United Nations' Efforts for Nuclear Non-Proliferation By Agha Zuhaib Khan (CSS 2024)

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) has been central to global efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons since its inception. In fact, the very first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in January 1946 established a commission to seek ways to eliminate atomic weapons and ensure nuclear energy would be used only for peaceful purposesarmscontrol.org. Over the decades, the UN has provided a forum for negotiating landmark treaties, created mechanisms for monitoring nuclear programs, and coordinated international actions to curb nuclear proliferation. This note outlines the historical evolution of UN involvement in nuclear non-proliferation, examines key treaties and mechanisms under UN auspices, highlights major milestones and recent developments up to 2025, and evaluates the successes and challenges of these efforts in a global context.

Historical Background of UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Efforts

Early Post-War Initiatives: In the wake of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the UN's founders prioritized preventing future nuclear devastation. The first UN General Assembly resolution (Resolution 1(I) of 1946) created the UN Atomic Energy Commission (UNAEC) to develop proposals for "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons" and the control of atomic energy for peaceful endsarmscontrol.org. Subsequent proposals, like the U.S.-backed Baruch Plan of 1946, sought international control over nuclear materials but were rejected amid Cold War distrust. Nonetheless, the UN's early focus set the tone for multilateral nuclear restraint even as a superpower arms race began.

"Atoms for Peace" and the IAEA: By the 1950s, recognizing that nuclear technology was spreading, the UN shifted toward promoting peaceful uses of atomic energy under safeguards. U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1953 "Atoms for Peace" speech at the UN General Assembly catalyzed the creation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1957iaea.org. Established within the UN family, the IAEA's mandate was dual: to encourage the benign applications of nuclear science and to ensure such activities would "not be used to further any military purpose"iaea.org. In essence, the IAEA became the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization, charged with promoting nuclear energy for development while preventing its diversion to weapons. It was founded to facilitate the increased use of nuclear energy for civil purposes **without** contributing to the spread of nuclear armsnobelprize.org. Later, when the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty entered into force, the IAEA emerged as the key instrument to verify compliance with that treaty's non-proliferation obligationsnobelprize.org.

Negotiating the NPT: As more states acquired nuclear technology in the 1960s, the UN sponsored multilateral talks to prevent new nuclear-armed countries from emerging. Negotiations in the

UN's Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament produced the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which was opened for signature in 1968 and entered into force in 1970en.wikipedia.org. The NPT became the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime, embodying a grand bargain between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states. Under this pact, non-nuclear signatories renounce acquiring nuclear weapons, while the five acknowledged nuclear-weapon states (the United States, Soviet Union/Russia, United Kingdom, France, and China) pledge to pursue disarmament and to share peaceful nuclear technology benefitsen.wikipedia.org. With the NPT's advent, the UN provided an enduring framework that has constrained the spread of nuclear arms for over half a century.

Key Treaties and Mechanisms under UN Auspices

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The NPT is often described as a landmark accord and the foundation of UN-led non-proliferation efforts. It now has more state parties than any other arms control agreement – *191* countries have joined, reflecting its nearly universal acceptanceen.wikipedia.org. Only four UN member states remain outside the NPT (India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Sudan), three of which are known or believed to possess nuclear weaponsen.wikipedia.org. North Korea is the sole country to have joined the NPT and later withdrawn (in 2003) – a move not universally recognized as legal – after violating its obligationsen.wikipedia.orgarmscontrol.org. The NPT's three pillars are: non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful use of nuclear energy. It defines the five nuclear-weapon states (those that tested bombs before 1967) and obligates all other signatories never to develop or acquire nuclear weapons. In return, the nuclear-armed states agreed to work toward disarmament and to guarantee access to civilian nuclear technology for the non-nuclear statesen.wikipedia.org.

Since its inception, the NPT has been reviewed every five years at UN-backed Review Conferences to assess implementation. A major milestone came in 1995, when NPT states parties agreed to extend the treaty indefinitely, cementing its permanenceen.wikipedia.org. Subsequent review conferences have had mixed outcomes: for example, the 2000 conference achieved consensus on a "13-step" disarmament action plan, and the 2010 conference produced a 64-point action plan, but the 2005, 2015, and 2022 meetings failed to adopt consensus documents due to disagreements (e.g. over establishing a Middle East WMD-free zone and, in 2022, over language related to the Ukraine conflict)press.un.orgpress.un.org. Despite these diplomatic hurdles, the NPT is credited with dramatically slowing proliferation. In the 1960s, experts warned that 20–30 countries might acquire nuclear weapons within a few decades; instead, by the 21st century the vast majority of states have abstained from nuclear arms, thanks in large part to the NPT regimeen.wikipedia.orgarmscontrol.org. The treaty's success is evident in that dire predictions of a world with dozens of nuclear powers have not come to passarmscontrol.org. However, critics

