



# **Existing Challenges to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime**

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# Outline

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- 1. Overview of the nuclear non-proliferation regime**
- 2. Existing challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime**
  - a) Philosophical challenges**
  - b) Intellectual challenges**
  - c) Material challenges**
- 3. Open-ended question**

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# The Nuclear Non-proliferation Regime: Normative, Multilateral, Legal Agreements, Inspections


<p><b>ESTABLISHES RULES &amp; NORMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NPT</b></li><li>• <b>IAEA (including Additional Protocol/ the international safeguards system)</b></li><li>• <b>Nuclear Weapon Free Zones</b></li></ul>	<p><b>CONTROLS SUPPLY SIDE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nuclear Suppliers Group</b></li><li>• <b>Zangger Committee</b></li><li>• <b>Wassenaar Arrangement</b></li></ul>
<p><b>ADDRESSES NUCLEAR TERRORISM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>UN Sec. Council Resolution 1540</b></li><li>• <b>G8 Global Partnership</b></li><li>• <b>Proliferation Security Initiative</b></li><li>• <b>Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism</b></li></ul>	<p><b>ENFORCES AND PUNISHES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Inspections by the IAEA</b></li><li>• <b>Punishment by the UNSC</b></li></ul>

# The NPT in a nutshell

**Aimed at preventing the increase in the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons**

**AND**

**Ensuring to non-nuclear weapon countries access to all peaceful uses of atomic energy**



International Atomic Energy Agency  
**INFORMATION CIRCULAR**

**INF**

INFCIRC/140  
22 April 1970

GENERAL Distr.  
ENGLISH

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**TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

Notification of the entry into force

- By letters addressed to the Director General on 5, 6 and 20 March 1970 respectively, the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which are designated as the Depository Governments in Article IX, 2 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, informed the Agency that the Treaty had entered into force on 5 March 1970.
- The text of the Treaty, taken from a certified true copy provided by one of the Depository Governments, is reproduced below for the convenience of all Members.

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**TREATY**

**ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

The States concluding this Treaty, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties to the Treaty",

Considering the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war and the consequent need to make every effort to avert the danger of such a war and to take measures to safeguard the security of peoples,

Believing that the proliferation of nuclear weapons would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war,

In conformity with resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly calling for the conclusion of an agreement on the prevention of wider dissemination of nuclear weapons,

Undertaking to co-operate in facilitating the application of International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on peaceful nuclear activities,

Expressing their support for research, development and other efforts to further the application, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system, of the principle of safeguarding effectively the flow of source and special fissionable materials by use of instruments and other techniques at certain strategic points,

Affirming the principle that the benefits of peaceful applications of nuclear technology, including any technological by-products which may be derived by nuclear-weapon States from the development of nuclear explosive devices, should be available for peaceful purposes to all Parties to the Treaty, whether nuclear-weapon or non-nuclear-weapon States,

Convinced that, in furtherance of this principle, all Parties to the Treaty are entitled to participate in the fullest possible exchange of scientific information for, and to contribute alone or in co-operation with other States to, the further development of the applications of atomic energy for peaceful purposes,

Declaring their intention to achieve at the earliest possible date the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to undertake effective measures in the direction of nuclear disarmament,

