



## International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

26 September

### Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones

The establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) is a regional approach to strengthen global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament norms and to consolidate international efforts towards peace and security.

Article VII of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) states: “Nothing in this Treaty affects the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories”.

General Assembly resolution 3472 B (1975) defines a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone as:

“...any zone recognized as such by the General Assembly of the United Nations, which any group of States, in the free exercises of their sovereignty, has established by virtue of a treaty or convention whereby:

(a) The statute of total absence of nuclear weapons to which the zone shall be subject, including the procedure for the delimitation of the zone, is defined;

(b) An international system of verification and control is established to guarantee compliance with the obligations deriving from that statute.”

#### The following treaties form the basis for the existing NWFZs:

**Treaty of Tlatelolco** : Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Treaty of Rarotonga** : South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty

**Treaty of Bangkok** : Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone

**Treaty of Pelindaba** : African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

**Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia**

Mongolia's self-declared nuclear-weapon-free status has been recognized internationally through the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 55/33S on "Mongolia's international security and nuclear weapon free status."



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Other treaties that also deal with the denuclearization of certain areas are:

## Antarctic Treaty

**Outer Space Treaty:** Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

**Moon Agreement:** Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

**Seabed Treaty:** Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof.