note that progress on the NPT's disarmament pillar has been limited – the five authorized nuclear states still collectively hold over 12,000 nuclear warheads as of 2024, and all are modernizing their arsenalsarmscontrol.orgarmscontrol.org. Balancing the NPT's demands for non-proliferation with the long-deferred goal of complete nuclear disarmament remains a core challenge under UN auspices.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Safeguards

To enforce non-proliferation commitments, the UN relies on the IAEA's safeguards system – a set of technical measures including inspections, surveillance, and audits of nuclear materials. All non-nuclear-weapon states party to the NPT must conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA, placing their nuclear facilities under agency monitoringnobelprize.org. This verification regime is designed to detect and deter any diversion of nuclear material to weapons. Over time, IAEA safeguards have been strengthened (for instance, through the Additional Protocol that grants inspectors expanded access) to improve their effectiveness. Notably, the IAEA was the first to sound the alarm in the early 1990s that North Korea had clandestinely diverted plutonium for nuclear weaponsnobelprize.org. IAEA inspections also played a pivotal role in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq war – the Agency's expert findings (that Iraq had not reconstituted a nuclear weapons program) were later proven accuratenobelprize.org. These cases underscore the IAEA's value as an objective watchdog. The agency's importance was affirmed when it (along with its Director General) received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 for efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposesnobelprize.org. The Nobel Committee emphasized that countering proliferation requires "the broadest possible international cooperation" under IAEA and UN Security Council leadershipnobelprize.org. In practice, the IAEA works hand-in-hand with the UN – reporting non-compliance (as in Iran or North Korea) to the Security Council and General Assembly, which can then take action. The IAEA thus serves as an indispensable mechanism underpinning UN non-proliferation objectives by providing transparency and confidence-building measures worldwide.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Another pillar of UN-led non-proliferation efforts is the attempt to ban all nuclear test explosions. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted in 1996 to prohibit nuclear tests globally, thereby constraining qualitative improvements of arsenals and discouraging proliferation. The CTBT has been signed by 187 states and ratified by 178 as of early 2025armscontrol.org. However, this treaty has not yet entered into force because a specific subset of 44 *nuclear-capable* states (the "Annex 2" states) must all ratify it, and as of 2025 eight key states have not done soarmscontrol.org. These hold-outs include the United States and China (who have signed but not ratified), and others that have not signed at all such as India, Pakistan, and North Korea. Despite this delay, the CTBT has established an international norm against

nuclear testing – only one country (North Korea) has conducted nuclear test explosions in the 21st century. The treaty created the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) which operates a sophisticated global monitoring system that has reliably detected even North Korea's underground tests. The UN Security Council has repeatedly urged all states to ratify the CTBT and refrain from testing; in a 2009 special summit, the Council called for bringing the CTBT into force "as soon as possible"disarmament.unoda.org. Although the treaty's fate remains in limbo – with recent setbacks like Russia's 2023 decision to revoke its ratification in response to U.S. policy – the test ban effort under UN auspices reflects a broad international consensus that nuclear explosive testing is no longer acceptable. A de facto moratorium on testing is one tangible success, pending the CTBT's formal entry into force.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones

The UN has also encouraged the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) as a regional approach to non-proliferation. There are five major NWFZ treaties covering vast populated areas: Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco, 1967), the South Pacific (Rarotonga Treaty, 1985), Southeast Asia (Bangkok Treaty, 1995), Africa (Pelindaba Treaty, 1996), and Central Asia (Semipalatinsk Treaty, 2006). Collectively, these zones ban nuclear weapons within entire regions, and today **112** states are party to such treaties – encompassing most of the Southern Hemisphere and parts of the Northern Hemispherenautilus.org. In other words, over half of all UN member states have legally committed to keep their territories free of nuclear arms, an achievement the UN strongly endorses. The UN General Assembly has welcomed and facilitated these zones (for example, by providing forums to negotiate them and urging nuclear-weapon states to respect and sign the relevant protocols). The UN Disarmament Commission concluded in 1999 that *"nuclear-weapon-free zones are an important disarmament tool which contributes to regional peace and security and, by extension, international peace and security"*nautilus.org. These zones also build confidence among neighbors and reinforce the NPT's non-proliferation norm at a regional level. While challenges remain (such as the goal of a Middle East zone free of WMD, which the UN has pursued without success for decades), the spread of NWFZ agreements to cover Latin America, Africa, and other regions stands out as a UN-supported success in containing the geographical spread of nuclear weapons.

