

# Arms Control Association

Working to Eliminate the Threats Posed by  
the World's Most Dangerous Weapons

## **Input on Nuclear Weapon Free-Zones Pursuant to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 79/241**

May 2025

By establishing regions free from nuclear weapons through treaty agreements, accompanied by protocols that establish legally binding negative security assurances by nuclear-weapons states (NWS) to the non-nuclear zonal states, Nuclear-Weapon Free-Zones (NWFZs) are effective regional approaches to nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.

Despite low prospects of establishing additional NWFZs due to current regional and global political conditions, the shared goals of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament benefit from renewed commitment and appropriate adjustments to existing NWFZs.

To this end, the Arms Control Association proposes the following:

1. States within the geographical limits of a NWFZ treaty but which are not parties to the relevant treaty should ratify it without delay;
2. All zonal and regional states should call for and facilitate the resumption of negotiations with NWS on outstanding issues relating to the protocol to the Bangkok Treaty;
3. Zonal states should implement all commitments under their respective treaty obligations;
4. Zonal states should deepen cross-regional discussions on the purpose and objectives, universalization, effective implementations of the treaties, and effective cooperation in multilateral fora, including producing joint statements and working papers;
5. Zonal states should seek to increase cooperation with NWS and member states to each treaty to, among other purposes, resolve or reach understandings regarding issues related to sovereignty, territorial disputes, and decolonization;
6. NWS should ratify all their respective legally binding commitments under the protocols to existing NWFZ treaties. In particular, the United States, the last NWS hold out, should be called upon to ratify the protocols to the NWFZ treaties for Central Asia, the South Pacific, and Africa to formally bring into effect the associated negative nuclear security assurances;
7. Zonal states of the Semipalatinsk Treaty, Pelindaba Treaty, and Rarotonga Treaty should engage at the highest levels with the U.S. Senate, the State Department, and the White House to bring attention to the value of prompt ratification of these NWFZ protocols;
8. Zonal states should ratify the CTBT and the TPNW since NWFZ commitments are compatible and supportive of each treaty;

9. Zonal states should take joint efforts to track and reduce civilian stocks of fissile materials and improve safeguards and physical protections for their nuclear facilities and materials by utilizing existing frameworks such as IAEA INFCIRC/549, INFCIRC/912, INFCIRC/225, and the 1979 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its 2005 Amendment