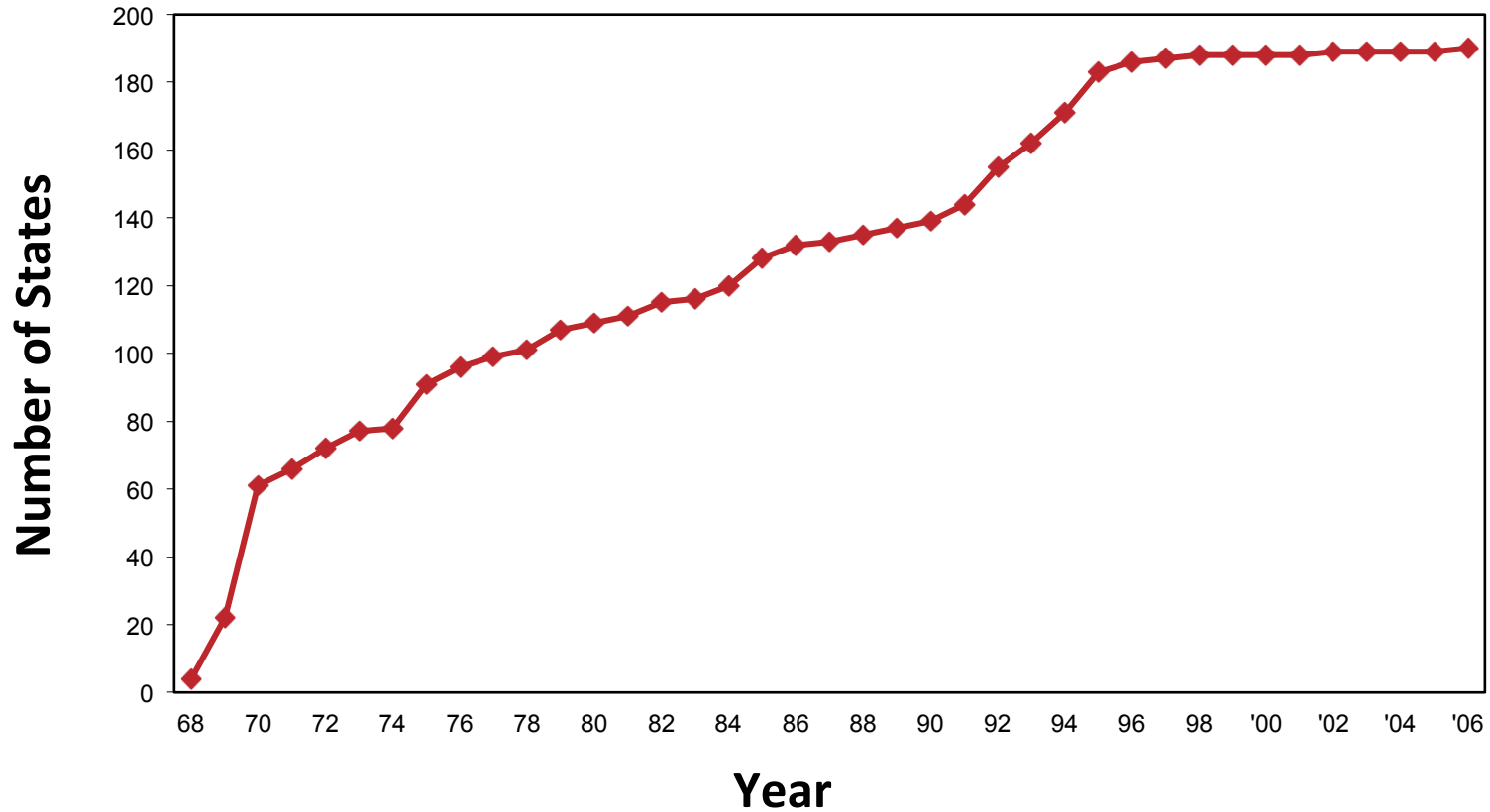
Urging the co-operation of all States in the attainment of this objective,

# NPT Strengths

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- 1. Number of NWS far lower than originally anticipated**
- 2. More nations have given up nuclear weapons programmes than have started them**
- 3. Fewer number of nuclear weapons today**
- 4. NPT is here to stay**
- 5. All but 4 countries are signatories**
- 6. Enabled nuclear rollback in some countries**
- 7. Creation of NWFZ**

# Number of States Ratifying the NPT, 1968-2006



# NPT Weaknesses

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- 1. Inability to prevent non-signatories from crossing the nuclear threshold**
- 2. The ease to which a former NPT signatory can pull out and subsequently become a NWS**
- 3. No effective verification/compliance mechanism in place re disarmament**
- 4. Out-dated and irrelevant to 21<sup>st</sup> Century**



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# Existing Nuclear Non-proliferation Challenges

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- 1. Philosophical – meaning and perception**
- 2. Intellectual – relevance of existing regime today**
- 3. Material – actual practical challenges**

