

---

The treaty's basic purpose is to ensure that no nuclear-weapon states parties to the treaty will transfer nuclear weapons to a non-nuclear-weapon state and that no non-nuclear-weapon state party will manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear-explosive devices. In the five years the treaty has been in force, an impressive number of states have made these pledges and all parties have remained true to them.

However, we should not hide the fact that the treaty is not as strong an instrument as we had hoped for. Although over 90 countries are now parties, many states have neither ratified nor signed the treaty. It was hoped that the treaty's existence would discourage even non-parties from developing nuclear-explosive devices for whatever purpose, but one of these states has carried out a nuclear explosion. We had also hoped that the treaty could encourage the nuclear-weapon states to achieve not only limitations but reductions in the size of their nuclear forces and a halt to nuclear-weapons testing. These goals still evade us.

The change in world energy costs has increased the need to facilitate the transfer -- especially to the developing countries -- of nuclear technology and resources necessary for the production of electricity. The treaty, however, has not yet established a universally-applied system under which nuclear co-operation can be expanded with full assurance that, in the longer term, only the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will be served.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty needs more vigorous support by all its parties -- a more determined implementation of commitments under the treaty. The treaty needs urgently to gain the adherence of states that have signed but not yet ratified it. We must seek the adherence of all states, whether or not we agree with their policies in other areas. The treaty needs to be reinforced by complementary measures that can be supported even by states that are not prepared to accede to the treaty at this time.

The recent ratification of the treaty by five more states of the European Economic Community and by the Republic of Korea, and the early ratification by Japan and several other states, will greatly strengthen the treaty, particularly as many of these states are highly advanced in nuclear technology. There is, therefore, the prospect of a more determined international effort to promote co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under a strong non-proliferation régime. But that prospect could fade. That is why this review conference is of such importance. The conference must achieve a positive reaffirmation of the treaty's purposes and a re-dedication by the parties to meet their commitments under the treaty.

---