UN Security Council Resolutions and Enforcement Measures

The UN Security Council (UNSC), charged with maintaining international peace and security, has played a proactive role in nuclear non-proliferation, especially when dealing with acute proliferation crises or setting global norms. A landmark Security Council initiative is Resolution 1540, adopted in 2004 under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which imposes binding obligations on all states to prevent non-state actors (e.g. terrorist groups) from acquiring nuclear, chemical, or biological weaponsdisarmament.unoda.org. UNSCR 1540 mandates every country to enforce

laws prohibiting any form of support to non-state actors attempting to develop or traffic WMDdisarmament.unoda.org. It also established a special committee to assist and monitor implementation, whose mandate has been repeatedly extended (most recently to 2032)disarmament.unoda.org. This resolution filled a critical gap in the non-proliferation regime by addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism and black-market proliferation, thereby complementing treaties that mainly focus on state behavior.

The Security Council has also responded to specific proliferation challenges with sanctions and enforcement actions. After India and Pakistan tested nuclear devices in 1998, the Council condemned the tests and urged both to join the NPT and CTBT (Resolution 1172). More persistently, the Council has grappled with North Korea's nuclear program: following North Korea's first nuclear test in 2006, the UNSC unanimously imposed sanctions and demanded that Pyongyang dismantle its weapons and return to the NPTarmscontrol.org. As North Korea conducted a total of six tests (2006–2017) in defiance of UN resolutions, the Council progressively tightened sanctions, aiming to pressure a rollback of its nuclear capabilitiesarmscontrol.org. In the case of Iran, the Security Council reacted to revelations of undeclared nuclear activities by adopting a series of resolutions between 2006 and 2010 that imposed sanctions and called on Iran to suspend sensitive nuclear fuel-cycle work. This UN pressure, together with diplomacy by permanent members, eventually led to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between Iran and six world powers. The Council unanimously endorsed the JCPOA through Resolution 2231 (2015), which affirmed the deal as a step toward ensuring Iran's nuclear program would remain peacefularmscontrol.org. (Though the JCPOA's implementation has faltered after the United States' withdrawal in 2018, it remains an example of the UN framework facilitating a multilateral non-proliferation agreement.) Additionally, the Security Council has convened high-level sessions to reinvigorate non-proliferation commitments: in September 2009, a special heads-of-state UNSC summit adopted Resolution 1887, which reaffirmed the Council's commitment to "a world without nuclear weapons" and urged all countries to adhere to the NPT and CTBTdisarmament.unoda.orgdisarmament.unoda.org. This demonstrated unity among the great powers at least in principle on strengthening the non-proliferation regime. In short, the Security Council has used its authority both to set normative standards (as with 1540 and 1887) and to take action in cases where states flout non-proliferation rules, making it a crucial component of the UN's efforts.

Major Milestones and Recent Developments (2010–2025)

In the past decade, the landscape of nuclear non-proliferation under the UN has seen both positive initiatives and serious setbacks. A notable development was the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** – a new UN-negotiated treaty opened in 2017 that outright bans nuclear weapons. Frustrated by the slow pace of disarmament by nuclear powers, a coalition of non-nuclear states pushed this treaty through a UN conference, making it the first

multilateral nuclear disarmament treaty in over two decadespress.un.org. The TPNW entered into force in January 2021, and as of 2025 it has 73 states parties and 94 signatoriespress.un.org. UN Secretary-General António Guterres hailed the TPNW as "an important step towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons" and a sign of support for new multilateral approachespress.un.org. However, all existing nuclear-armed states and most of their allies have boycotted the ban treaty, arguing it disregards security realities. This divergence reflects a growing schism in the international community: many non-nuclear countries advocate for faster disarmament (as embodied in the TPNW's humanitarian-driven agenda), while the nuclear weapons states and their partners favor a more gradual, step-by-step approach within the NPT framework. Managing this rift is a contemporary challenge for the UN as it seeks to maintain a cohesive global non-proliferation regime.

