

DISARMAMENT GLOSSARY

Anti-personnel landmine: An anti-personnel mine is a device "designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person...that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons," according to Article 2 of the Ottawa Treaty that bans these mines. They are victim-activated weapons that do not discriminate between civilian and military personnel, adult or child, war or peace-time.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT): A proposed treaty that would establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. In December 2006 a resolution was adopted by the First Committee entitled "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms," requesting the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts to look into the possibility of an Arms Trade Treaty. A group was established and in 2008 a report by the group prompted the General Assembly to start discussions focused on a possible arms trade treaty, open to all Member States. On 30 October, at the United Nations, 153 governments agreed on a timetable to establish a "strong and robust" Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) with the "highest common standards" to control international transfers of conventional arms.

Biological Weapons: Weapons charged with disease-producing microorganisms, toxic biological products or organic biocides. An example of a biological weapon is anthrax. Viruses such as Ebola can also be released on populations as a biological weapon.

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC): A treaty that opened for signature in 1972 and that entered into force in 1975. It bans the development, production, stockpiling and acquisition of biological weapons and requires the destruction of such weapons. Currently, there are 19 States which have neither signed nor ratified the Convention. Unlike the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention has no monitoring and verification mechanisms.

Chemical Weapons: Weapons charged with toxic chemical substances which are in liquid, gas or solid form and blister, choke and affect the nerves or blood. Examples include mustard gas and tabun.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC): A treaty adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1997 banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. It required States Parties to destroy all stocks of chemical weapons within 10 years of its entry into force. The CWC has set into place a stringent system of inspections, carried out by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Cluster Munitions: a container that holds a number of sub-munitions, ranging from a few to several hundred. They can be air- or ground- launched, releasing numerous "bomblets" or grenades. Cluster munitions pose a particular danger to civilian populations. They are often inaccurate, indiscriminate (a single strike can spread across a wide area), and unreliable; large numbers of unexploded sub-munitions often remain on the ground and can be triggered by passing civilians.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT): A treaty that bans all nuclear-weapons tests. It which opened for signature in September 1996 but has not yet entered into force. For this to happen, nine of the "Annex 2 countries" (countries that possess nuclear power reactors or research reactors) must ratify the treaty. These

countries are China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States. Otherwise it has been ratified by 148 countries but cannot take effect until the nine annex 2 countries ratify it.

Convention on Cluster Munitions: The Convention outlaws the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of nearly all cluster bombs. Countries that ratify the Convention are required to destroy all existing cluster munitions stockpiles and to commit themselves to aid countries affected by cluster bombs. A result of the *Oslo Process*, the Convention opened for signature in December 2008 and will enter into force after 30 states have ratified it, likely by the end of 2009.

Disarmament: The action of a group or state to rid itself of nuclear and conventional weapons.

Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR): DDR is a process undertaken by the United Nations and other organisations to add security and stability in post-conflict environments. This process involves the disarming of ex-combatants, taking them out of military structures and helping them to integrate socially and economically into society. DDR is meant to lay the groundwork for safeguarding and sustaining communities in which ex-combatants can live as law-abiding citizens, while the government and society is developed and secured.

Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT): A *proposed* international treaty to prohibit the further production of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium. These are the materials that create nuclear weapons and the rationale is that by stopping their enrichment one can help prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. In December 1993, the General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution calling for negotiation of a verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. Since then, negotiations on a FMCT have met significant hurdles and major aspects of the treaty continue to be debated in the Conference on Disarmament.

Mine Action: Mine action refers to five activities that are the cornerstones of the Mine Ban Treaty. This includes removing and destroying landmines; mine-risk education; medical assistance and rehabilitation services to landmine victims; advocating for countries to participate in international treaties designed to end the production and use of landmines; and assisting countries in the destruction of their stockpiled.

Non-Proliferation: The prevention of continued development of nuclear weapons and weapons technology by states as well as to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament.

