the certain treaties may help to evaluate the de facto endeavors of the nuclear weapon states to disarm.

Create a chart that lists the presented treaties and define the columns with different rating criteria:

Qualitative disarmament

Quantitative disarmament

Universality

Containment of proliferation

Timeframe

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Separate the group in small groups with a maximum of five persons and ask them to evaluate the chart by the help of school marks. Afterwards discuss in the group which results the participants made and why.