On the arms reduction front, bilateral treaties that indirectly support UN goals have been under strain. The U.S. and Russia – who still hold about 90% of the world's nuclear warheads – extended the New START treaty (capping strategic nuclear forces) for five years in 2021, but by 2023 Russia had suspended its participation, raising doubts about the future of verifiable arms controlarmscontrol.org. Meanwhile, previously successful agreements like the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty collapsed in 2019 amid mutual accusations, and talks on further cuts are stalled. This downturn complicates the UN's disarmament agenda, as reductions by the major powers have dramatically slowed. All five NPT-recognized nuclear states are modernizing their arsenals or developing new delivery systems, and newer nuclear-armed states such as India and Pakistan are expanding their missile capabilitiesarmscontrol.org. The global stockpile of nuclear weapons, estimated at roughly 12,100 warheads in 2024, has even begun inching up again after decades of declinearmscontrol.org. These trends are alarming from the UN's perspective, prompting calls for revitalizing disarmament negotiations. In an encouraging sign of unity, the five nuclear weapon states did issue a rare joint statement in January 2022 – coordinated through the UN – affirming that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought" and that further spread of nuclear arms must be preventedarmscontrol.orgarmscontrol.org. This statement, echoing a Cold War maxim, aimed to reduce tensions at a time of deteriorating relations. Yet soon after, the outbreak of the Ukraine war and nuclear threats surrounding it underscored how fragile the global nuclear order remains.

The period also saw mixed results in non-proliferation crises. North Korea, despite UN sanctions, continued to enhance its nuclear arsenal and ballistic missiles. Diplomatic efforts, including unprecedented U.S.–DPRK summits in 2018–2019, did not yield concrete disarmament, and the UN's objective of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula is unmet as of 2025. Iran's situation is uncertain: the UN-backed JCPOA offered a model for peacefully resolving proliferation concerns, but its future hangs in the balance pending negotiations to restore compliance. The NPT Review Conference in 2022 (delayed from 2020 due to COVID-19) ended without consensus, with Russia

blocking the final document over references to its military actions in Ukrainepress.un.orgpress.un.org. This marked the second consecutive Review Conference to fail, reflecting deep divisions among states. Nevertheless, most countries continue to express strong support for the NPT and the broader UN non-proliferation architecture despite these strains. The UN General Assembly and the Secretary-General have repeatedly urged recommitment to dialogue – for example, Guterres's *"New Disarmament Agenda"* launched in 2018 called for reinvigorating nuclear disarmament efforts and preserving gains like the INF and JCPOA. New issues, such as the advent of nuclear-powered submarines being shared with non-nuclear states (as in the 2021 AUKUS partnership), are being debated in UN forums for their proliferation implications. In sum, recent years have been a test of the UN's non-proliferation system: even as it is buffeted by geopolitical conflicts and emerging threats, there have been continuing efforts (treaty initiatives, statements, extensions of mechanisms like UNSCR 1540) to adapt and reinforce the regime up to 2025.

Assessment of Successes and Challenges

Successes: The UN's multifaceted approach to nuclear non-proliferation has yielded significant accomplishments. The most fundamental success is that the spread of nuclear weapons has been far more limited than once feared – largely thanks to the NPT and associated UN frameworks. Today, only nine states possess nuclear weapons, compared to the dozens predicted before the NPT, and nearly every country on earth adheres to non-proliferation normsen.wikipedia.orgarmscontrol.org. The UN has helped institutionalize a global norm that acquiring nuclear weapons is undesirable and dangerous. Concrete examples of non-proliferation success include the voluntary nuclear disarmament of South Africa – the only nation to build nuclear bombs and then completely dismantle them. South Africa terminated its secret weapons program, joined the NPT as a non-weapon state in 1991, and later became a vocal champion of disarmament, a trajectory accomplished with IAEA verification and UN supportnti.orgnti.org. Likewise, former Soviet republics Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine surrendered the nuclear arsenals they inherited after the USSR's breakup, opting for NPT membership and relying on UN-facilitated security assurances in returnarmscontrol.org. Through UN-backed diplomacy and security frameworks, these potentially major proliferation threats were averted. Moreover, the UN's collective security system has been used to penalize and rollback proliferation: Iraq's clandestine nuclear program was dismantled in the 1990s under UN inspections, Libya renounced its nascent nuclear ambitions in 2003 following international pressure, and Syria's covert reactor project was exposed in 2007 (though dealt with preemptively by Israel). The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones covering many regions can be counted as a success in entrenching non-proliferation at the regional levelnautilus.org. Additionally, the overall reduction of global nuclear stockpiles from Cold War highs – the world has far fewer warheads now than in the 1980s – is partly attributable to a climate of arms control and disarmament encouraged by UN

resolutions and advocacy. Finally, no nuclear weapon has been used in conflict since 1945, a salient (if underappreciated) success to which the UN's peace and disarmament efforts have contributed.

