**Get the Facts: Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

**Opened for signature:** 1 July 1968  
**Entered into force:** 5 March 1970  
**Duration:** Indefinite (extended in 1995)  
**Depositaries:** Russia, UK, and US  
**States Parties:** 191

**Overview:**

The NPT is a multilateral treaty aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons including three elements: (1) non-proliferation, (2) disarmament, and (3) peaceful use of nuclear energy.

1. States without nuclear weapons will not acquire them;  
2. States with nuclear weapons will pursue disarmament;  
3. All states can access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, under appropriate safeguards.

**Rights and Responsibilities**

These three elements constitute a “grand bargain” between the five nuclear weapon states and the non-nuclear weapon states with corresponding rights and responsibilities.

**Nuclear Weapon States (NWS):**

- May not transfer nuclear weapons to NNWS (Art. I)  
- May not assist or encourage any NNWS to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons (Art. I)  
- May not provide nuclear material for peaceful purposes or technology for its production to NNWS unless it is placed under safeguards (Art. III)  
- Must pursue negotiations in good faith towards ending the nuclear arms race and achieving nuclear disarmament (Art. VI)

**Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS):**

- Must not build, acquire, possess, or seek to obtain nuclear weapons (Art. II)  
- May not receive transfers of nuclear weapons or any other nuclear explosive devices from anyone (Art. II)  
- Maintain an “inalienable right” to research, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes (Art. IV)  
- Must accept IAEA safeguards (audits, monitoring and inspections) on all of their peaceful nuclear activities and materials to verify that they are not diverted to nuclear weapons purposes (Art. III)  
- Must pursue negotiations in good faith towards ending the nuclear arms race and achieving nuclear disarmament (Art. VI)

**Review Process:**

States parties convene every five years to review the implementation of the Treaty (Art. VIII) and, since 1995, to set a forward-looking agenda. At the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, States parties decided to "strengthen" the review process and to convene 10-day Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings in each of the three years preceding a Review Conference (RevCon). If necessary, a fourth PrepCom may convene in the year of the Conference.