



International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

26 September

- 1945 The two atomic bombs destroyed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and are estimated to have killed a total of 213,000 people immediately.
- 1946 In its very first resolution, the General Assembly identified nuclear disarmament as a leading goal of the United Nations.
- 1959 The General Assembly included nuclear disarmament as part of the more comprehensive goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control (resolution 1378(XIV)). It is the first General Assembly resolution ever to be sponsored by the entire membership of the United Nations.
- 1967 The nuclear arms race and the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis prompted Latin American Governments to negotiate the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), which established the first nuclear-weapons-free zone in a highly populated area.
- 1978 The General Assembly held its first Special Session Devoted to Disarmament. In the Final Document, Member States affirmed that their common ultimate objective is “general and complete disarmament under effective international control” and that “effective measures of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war have the highest priority.”
- 1985 The South Pacific became the second nuclear-weapon-free zone (Treaty of Rarotonga).
- 1991 South Africa voluntarily renounced its nuclear weapons programme.
- 1992 By the Lisbon Protocol to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine voluntarily renounced nuclear weapons in their possession following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- 1995 At the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, States parties adopted without a vote the decisions on the indefinite extension of the Treaty, "Strengthening the review process for the Treaty" and "Principles and objectives on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament", as well as a "Resolution on the Middle East".
- Southeast Asia became the third nuclear-weapon-free zone (Bangkok Treaty).
- 1996 Africa became the fourth nuclear-weapon-free zone (Pelindaba Treaty).
- At the request of the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice provided an advisory opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.
- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty opens for signature.
- 2000 At the 2000 NPT Review Conference, States parties adopt thirteen practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts for nuclear disarmament.



International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

26 September

- 2006 Central Asia became the fifth nuclear-weapon-free zone (Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia).
- 2008 United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced his five-point plan towards nuclear disarmament
- 2010 At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, States parties adopt a 64-point action plan across all three pillars of the Treaty – nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy – and practical steps to implement the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.
- 2013 The General Assembly held its first-ever high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament. The General Assembly, through its resolution 68/32, declared that 26 September will be the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
- The General Assembly, pursuant to resolution 67/56, convenes an open-ended working group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.
- 2016 The General Assembly, pursuant to resolution 70/33, convenes a second open-ended working group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.