

# Fact-sheet: Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

Depositary: Kyrgyzstan

- The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia will enter into force on 21 March 2009. It was opened for signature on 8 September 2006. Its five Parties are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia was first formally proposed by Uzbek President Islam Karimov at the UN General Assembly in 1993. In 1997, the Heads of State of the five Central Asian States issued the Almaty Declaration, which endorsed the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. Since then successive General Assembly resolutions have called for the establishment of such a zone.
- The Treaty obliges each party to, inter alia, not conduct research on, develop, manufacture, stockpile or otherwise acquire, possess or have control over any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device by any means anywhere; nor to allow in its territory the production, acquisition, stationing, storage or use, of any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device.
- This is the first nuclear-weapon-free zone to be located entirely in the northern hemisphere. It borders two nuclear-weapon States; China and the Russian Federation.
- The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia is the first of the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties that requires each Party to comply fully with the provisions of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to conclude and bring into force an IAEA Additional Protocol no later than 18 months after the entry into force of the Treaty. The Additional Protocol is a set of strengthened safeguards that enhance the ability of the IAEA to provide assurances as to the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in a State.
- Each Party also undertakes to apply measures of physical protection to nuclear material and nuclear facilities within its territory at least as effective as those called for by the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material of 1987.
- The Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia is open for signature by the five nuclear-weapon States (China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) and provides for negative security assurances, whereby the Parties to the Protocol undertake not to use or threaten to use a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device against any Party to the Treaty.
- Other nuclear-weapon-free zones include the 1967 Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga), the 1995 Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Treaty of Bangkok) and the 1996 African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). In addition, Mongolia has a self-declared nuclear-weapon-free status. The Antarctic Treaty, the Outer Space Treaty and the Seabed Arms Control Treaty also prohibit the placement of nuclear weapons in the relevant geographical areas.



*UN Office for Disarmament Affairs  
20 March 2009*

Image courtesy of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies



More information on nuclear-weapon-free zones can be found on the website of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs at <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NWFZ.shtml>