

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Monitor

The NPT Monitor will be a tool for policy makers and analysts to assess the implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It aims to facilitate research and dialogue on the degree of implementation of obligations and commitments related to the Treaty's three 'pillars'.

The NPT Monitor addresses a core concern that has been widely expressed by the NPT community, including by States parties, academics, and civil society organisations (CSOs). Namely, without a comprehensive, impartial, and accessible framework to help monitor the implementation of commitments made by NPT parties, it is difficult to effectively track progress on the three "pillars" of the Treaty – disarmament, nonproliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies.

To address this concern, the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Programme at BASIC is developing the NPT Monitor, a methodologically rigorous, standardised process to analyse the implementation of obligations and commitments across all three pillars of the NPT.¹ This includes an assessment of progress in complying with the text of the Treaty, and with consensus-based commitments from past Review Conferences, such as the Decisions and Resolution from 1995, the "13 Steps" for disarmament from 2000, and the "64-Point Action Plan" from 2010.²

To test the NPT Monitor concept in its development phase, the initial prototype will focus on the NPT-recognised nuclear weapon States (NWS), iteratively refining the framework based on community feedback and lessons learned. The aim is to offer all stakeholders free, timely access to high quality, actionable data on the implementation of past agreements, establishing the Monitor as a go-to source of trusted information for officials, CSOs, and academics.

The NPT Monitor will incorporate quantitative and qualitative indicators, and BASIC will employ a native-speaking country expert to produce an annual, peer-reviewed analysis of each NWS. The results will be published on a dedicated, interactive website and summarised annually in a BASIC briefing paper, enabling users to quickly and easily compare the degree of implementation of the different NWS.

The broader goal of the NPT Monitor is to support the full and effective implementation of the NPT. BASIC recognises that this will depend on the perceived legitimacy of the Monitor in the NPT community, especially among States parties. Thus, in addition to original research, the project is being developed through consultations with a wide range of international experts and officials, and with support from a dedicated project Advisory Board.

In parallel with the NPT Monitor, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Programme at BASIC is also developing the Nuclear Transparency Inventory (NUTRI), a separate but complementary project that will catalogue the transparency practices of all nuclear-armed states. BASIC is grateful to Global Affairs Canada and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for co-funding both projects.

For more information, contact the NPT Monitor Project Manager, Dr Manuel Herrera, at malmela@basicint.org.

¹ BASIC is an independent, nonprofit think tank working to safeguard humanity and Earth's ecosystem from nuclear risks and interconnected security threats, for generations to come. See <u>basicint.org</u> for more information.

² We acknowledge the excellent past work by CSOs in this regard, such as the "Action Plan Monitoring Reports" from Reaching Critical Will and the "NPT Briefing Book" from the Centre for Science and Security Studies, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, and the Mountbatten Centre for International Studies. These have not continued into the 11th NPT Review Cycle, so the NPT Monitor seeks to pick up where they left off.