Ongoing Challenges: Despite these achievements, the UN's quest for a world without nuclear threats faces enduring and emerging challenges. One fundamental issue is the **slow pace of disarmament** by the nuclear-armed states. The five NPT nuclear powers, while reducing arsenals in the past, still maintain robust stockpiles and have embarked on modernization programs, seemingly indefinitely deferring their Article VI obligation to eliminate nuclear weaponsen.wikipedia.org. This has led to frustration among non-nuclear states and civil society, who criticize what they see as a double standard – a critique that fueled the negotiation of the TPNW outside the traditional UN consensus. Bringing the nuclear possessor states into genuine disarmament talks remains a tough diplomatic challenge. **Non-Compliance and Proliferation Outliers** present another serious hurdle. North Korea's acquisition of nuclear weapons after quitting the NPT stands as a blatant regime failure that the UN has not been able to reverse; it continues to undermine non-proliferation by demonstrating that a determined state can defy international norms. Iran's nuclear issue, if not resolved, could yet see another country move toward the nuclear threshold, with ripple effects across its region. The fact that three nuclear-armed states (India, Pakistan, Israel) remain outside the NPT means universality is still unachieved – and regional rivalries (such as India-Pakistan) drive nuclear competition that the UN has limited leverage to halt. **Geopolitical tensions** among major powers have lately impeded cooperative action: for instance, U.S.-Russia and U.S.-China rivalries have stalled disarmament progress and even complicated consensus on non-proliferation measures that used to receive broad agreement (as seen in the acrimonious 2022 NPT conference). The Security Council's effectiveness is constrained when its permanent members are themselves at odds or implicated (e.g. efforts to censure nuclear-armed allies, or dealing with Russia's own arsenal in the context of the Ukraine conflict). Another challenge is the **evolving technological landscape** – advances in cyber warfare, missile defense, and hypersonic weapons could destabilize nuclear deterrence, and the spread of nuclear submarine propulsion or space-based systems could introduce new proliferation concerns that current treaties don't fully address. Furthermore, the threat of **nuclear terrorism** persists, requiring continuous international vigilance as called for by UNSC 1540; securing weapons-usable nuclear materials worldwide is an ongoing task (formerly boosted by the Nuclear Security Summit process) that demands UN coordination with other initiatives.

Finally, a critical challenge is maintaining faith in multilateral solutions at a time when some states resort to unilateral actions. The UN's approach to non-proliferation hinges on trust, verification, and collective enforcement. When states perceive these mechanisms as ineffective or unfair, they may either seek their own nuclear deterrent or disengage from cooperative regimes. Thus, the UN must strive to address compliance concerns even-handedly and strengthen verification tools

(like more universal adoption of IAEA additional protocols) to reinforce confidence. It must also bridge the divide between nuclear and non-nuclear states by finding common ground – for example, incremental risk-reduction measures, renewed great-power dialogue, or reaffirmation of security assurances to non-nuclear states. In the words of UN officials, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation can only advance through *sustained, collective efforts* by the international communitypress.un.org.

Conclusion

The United Nations has devoted over seven decades to the cause of nuclear non-proliferation, with a record that features notable successes in norm-building, institution-building, and crisis management, as well as disappointments whenever political consensus falters. Through landmark treaties like the NPT and CTBT, vigorous institutions like the IAEA, and binding Security Council resolutions, the UN has constructed a broad framework that has restrained the spread of the most dangerous weapons. Major milestones – from the indefinite extension of the NPT and the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones, to recent innovations like the TPNW – attest to the UN's role in forging a more secure world. At the same time, the persistence of nuclear arsenals and the emergence of new proliferation challenges remind us that this work is far from complete. The UN's efforts have been hampered by great-power rivalries, regional conflicts, and the inherent difficulties of verifying and enforcing compliance in a sovereign state system. Yet, the goal of general and complete nuclear disarmament, first articulated in 1946, remains a guiding star for the United Nations. Looking ahead, revitalizing global commitment to non-proliferation will require diplomacy, political will, and innovative thinking – from reinvigorating arms control among the major powers to ensuring would-be proliferators are engaged or constrained effectively. The UN's experience shows that progress is possible when nations unite behind common security interests: indeed, many fewer nations have nuclear weapons today than feared decades ago, in large part due to norms and agreements developed under UN auspicesen.wikipedia.org. Navigating the next phase – reducing existing stockpiles and preventing any new nuclear crises – will test the resilience of the UN's frameworks. A balanced assessment suggests that while the United Nations has not yet achieved its ultimate vision of a world free of nuclear weapons, its efforts have significantly mitigated the proliferation threat and laid the groundwork for future breakthroughs. Sustained engagement, dialogue, and a renewed commitment to multilateralism will be essential for the UN to surmount the remaining hurdles on the path to a nuclear weapon-free world.

