

Status of Current Arms Control Treaties

Treaty & Date of Entry into Force	What It Does	No. of signers	Current status
Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM), 1972	Prohibits deployment of a nationwide defense against strategic ballistic missile attack. The ABM treaty has long been considered by the U.S. as a fundamental element of its arms control policy.	Signed by U.S. & U.S.S.R. in 1972; an amendment to the ABM included in the START II negotiations would designate Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine as the successor states to the U.S.S.R.	The treaty still stands, although the successor states have not yet formally been acknowledged by the U.S. The U.S. may be prepared to breach the ABM treaty soon in order to develop a national missile defense (NMD) system.
Biological Weapons & Toxin Convention (BWC), 1975	Bans the development, production, and acquisition of biological agents or toxins “of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective, and other peaceful purposes,” as well as weapons and means of delivery.	162 states have signed on to the BWC as of March 29, 2000. Notable non-signers include Algeria, Israel, and South Korea.	The original BWC text did not include adequate regimes for verifying compliance. A set of verification protocols are now being negotiated. Since verification requires inspections, pharmaceutical companies are concerned about industrial espionage and resist thorough verification measures.
Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), 1997	Bans the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention and transfer of CW. It also prohibits the use of CW and assistance to anyone else to engage in activities prohibited by the CWC.	Signed or acceded to by 172 states and ratified by 135 countries as of April 20, 2000.	Entered into force in 1997 after the 65 th state’s ratification.
Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), signed in 1996 (not yet in effect)	Prohibits all “nuclear weapons test explosions and all other nuclear explosions.” The treaty is intended to constrain "the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons" and end "the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons."	Signed by 155 states and ratified by 58 as of June 30, 2000.	44 nuclear-capable states are required to sign and ratify the treaty for it to take effect. To date, 41 of those countries have signed (except DPRK, India, and Pakistan); 29 of the signers have ratified the Treaty (notable exceptions: China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, U.S.).

<p>Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), formed 1987</p>	<p>MTCR is an informal and voluntary association of countries which seek to coordinate national export licensing efforts aimed at preventing proliferation of ballistic missiles and other unmanned air vehicle delivery systems, or related equipment, material and technology.</p>	<p>32 countries now participate in the MTCR. However, the MTCR does not make export licensing decisions as a group. Rather, individual partners are responsible for implementing the guidelines in accordance with national legislation and practice.</p>	<p>Partners adhere to common export policy guidelines applied to a common list of controlled items. The regime does not constitute a ban on these items, but instead provides a consultative mechanism for exchanging information on states making export requests.</p>
<p>Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 1970</p>	<p>Seeks to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Limits the nuclear parties to the treaty to Britain, China, France, Russia and U.S.; prevents the proliferation of nuclear weapons; sets guidelines for peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and calls for the nuclear states to begin total elimination of their arsenals.</p>	<p>187 states are parties to the NPT. Four states are notably absent: Cuba, India, Israel, and Pakistan. The latter three states are unwilling to give up their nuclear weapons capabilities to accede to the treaty.</p>	<p>For the first time, the NPT's Review Conference issued a document that incorporated strong commitments to nuclear disarmament by the 'nuclear five'; however, the wording is highly qualified, and the NPT suffers from non-compliance among States Parties (i.e., Iraq and North Korea).</p>
<p>Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) series START I, 1994; START II, negotiated 1993, (entry-into-force pending); START III, talks initiated</p>	<p>START I set a baseline for Russian and U.S. arsenals of no more than 6,000 warheads on land- and sea-based missiles by Dec. 2001, while START II reduces the number to 3,000 to 3,500 strategic nuclear warheads each on ICBMs, SLBMs and heavy bombers effective Dec. 2007.</p>	<p>START I signed by the U.S. and U.S.S.R., while START II was negotiated between the U.S. and Russia.</p>	<p>START II, with accompanying 'extras' (negotiated in 1997), was ratified by the Russian Duma this spring, but is now stuck at the doorstep of the U.S. Congress. The U.S. must agree to the 'extras,' which include expanded accession, for entry-into-force.</p>