

US position: Clinton signed this very popular treaty and promised ratification by 2006 once the United States has

perfected self destructing land mines. The present Administration, however, has since withdrawn support from this treaty. The US argued against including cluster bombs, which are, in effect, land mines scattered from the air. Cluster bombs were used extensively in Afghanistan and Kosovo. Despite skepticism about the treaty the US has been active in clearing land mines in many areas. However, news reports in August 2005 claim U.S. is now planning to develop new land mines.

## 12) Child Soldiers

Summary: In May 2000 the UN General Assembly approved an optional protocol for the Convention on the Rights of the Child which would make it a war crime to conscript children under the age of eighteen for warfare of any kind. Children under eighteen may not be compelled to serve and are not to take direct part in hostilities. The Protocol was opened for signatures and ratification and the Secretary General was asked to report annually on progress in enforcing the protocol. For more information, go to <http://www.child-soldiers.org>

Status: In February 2002 the treaty came into force with 94 signatories and 14 ratifications. As of March, 2004 there are 115 signatories and 100 ratifications.

US Position: The US is one of only two countries (the other being Somalia which has no government) that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. President Clinton, however, signed the optional protocol on child soldiers in July 2000 and the Senate ratified the protocol in December 2002.

*Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
DISARM: Dismantle the War Economy Campaign  
1213 Race Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-1691  
[www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org)*

## **MAJOR UN DISARMAMENT TREATIES: STATUS AND USA POSITION ON EACH**

### NUCLEAR WEAPONS TREATIES

#### **1) Limited Test Ban Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water:**

Summary: Underground testing is not banned so long as radiation does not pass beyond the borders of the nation conducting the tests.

Status: 94 nations have now signed and ratified the treaty which came into effect in August, 1963. France and Pakistan are nuclear powers which have not yet ratified the treaty. The text and additional information are available on the [Federation of American Scientists](http://www.fas.org) website, [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org)

US Position: The US signed and ratified the treaty in 1963. Current US plans to develop "mini-nukes" (as outlined in the Nuclear Posture Review and elsewhere) could lead to violation of the treaty.

#### **2) Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty:**

Summary: This treaty would ban all nuclear testing including underground. It establishes a comprehensive monitoring system including on-site inspection on short notice. Background, a summary of the Treaty, and comprehensive information on the November 2001 Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force, a summary of treaty provisions and links to other useful sites on this important treaty are available from WILPF at [www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org)

Status: As of August, 2005, 175 countries have signed the treaty and 122 have ratified it. Libya ratified the CTBT in January of 2004. All forty-four States with nuclear power plants must ratify before the treaty can come into force. Seven of these essential

countries, including the United States and China, have not yet ratified. The most comprehensive and up-to-date site on the treaty is that of the **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization**.

**U.S. Position:** The U.S. has signed but not ratified the treaty and it boycotted the November 2001 Conference. Officials in the current U.S. Administration have indicated they find the treaty irrelevant to US interests. A week before the conference in 2001 the US forced a procedural vote in the General Assembly First Committee and was the only country to vote against the treaty. The current U.S. Nuclear Posture Review is not consistent with the intent of the CTBT, and the current budget includes funds for preparation for possible nuclear testing.

### **3) Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty:**

**Summary:** This treaty became international law in 1970. At that time there were five nuclear powers: the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China. Now there are eight (not counting N. Korea). An important review conference took place in April 2002 in which WILPF actively participated. Information on the treaty, the review conferences and the history and the text of the treaty are at **UN WILPF [www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org)**

**Status:** 187 nations have now signed and ratified the treaty. All parties to the treaty pledged themselves to work for general and complete disarmament. Only three countries have remained outside of the treaty; Israel, India and Pakistan. Cuba has recently ratified, but North Korea has announced its withdrawal

**U.S. Position:** Some believe the position expressed in the Nuclear Posture Review, which reverses previous policy and now threatens to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states, will arouse fears and trigger a new nuclear arms race. The U.S. has failed to keep most of the pledges made at the NPT review conference in 2000 and in 2005 blocked progress on the treaty.

### **4) Nuclear Weapons Convention:**

**Summary:** In July 2001, 140 nations agreed unanimously on a voluntary pact to eliminate illicit small arms trade. Conference participants unanimously supported a program of action urging governments to require gun manufacturers to mark and trace their guns, to establish laws regulating arms brokers, to ensure export controls on small arms and light weapons, to criminalize the illicit production and trade of the weapons and to destroy surplus stocks of small arms.

**Status:** Despite general frustration over the US positions Kofi Annan praised participants for their ability to reach consensus on many important first steps in controlling illicit weapons flows. Up-to-date details are available at **<http://www.iansa.org/>** The General Assembly on December 12, 2003 decided to have an open-ended working group on Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons to negotiate an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons. The first illegal gun control protocol came into force in 2-005 with 41 ratifications.

**US position:** The United States blocked agreement, however, on provisions to regulate civilian gun ownership and to curb arms transfers to non state actors. A follow-up conference is scheduled for 2006. The US has neither signed nor ratified the protocol on control of illegal guns.

### **11) Land Mines**

**Summary:** This 1997 treaty bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of antipersonnel landmines

**Status:** As of November, 2002, it has been ratified by 145 countries and signed by 8 additional states that have not yet ratified. . Up-dated information on the treaty and the campaign to make it truly global can be found on the website of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines at **<http://www.icbl.org/>**

Summary: The original treaty on peaceful uses of space came into effect in 1967. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty (formally titled as the Treaty on the Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies) specifically bans weapons of mass destruction in space or on celestial bodies. The intent of the treaty is to ensure peaceful uses of space for the good of all nations but it does not ban weaponization in general or nuclear power in space, nor does it control spy satellites or the accumulation of "junk" in space. The original treaty and other relevant documents regarding space are available from <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/paros/parosindex.html>.

