NONPROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL

Recommended Citation

UNIVERSALITY: responsibility for exercising a mutually reinforcing leadership for nonproliferation. Regimes are fragile institutions requiring constant vigilance and support to effectively provide the outcomes expected of them. Leadership of course depends on the existence of political commitment and a willingness to prioritize state action. It is a collective problem requiring collective response.

POLITICAL COMMITMENT: which legally and politically commits the 182 of them that are non-nuclear weapon states to remain so while at the same time establishing a legal obligation for the five nuclear weapon state parties to end the nuclear arms race and negotiate in good faith on effective measures to achieve gradual, verifiable and complete disarmament of their nuclear arsenals. The contribution of multinational regimes to security and stability is also widely understood. If it were otherwise it would be difficult to account for the fact that 187 of a possible 191 states have adhered to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). With the end of the Cold War, the NPT has become a cornerstone of non-proliferation efforts and a focus for key initiatives such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

The NPT has been a crucial part of global non-proliferation efforts. The treaty's success is attributable to the principle of mutual non-aggression and the acceptance by the world's states that nuclear weapons must not be used or threatened. It has also provided the basis for a range of international cooperation initiatives, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which monitors states' nuclear activities to ensure that they are peaceful. The NPT has also served as a platform for addressing other aspects of non-proliferation, such as the prevention of chemical and biological weapons. However, some states have not adhered to the NPT, and the treaty has been criticized for not being strong enough to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

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