

TIMELINE: Arms Control Milestones During the Obama Administration

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By Alicia Sanders-Zakre

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2009

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<p>2009</p> <p>MAR 6 → U.S. Secretary of State Clinton presents "reset button" to Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, symbolizing an effort to improve relations.</p> <p>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."</p> <p>APR 8 → Obama administration announces it will participate in multilateral talks with Iran on its nuclear program, a departure from previous U.S. policy.</p> <p>MAY 25 → North Korea conducts second nuclear test explosion.</p> <p>JUN 12 → UN Security Council passes Resolution 1874, adding sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear and missile activities.</p> <p>SEP 26 → The United States, the U.K. and France reveal that Iran has been conducting a secret, second uranium-enrichment facility, Fordow.</p> <p>2010</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 2015.</p> <p>APR 10-13 → First nuclear security summit involving 47 states is held in Washington to consolidate and protect nuclear material.</p> <p>MAY 10 → Obama announces plan to modernize U.S. nuclear forces.</p> <p>MAY 26 → Eighth Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference adopts 54-point action plan by consensus.</p>	<p>DEC 21 → U.S. Senate approves ratification of New START by vote of 71-26.</p> <p>2011</p> <p>JAN 12 → U.S. Russia 123 agreement for cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy enters into force.</p> <p>JUN 2 → Situation Nuclear Suppliers Group adopts tougher guidelines to prevent the spread of enrichment and reprocessing technology.</p> <p>AUG 18 → U.S. Russia agreement to dispose of excess weapons-grade plutonium enters into force.</p> <p>2012</p> <p>FEB 28 → North Korea accepts "Leap Day agreement" for nuclear constraints with U.S. providing food aid. The deal collapses in April 2012.</p> <p>MAY 20-27 → Second nuclear security summit is held in Seoul, expanding scope to address radioactive sources and nuclear safety.</p> <p>AUG 28 → Obama tests use or "moving around" of chemical weapons by Syrian government would cross a "redline."</p> <p>2013</p> <p>JAN 4 → UN General Assembly votes to release an open-ended working group to develop proposals for multilateral nuclear disarmament.</p> <p>JUN 22 → UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2087 against North Korea after successful Oct. 12 satellite launch.</p> <p>FEB 12 → North Korea conducts third nuclear test explosion.</p> <p>MAY 7 → UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2094 in response to North Korea's nuclear and missile activities.</p> <p>APR 2 → UN General Assembly approves text of global Arms Trade Treaty 194-3-23.</p>
<p>2014</p> <p>MAY 20-25 → Third nuclear security summit held in the Netherlands.</p> <p>AUG 31 → United States reports that Russia is in violation of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.</p> <p>SEP 4 → Joint mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations declares it has removed 98 percent of Syria's chemical weapons, including precursor chemicals.</p> <p>2015</p> <p>APR 27 → North NPT Review Conference fails to produce a final agreement.</p> <p>MAY 27 → Obama becomes first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima, Japan.</p> <p>AUG 14 → Iran and P5+1 countries announce the JCPOA to verify roll back Iran's nuclear program over a multi-year period.</p> <p>AUG 7 → UN Security Council authorizes Joint Investigative Mechanism to identify</p>	<p>individuals and groups using chemical weapons in Syria.</p> <p>SEP 16-18 → Resolution of disapproval fails to block the JCPOA but short of necessary votes in the Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.</p> <p>OCT 26 → UN General Assembly votes to convene an open-ended working group to address concrete, effective legal measures to obtain a world without nuclear weapons.</p> <p>2016</p> <p>JAN 4 → North Korea conducts fourth nuclear test explosion.</p> <p>JAN 16 → Implementation day for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.</p> <p>MAY 2 → UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 2270 against North Korea following nuclear tests and prohibited satellite launch.</p> <p>MAY 21 → Fourth and final nuclear security summit is held in Washington, states designate five international organizations as successors to summit work.</p> <p>APR 7 → UN Security Council panel finds that Syrian government troops were responsible for two toxic gas attacks and that Islamic State militants used chemical mustard gas.</p> <p>AUG 24 → UN Security Council panel finds that Syrian government troops were responsible for two toxic gas attacks and that Islamic State militants used chemical mustard gas.</p> <p>AUG 27 → OPCW reports all chemical weapons have been removed from Libya.</p> <p>SEP 8 → North Korea conducts fifth nuclear test explosion.</p> <p>SEP 28 → UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2270 reaffirming support for the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing 20 years after the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was opened for signature.</p> <p>OCT 5 → Russia suspends agreement with U.S. on nuclear and energy-related research cooperation.</p> <p>OCT 27 → UN General Assembly passes resolution to begin negotiations in 2017 on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.</p> <p>—ALICIA SANDERS-ZAKRE</p>

April 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.”

April 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.

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

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

2010

April 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.

April 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.

April 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.

December 22: U.S. Senate approves ratification of New START by vote of 71-26.

2011

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

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

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

2012

February 29: North Korea accepts “Leap Day agreement” for nuclear constraints with U.S. providing food aid. The deal collapses in April 2012.

March 26-27: Second nuclear security summit is held in Seoul; expands scope to address radioactive sources and nuclear safety.

August 20: Obama says use or “moving around” of chemical weapons by Syrian government would cross a “redline.”

2013

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

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

February 12: North Korea conducts third nuclear test explosion.

March 7: UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2094 in response to North Korea’s nuclear and missile activities.

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

June 19: Obama calls for U.S.-Russian talks to reduce deployed strategic nuclear weapons by as much as one-third below New START levels.

August 21: Chemical weapons attack by the Syrian government in Ghouta kills 1,400 people.

September 23: United States becomes 91st state to sign the Arms Trade Treaty.

September 27: Obama and Iranian President Rouhani have first direct talks between U.S. and Iranian leaders since the 1979 revolution.

November 24: Six world powers and Iran conclude the Joint Plan of Action, an interim agreement freezing Iran's nuclear progress and guide negotiations for a comprehensive solution.

2014

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

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

September 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.

December 4: United States announces International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

2015

April 27 - May 22: Ninth NPT Review Conference fails to produce a final agreement.

May 27: Obama becomes first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima, Japan.

July 14: Iran and P5+1 countries announce the JCPOA to verifiably roll back Iran's nuclear program over a multi-year period.

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

September 10-11: Resolution of disapproval fails to block the JCPOA fall short of necessary votes in the Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

October 29: UN General Assembly votes to convene an open-ended working group to address concrete, effective legal measures to attain a world without nuclear weapons.

2016

January 6: North Korea conducts fourth nuclear test explosion.

January 16: Implementation day for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

March 2: UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 2270 against North Korea following nuclear tests and prohibited satellite launch.

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March 31 - April 1: Fourth and final nuclear security summit is held in Washington; states designate five international organizations as successors for summit work.

August 24: UN Security Council panel finds that Syrian government troops were responsible for two toxic gas attacks and that Islamic State militants used sulfur mustard gas.

August 27: OPCW reports all chemical weapons have been removed from Libya.

September 9: North Korea conducts fifth nuclear test explosion.

September 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.

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

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

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