



ALERT!

Tell your Senators to vote for a New START

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), signed in 1991, began the process of mutual nuclear arsenal reductions between Russia and the United States. The treaty expired in 2009, however, was still in force through a Follow-on agreement between Russia and the United States. On April 8, 2010 in Prague, President Obama and President Medvedev signed the New START treaty. It now undergoing hearings with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chaired by START proponents John Kerry (D-MA) and Richard Lugar (R-ID) and it was also submitted to the Senate in early May.

Influential leaders like former Secretaries of Defense Henry Kissinger, William Perry and James Schlesinger, former Secretary of State George Schultz, former Senators Sam Nunn and Chuck Hagel and STRATCOM

Commander General Kevin Chilton have voiced their support for New START. However, conservatives still feel that this treaty is detrimental to our national security.

Counter Arguments to Conservatives:

1. It is unclear how much Russia planned to reduce their stockpile. New START creates confidence to reduce more because the US must reduce its stockpile too.
2. New START does not limit missile defense.

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1. Begin with who you are and why you are writing: Ratification of the new START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) in the Senate.
2. Then tell them WHY YOU think they should vote to ratify. If you can include any personal stories how this issue affects you or someone you know, that makes a **BIG** difference.
3. Give them a reason or two why you support it from this fact sheet.
4. Let them know their vote will help determine YOUR vote.
5. **If Casey, thank him for his leadership. If Specter, ask him to make supporting comments in the Senate for Senator Casey.**
6. Ask for a reply to this letter

Sincerely, *Your name and address here.*

3. The verification measures are different than START I but they are much more advanced with new rules and limits that are committed to the provisions of this specific treaty.

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Facts about the New START Treaty

The 'New START' Treaty signed by Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev in Prague on 8 April 2010 is an important step in the renewed drive for nuclear disarmament, but its overall contribution towards the goal of a world free from nuclear weapons should not be overstated. In some respects the treaty merely codifies the current status quo, and is arguably more about symbolism than it is about substance. Much of the hard work of reducing and potentially eliminating the vast stockpiles of nuclear weapons held by nations across the globe is still to be done. Before any meaningful multilateral talks on abolition can seriously begin, the US and Russia will need to take steps to actually reduce their nuclear weapons, as opposed to the numbers deployed. In fact, it will only be after US and Russian weapons stockpiles have been reduced to numbers in the hundreds that the push for more widespread reductions, and possibly abolition, can seriously and credibly begin. While many are aware of the problems of going from only a few nuclear weapons to zero, the first phase of the disarmament process, a phase that will involve reducing US and Russian nuclear stockpiles down to numbers more in line with that of other nuclear weapons states, will be a very difficult endeavour in its own right.

The New START treaty is important for a number of political, diplomatic and strategic reasons. First, it commits both the US and Russia to reduce their deployed strategic warheads to 1550 and deployed delivery vehicles to 700 within seven years. The limit on deployed warheads represents a 65% cut from the limit contained in the original 1991 START I treaty, and is 30% below the limit in the 2002 Moscow Treaty. Of equal importance is the fact that the treaty contains a set of provisions that will allow each side to monitor and verify the deployed nuclear forces of the other, which will ensure a more stable U.S.-Russian nuclear relationship. On top of this, the new treaty is an important means to improve U.S.-Russian relations and sets the stage for discussions on deep nuclear reductions.ⁱ

One concern is treaty critics argue against ratification is that the treaty reduces our security and that we need to continue to develop missile defenses. While the arguments on missile defense are debatable in their own right, it is important to note that regardless of which side of the missile defense debate one comes down on, the treaty has not effect on this issue.

No Constraints on Missile Defense and Conventional Strike: The Treaty does not contain any constraints on testing, development or deployment of current or

planned U.S. missile defense programs or current or planned United States long-range conventional strike capabilities.ⁱⁱ

What does New START accomplish?

The new agreement maintains and modernizes the existing verification system, places significant limits on deployed strategic warheads, lays the groundwork for stronger international action on arms control and nonproliferation, and restores U.S.-Russia nuclear relations.

It establishes a robust verification regime that modernizes the framework contained in Reagan's START agreement. This treaty enables the United States and Russia to continue to monitor each other's nuclear stockpiles, ensuring that both sides are living up to the agreement. The original treaty's verification system only counted delivery vehicles, such as the number of deployed missiles. It didn't actually count the number of warheads contained inside of each missile, and this new system will.

It limits the number of nuclear warheads to levels not seen since the days of the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations. New START will limit the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 1,500—a 30 percent drop from the 2,200 currently allowed. The allowable number of nuclear launchers—land-based missiles, submarine-based missiles, and bombers—will see their aggregate limit reduced from 1,600 to 800. No more than 700 launching systems can be deployed at a given time.

It significantly bolsters upcoming efforts to combat nuclear terrorism and proliferation. The signing of New START comes just days before President Obama convenes the **Nuclear Security Summit**, a meeting in Washington, D.C. with 44 heads of state on April 12 and 13 that will focus on strategies for preventing nuclear terrorism. These meaningful limits on the United States' deployed nuclear weapons will put the United States in a stronger position to convince other world leaders to take steps to secure nuclear stockpiles and prevent nuclear trafficking.ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Andrew Futter *Ph.D student at the University of Birmingham*, 2010 Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

ⁱⁱ Key Facts about the New START Treaty; The White House Office of the Press Secretary, March 26, 2010

ⁱⁱⁱ © Center for American Progress. A Strong Case for a New START. A National Security Briefing Memo. By Max Bergmann, Samuel Charap | April 6, 2010