Status: 98 states have ratified and 27 signed as of January 2005. 183 UN members reaffirmed the treaty in November 2001 (Israel and the US abstained). In February 1999 the Canadians proposed an ad hoc committee to negotiate a convention on the non-weaponization of outer space. China made a similar proposal in March 1999. In October 1999 21 countries, including China, Russia, Pakistan and North Korea, reaffirmed the work of the ad hoc committee and called upon all nations for support.

US Position: The US supported the original declaration on the peaceful uses of space (1967) but when 183 UN members sought to reaffirm it in November of 2001 the US and Israel were the only two countries to abstain. The Pentagon is currently moving forward on efforts to put weapons and nuclear power into space. Vision 2020 of the Space Command re future star wars is at <http://www.fas.org/spp/military/docops/usspac/visbook.pdf> Preventing weaponization of space and the Ballistic Missile "Defense" program are major goals of WILPF. See <http://www.wilpf.org/campaigns/disarm/ABOL.htm> for details.

## **SMALL ARMS TRADE, LAND MINES AND CHILD SOLDIERS**

### **10) Small arms trade:**

Summary: A model for a Nuclear Weapons Convention was introduced by a consortium of scientists, former diplomats, disarmament specialists and activists in 1997. Costa Rica submitted it to the United Nations as a discussion document. Full text and reports on monitoring and follow-up are available at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/nwc/nwcindex.html>. WILPF sees the Convention as an important educative tool for developing political will to abolish nuclear weapons, as well as laying foundations for future negotiations. International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War monitors progress on the Convention and the draft Convention and discussion documents can be accessed at <http://www.ippnw.org>.

### **5) Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty:**

Summary: This is a bi-lateral treaty between Russians and the United States (1972) in which each of the then two super powers agreed not to build defensive systems against each others missiles,

Status: Reaffirmation of the treaty, scuttling of US plans for a missile defense system and weapons in space are major concerns of the US WILPF Section Disarmament Campaign. For links to the treaty, background articles and US Section Disarm Campaign action plans see [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org) under Disarmament/Abolition.

US Position: The United States announced its intent to withdraw from this treaty in order to develop a missile defense system. Withdrawal became effective June 13, 2002.

### **6) START II/ New U.S.-Russian "Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions**

Summary: The second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the US and Russia was to limit US and Russian strategic arsenals to 3,500 warheads (NOTE: tactical and spares are not included here!). The US ratified in 1996, the Russian Duma ratified in April 2000.

Status: A new treaty replacing the START process was signed by the US and Russia on May 24, 2002. The agreement requires each side to reduce its number of “operationally deployed” strategic warheads from today’s 5,000-6,000 to no more than 2,200 by 2012, when the treaty will expire. For a good analysis of this treaty, go to <http://www.armscontrol.org>. The treaty does not spell out what is to be done with warheads removed from service, and either party may withdraw within three months notice.

US Position: While the Bush administration has said it intends to dismantle some warheads, it also plans to maintain the capability to redeploy at least 2,400 warheads from its active reserves within three years of the conclusion of the agreement, giving the United States the capability to deploy at least 4,600 strategic warheads by 2015. In addition, in response to US withdrawal from the ABM Treaty, Russia withdrew from START II on June 14, 2002. The U.S. is upgrading existing weapons and plans to design new ones like the powerful “bunker buster.”

## **BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

### **7) Biological Weapons Convention:**

Summary: The Convention bans the production, stockpiling or acquisition of biological agents or toxins for other than peaceful purposes. The WILPF United Nations office presents a helpful twelve page discussion of biological weapons and the treaty at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/bw/biolindex.html>. Two other good websites for details on biological weapons which formerly reported sensitive details on the anthrax scare, etc. have been “cleaned up” but the Sunshine Project is still a good watchdog. To receive the most revealing information join the list serve at <http://www.sunshine-project.org/>.

Status: The treaty entered into force in 1975. 169 nations have now signed and 153 ratified the treaty. Since 1995 an ad hoc group has been working on a protocol providing for on-site

inspection.

US position: The US unilaterally renounced biological weapons in 1969 and originally supported the treaty. However, at the November 2001 UN Conference on the Biological Weapons Protocol the United States opposed the development of on-site inspection saying it would endanger both US security and US pharmaceutical companies by revealing secret information. US rejection of this protocol destroyed 7 years of intensive negotiations.

### **8) Chemical Weapons Convention:**

Summary: Under the treaty countries must stop production, development, acquisition, stockpiling and retention of chemical weapons. All weapons must be destroyed within ten years, a timetable is provided, and there is provision for onsite inspection. UN WILPF has an excellent discussion of chemical warfare and the various conventions seeking to eliminate it at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org>.

Status: The treaty entered into force in 1997. 170 countries have now ratified the Convention. The most up-to-date information is at <http://www.opcw.org>.

US Position: The United States has signed and ratified and is currently destroying stockpiles in Umatilla, Oregon but progress is slow because of problems with safety and best methods to use. In addition, on April 24, 2002, after a week of arm-twisting and secret meetings, the US government forced the departure of Jose Bustani, director-general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Critics charged this was because Bustani was working to bring Iraq into compliance with the treaty

## **PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN SPACE.**

### **9) Peaceful Uses of Space**