

The Antarctic Treaty of 1959, the Outer Space Treaty (1967) and the Seabed Treaty (1970) are also considered to be NWFZ treaties although their provisions extend to weapon systems other than nuclear as well.

Proposals have also been made to establish NWFZs in Africa, Northern Europe or the Arctic, the Balkan states, Central Europe, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, the South Atlantic, South Asia, the Korean Peninsula, and Southeast Asia. Most of these efforts have been made at the United Nations and some have been discussed at regional fora.

As a result of the Persian Gulf war, there has been renewed interest in the possibility of a NWFZ in the Middle East. The first proposals for such a zone were made in 1974 by the Shah of Iran. Since then, the idea has been discussed at the United Nations each year, with the effort intensifying after Israel bombed a nuclear reactor in Iraq in 1981. However, the idea has never been the subject of formal negotiations.

Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze proposed, in December 1990, that after the Persian Gulf crisis was resolved, negotiations begin to turn the Middle East into a zone free of nuclear and chemical arms. This proposal was echoed by Britain in the aftermath of the war (see Chapter 5, MIDDLE EAST ARMS CONTROL). Britain advocated the inclusion of provisions establishing the Persian Gulf region as a zone free of biological, chemical, and nuclear arms in the larger Security Council resolution establishing the terms of the ceasefire with Iraq. In the end, the Security Council resolution establishing the ceasefire conditions required the complete elimination of Iraq's capability in biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Within Canada, approximately 170 municipalities have declared their areas nuclear-free. Manitoba, Ontario and the Northwest Territories have declared themselves to be NWFZs. As a result of these declarations, approximately sixty percent of the Canadian population resides in locally declared NWFZs.

In February 1990, NDP Member Svend Robinson asked the Government to respect the 1983 declaration by the Vancouver City Council establishing Vancouver as a NWFZ and refuse to give nuclear weapons-equipped ships access to Vancouver harbour. In March 1990, NDP Member Robert Skelly tabled a petition in the House of Commons asking the government to establish a NWFZ in British Columbia which would prohibit port visits by ships with nuclear weapons (see 1990 edition of *The Guide*). The Government has not taken any action on this issue.