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): A multi-lateral disarmament treaty that opened for signature in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. The NPT operates on three “pillars” or main areas: non-proliferation, disarmament and the right to peacefully use nuclear energy. A total of 190 parties have joined the NPT, including the five nuclear-weapon Security Council States. Three countries, which have or are suspected of having nuclear weapons programmes, are currently outside the NPT: India, Pakistan and Israel and North Korea announced its withdrawal from the Treaty in 2003. Review Conferences are held every five years to assess progress toward the implementation of the NPT. The next conference will be held in New York in May 2010.

Nuclear energy: The energy released by a nuclear reaction, usually through fusion or fission. This form of energy production continues to be used by numerous countries as a means to provide energy for its population. Under the NPT, countries have the right to peacefully produce and use nuclear energy. However, there continues to be controversies with particular countries producing nuclear energy, such as Iran and North Korea, and debates on whether or not they seek technology to solely produce nuclear energy or intend to produce nuclear weapons.

Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ): A specified region in which countries commit themselves not to manufacture, acquire, test or possess nuclear weapons. There are four NWFZs currently in force: Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, the South Pacific and Central Asia.

Nuclear Weapons Convention: A *proposed* international treaty that would prohibit the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons as well as provide for their elimination.

Ottawa Convention: The Ottawa Treaty or the Mine Ban Treaty, formally the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, bans completely all anti-personnel landmines (AP-mines). As of May 2009[update], there were 156 States Parties to the treaty. Two states have signed but not yet ratified it. Thirty-seven states, including the People's Republic of China, India, Russia and the United States, are not party to the Convention.

Sign vs. Ratify vs. Accede: By **signing** a convention or treaty, a state proclaims its consent to be bound by its provisions once it ratifies the treaty. In addition, the state is obligated to not act against the “object and purpose” of the treaty until the treaty becomes law for that state. Every country that has a convention or treaty must still **ratify** it in order to become a State Party bound by the convention’s provisions. Ratification by a State usually requires a domestic process or legislation, thereby involving the Parliament, Senate, the Crown, Head of State or Government, or a combination of these. After a convention enters into force, states that have already signed can still ratify. However, after the convention enters into force, it is no longer open for signature. States may no longer sign then ratify, but instead can become bound through the process of **acceding** which has the same effect as ratification

Six-Party Talks: A series of meetings beginning in August 2003 between six participating States: the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea), the Republic of Korea (South Korea), the People’s Republic of China, the United States of America, the Russian Federation and Japan. These meetings have taken place as a result of North Korea withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation-Treaty in 2003. The meetings allowed for dialogue and negotiations between the countries in the hopes for North Korea to end its nuclear enrichment program. In April 2009, North Korea quit the talks as a response to the Security Council’s condemnation of its failed April 5, 2009 satellite launch. In October, North Korea indicated it was willing to return to the Six-Party Talks if the United States agreed to bilateral talks before hand. The United States rejected this request and the Six-Party Talks remain at a stalemate.

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs): Small arms are broadly categorized as weapons intended for use by individual members of armed or security forces; including revolvers, pistols, sub-machine guns, assault rifles, and light machine guns. Light weapons are broadly categorized as those weapons intended for use by several members of armed or security forces; including heavy machine guns, hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems and portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems.

The United Nations Programme of Action (PoA): A United Nations programme that was adopted in 2001 as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Traffic of Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects. The PoA politically encourages all UN Member States to adopt a number of measures at the national, regional and global levels to strengthen the ability of States in identifying and tracing illicit arms and light weapons and calls for the destruction of all confiscated illegal weapons. In July 2006, the United Nations Conference to review the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons ended without an agreed outcome document.

Victim Assistance: Used mainly in the context of the Mine Ban Treaty, victim assistance is an area of mine action that is outlined as an obligation of Treaty. It includes understanding the extent of the challenges faced through data collection; emergency and continuing medical care; physical rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, prosthetic and assistive devices; psychological support and social reintegration; economic reintegration; and the establishment and enforcement of laws and public policies.