# **Philosophical Nuclear Non-proliferation Challenges**

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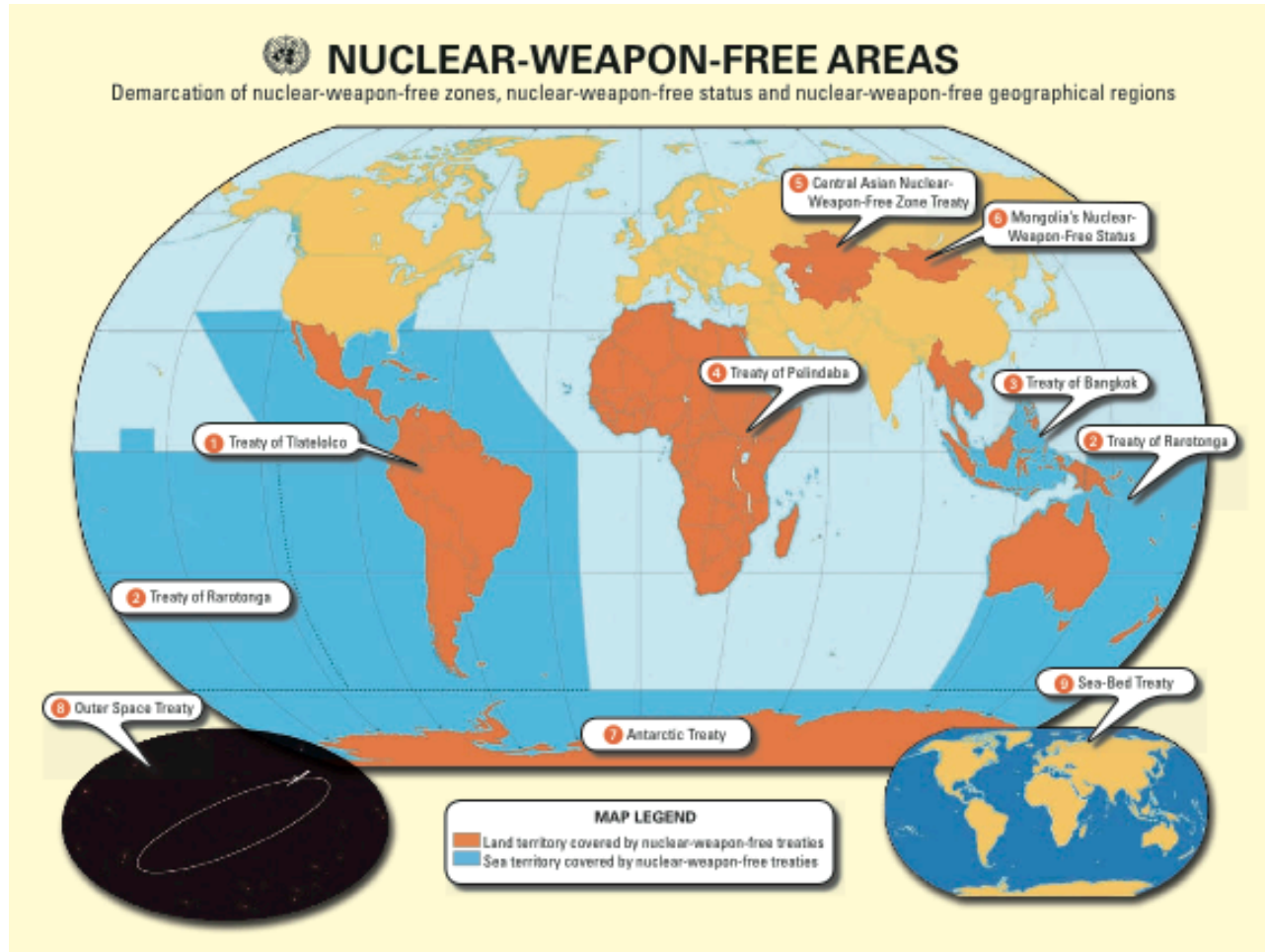
- 1. Differentiating between “we” and “other”**
- 2. Threat perceptions – are they same for “us” and “them”?**
- 3. Changing the narrative – is proliferation the gravest international security threat for all countries?**

# Intellectual Nuclear Non-proliferation Challenges

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- 1. Is the regime relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**
- 2. How can we conceive of more NWFZs when we have NWS?**
- 3. How do we overcome indefinite discrimination vis-à-vis disarmament?**

# Existing NWFZs



Source: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

<http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/pdf/NWFZ-postcard-2010.pdf>

# Material Nuclear Non-proliferation Challenges

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- 1. Emerging technology**
- 2. Effectiveness of safeguards**
- 3. Financial constraints**

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# **How should we overcome these challenges?**

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- **Regional vs International?**
- **Future role of IAEA?**
- **Future of NPT?**
- **Future of nuclear safeguards and non-proliferation?**