

vi) Rescue and Return Agreement (1968)

The Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space²⁵ as its title suggests provides for the tendering of assistance and the rescue of astronauts in distress whether on sovereign territory or from areas outside of state jurisdiction.²⁶

vii) The Non-Proliferation Treaty (1968)²⁷

This Treaty was negotiated and drafted by the ENDC pursuant to the 1965 General Assembly Resolution 2028 (XX) requesting the ENDC to give urgent consideration to the problem of nuclear weapons proliferation.

Article I of the Non-Proliferation Treaty prohibits the transfer, from a nuclear-weapon state "to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly." It also requires nuclear weapon states "not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices".

This is the active prohibition. The corollary is found in Article II which prohibits the corresponding activities on the part of the non-nuclear receiving state.

Article III provides for verification using safeguards established by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA inspectors have the authority to conduct regular on-site inspections of nuclear facilities coming under the NPT regime. The NPT, therefore, can be said to serve as a precedent for the establishment of an international body empowered to monitor compliance with a multilateral convention dealing with a specific type of weapon.

viii) The Seabed Treaty (1971)²⁸

This Treaty prohibits emplacing on the seabed and the ocean floor, and in the subsoil thereof beyond the outer limit of a coastal zone, any nuclear weapons or any other types of weapons of mass destruction as well as structures, launching installations or any other facilities especially designed for storing, testing or using such weapons (Article I).