

FROM HAND GRENADES TO MULTIPLE NUCLEAR WARHEADS

Instruments for nuclear and conventional disarmament, by year of entry into force (selected)

- expired
- not in force
- cancelled
- limited effectiveness

Agreements within the United Nations

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): prohibits nuclear weapon states from proliferation, non-nuclear states from acquiring or producing nuclear weapons, allows the peaceful use of nuclear energy

Biological Weapons Convention: prohibits biological warfare agents and weapons systems

Convention on the Prohibition of Particularly Inhumane Weapons (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, CCW): standards for smaller weapons, e.g. blinding and incendiary weapons, no agreement on anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions

Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (Chemical Weapons Convention, CWC): basis of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which monitors the ban

Ottawa Convention: Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (Mine Ban Treaty)

Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA)

Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT): sets standards for arms exports and their transparency, without control and sanction mechanisms

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW): prohibits development, production, testing, acquisition, stockpiling, transport, deployment and use of nuclear weapons, without nuclear states and stationing countries

Political Declaration on the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA)

New global framework on ammunition: with 15 goals, including the containment of international ammunition flows

Agreements outside the United Nations

⊗ bilateral between USA and Soviet Union/Russia

Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT): prohibits nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in space and under water. France and China continued testing.

Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I): limits on the number and quality of long-distance strategic weapons, not battlefield weapons

Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM Treaty): to prevent effective nationwide missile defence and thus increase mutual vulnerability

SALT II: includes maximum limits for bombers with cruise missiles and missiles with multiple warheads

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty): provided for destruction of all ground-based medium- and short-range nuclear missiles; after mutual allegations of violations, the USA withdrew in 2019

Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT): limits the explosive power of underground nuclear weapons tests

Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty): 30 states agreed on upper limits for aircraft and tanks, among other things; with monitoring visits. 2023 withdrawal of Russia, then suspension by NATO countries

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I): authorized on-site inspections to ensure that, for example, a limit of 6,000 nuclear warheads per side is not exceeded

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT): prohibits nuclear tests and explosions, comes into force only when all countries with nuclear weapons or nuclear power plants have acceded

START II: further reduction, including to 3,500 warheads each

Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty, SORT Treaty: further reduction to 1,700–2,200 deployed strategic nuclear weapons each

START III (New START): further reduction to 1,550 nuclear warheads, among others