MCQs

1. What was the subject of the first-ever UN General Assembly resolution in 1946?

A. Creation of the Security Council

B. Human Rights Declaration

C. Elimination of atomic weapons

D. Formation of NATO

2. The IAEA was established in which year?

A. 1946

B. 1957

C. 1970

D. 1968

3. The NPT was opened for signature in:

A. 1965

B. 1975

C. 1968

D. 1995

4. How many countries are currently parties to the NPT (as of 2025)?

A. 174

B. 191

C. 153

D. 206

5. Which country is the only one to have joined and later withdrawn from the NPT?

A. Pakistan

B. Iran

C. North Korea

D. India

6. The Additional Protocol of the IAEA allows for:

A. Testing nuclear weapons

B. Greater access for inspectors

C. Building new reactors

D. Buying nuclear materials

7. The CTBT was adopted by the UN in:

A. 1970

B. 1985

C. 1996

D. 2001

8. What is the key reason the CTBT has not yet entered into force?

A. It was never signed

B. Lack of funding

C. Not all 44 required states have ratified it

D. It has been repealed

9. Which of the following is not a recognized Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaty?

A. Treaty of Tlatelolco

B. Treaty of Rarotonga

C. Treaty of Geneva

D. Treaty of Pelindaba

10. UN Security Council Resolution 1540 addresses:

A. Civil use of nuclear energy

B. Space weaponization

C. Terrorist acquisition of WMDs

D. Arms sales to North Korea

11. Which country dismantled its nuclear weapons program voluntarily and joined the NPT as a non-nuclear state?

A. Iran

B. Syria

C. South Africa

D. Ukraine

12. What percentage of the world's nuclear weapons are held by the US and Russia combined?

A. 60%
B. 75%
C. 90%
D. 99%

13. The TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons) entered into force in:

A. 2015

B. 2020

C. 2021

D. 2023

14. What did UNSC Resolution 1887 reaffirm in 2009?

A. The legality of North Korea's weapons

B. The importance of nuclear testing

C. Commitment to a world without nuclear weapons

D. Formation of a new nuclear watchdog

15. Which country's actions led to the failure of the NPT Review Conference in 2022?

A. United States

B. North Korea

C. Russia

D. Israel

16. What is the estimated total number of nuclear warheads in the world as of 2024?

A. 5,000

B. 8,600

C. 10,000

D. 12,100

17. Which of the following statements best reflects the NPT's "three pillars"?

A. Arms trade, nuclear submarines, peaceful testing

B. Non-proliferation, disarmament, peaceful use

C. Intelligence sharing, mutual defense, inspections

D. None of the above

18. The only country to have conducted nuclear tests in the 21st century is:

A. India
B. North Korea
C. Pakistan
D. Israel

19. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is primarily related to:

A. India

B. Russia

C. Iran

D. Japan

20. Which 2022 joint statement was issued by the five NPT nuclear-weapon states?

A. "We will modernize our arsenals"

B. "Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought"

C. "The NPT is obsolete"

D. "The CTBT must be ignored"

Answer Key

1. C – Elimination of atomic weapons
2. B – 1957
3. C – 1968
4. B – 191
5. C – North Korea
6. B – Greater access for inspectors
7. C – 1996
8. C – Not all 44 required states have ratified it
9. C – Treaty of Geneva
10. C – Terrorist acquisition of WMDs
11. C – South Africa
12. C – 90%
13. C – 2021
14. C – Commitment to a world without nuclear weapons
15. C – Russia
16. D – 12,100
17. B – Non-proliferation, disarmament, peaceful use
18. B – North Korea
19. C – Iran
20. B – "Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought"