Arms Control Milestones During the Obama Administration

2009

MAR. 6  U.S. Secretary of State Clinton presents "reset button" to Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, symbolizing an effort to improve relations.

APR. 5  President Obama in Prague outlines his plan for nuclear risk reduction and nonproliferation, calling on countries to have "the courage to pursue a world without nuclear weapons."

APR. 8  Obama administration announces it will participate in multilateral talks with Iran on its nuclear program, a departure from previous U.S. policy.

MAY 25  North Korea conducts second nuclear test explosion.

JUN. 12  UN Security Council passes Resolution 1874, adding sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear and missile activities.

SEP. 25  The United States, the U.K. and France reveal that Iran has been constructing a secret, second uranium-enrichment facility, Fordow.

2010

APR. 6  Pentagon releases 2010 "Nuclear Posture Review" report, which outlines a diminished role for nuclear weapons and a "no new nuclear weapons policy," but calls for maintaining robust nuclear deterrent.

APR. 8  Obama and Russian President Medvedev sign the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which limits each side to no more than 1,550 strategic deployed warheads by 2018.

APR. 12/13  First nuclear security summit involving 47 states is held in Washington to consolidate and protect nuclear material.

MAY 13  Obama announces plan to modernize U.S. nuclear forces.

MAY 28  Eighth nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference adopts 64-point action plan by consensus.

2011

JAN. 12  U.S.-Russia 123 agreement for cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy enters into force.

JUN. 2  46-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group adopts tougher guidelines to prevent the spread of enrichment and reprocessing technology.

JUL. 13  U.S.-Russia agreement to dispose of excess weapons-grade plutonium enters into force.

2012

FEB. 29  North Korea accepts "Leap Day agreement" for nuclear constraints with U.S. providing food aid. The deal collapses in April 2012.

MAR. 24-25  Second nuclear security summit is held in Seoul; expands scope to address radioactive sources and nuclear safety.

2013

JAN. 4  UN General Assembly votes to convene an open-ended working group to develop proposals for multilateral nuclear disarmament.

JAN. 22  UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2087 against North Korea after successful Dec. 12 satellite launch.

FEB. 12  North Korea conducts third nuclear test explosion.

MAR. 7  UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2094 in response to North Korea's nuclear and missile activities.

APR. 2  UN General Assembly approves text of global Arms Trade Treaty 156-3-23.

2014

MAR. 24-25  Third nuclear security summit held in the Netherlands.

JUL. 31  United States reports that Russia is in violation of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

SEP. 4  Joint mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations declares it has removed 96 percent of Syria's chemical weapons, including precursor chemicals.

DEC. 4  United States announces International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

2015

APR. 22 - MAY 27  Ninth NPT Review Conference fails to produce a final agreement.

JUL. 14  Iran and 5+1 countries announce the JCPOA to verifiably roll back Iran's nuclear program over a multi-year period.

AUG. 7  UN Security Council authorizes Joint Investigative Mechanism to identify individuals and groups using chemical weapons in Syria.

AUG. 24  OPCW reports all chemical weapons have been removed from Libya.

SEP. 5  North Korea conducts fifth nuclear test explosion.

SEP. 23  UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2310 reaffirming support for the moratoria on nuclear weapons testing 20 years after the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was opened for signature.

OCT. 5  Russia suspends agreement with U.S. on nuclear and energy-related research cooperation.

OCT. 27  UN General Assembly passes resolution to begin negotiations in 2017 on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.

—ALICIA SANDERS-ZAKRE