

---

## TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON FURTHER REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS (START I)

**Signed:** 31 July 1991

**Entered into Force:** 5 December 1994

**Duration:** 15 year duration with option to extend for unlimited five year periods, if all parties agree.

**Expired:** 5 December 2009

**Parties:** United States, Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

### [Treaty Text](#)

**Treaty Obligations:** The treaty limits the total number of strategic nuclear delivery vehicles for United States and Russia to 1,600 each, the total number of accountable warheads to 6,000 each, total number of warheads mounted on ballistic missiles (ICBMs and SLBMs) to 4,900 each, total number of warheads mounted on mobile ICBMs to 1,100 each, and the total ballistic missile throw-weight for each party to 3,600 metric tons (t). Additionally, START I permits Russia to have no more than 154 so-called "heavy" ICBMs (defined as having launch weight greater than 106t or a throw-weight greater than 4,350kg), specifically the R-36M-series [NATO designation SS-18 'Satan,' START designation RS-20] ICBMs, and no more than 1,540 warheads mounted on these missiles. The treaty also bans the construction of new types of heavy ICBMs and SLBMs, although it permits modernization programs and, in exceptional cases, new silo construction.

START I also bans the testing of missiles with a greater number of warheads than declared in the treaty, and bans any new ballistic missiles with more than 10 warheads. Parties to the treaty may also reduce the number of warheads attributed to a specific missile. However, no more than three existing missile types may have the number of warheads reduced, and the total reduction may not exceed 1,250 warheads. New missile types or heavy ICBMs may not be downloaded.

While the treaty counts each ICBM and SLBM reentry vehicle as a single warhead, counting rules for warheads attributed to heavy bombers are more com-

plicated. Each Russian heavy bomber equipped to carry long-range nuclear ALCMs (defined as having maximum range of 600km or more), up to a total of 180 bombers, counts as eight warheads toward the 6,000 warhead limit, even though existing Russian heavy bomber types can carry between six and 16 ALCMs. Each Russian heavy bomber above the level of 180 has its actual number of ALCMs counted toward the 6,000 warhead limit. Similarly, each US long-range nuclear ALCM-carrying heavy bomber, up to a total of 150 bombers, counts as 10 warheads toward the 6,000 warhead limit, and each bomber in excess of 150 has the actual number of ALCMs it can carry counted toward the warhead limit. Bombers not equipped to carry long-range nuclear ALCMs are counted as one warhead.

**Verification and Compliance:** START I contains extensive provisions for verification, including the use of National Technical Means, missile test telemetry tape exchanges, periodic data exchanges, monitoring activities, and on-site inspections.

### Developments:

**2010:** On 8 April 2010 in Prague, U.S. President Obama and Russian President Medvedev signed the [New START Treaty](#), and [Protocol](#).

**2009:** Negotiations on a [new START Treaty](#) began on 18 May in Moscow and continued throughout the year.

On 1 July, the last data exchange prior to START's expiration took place in the [START Aggregate Numbers of Strategic Offensive Arms](#). Data exchanges occur no later than 30 days after the expiration of each six-month period following entry into force of the Treaty.

START I expired on 5 December. Negotiations were put on hold during the American and Russian holidays.

STARTI-1

As the treaty expired, U.S. inspectors ended their 15-year perimeter and portal continuous monitoring mission at the Votkinsk Machine Building Plant, which produces the SS-26 Bulava, the SS-27 Topol-M, and its new MIRVed variant, the RS-24. START I permitted continuous monitoring at ICBM production facilities in order to confirm the number of mobile launchers produced. Russia was unable to maintain reciprocal monitoring at an American production facility after the United States halted the production of Peacekeeper missiles in Promontory, Utah in April 2000.

Deployment of Russia's next-generation RS-24 was widely expected upon the treaty's expiration, since START prohibits MIRVing the Topol-M. However, sources at the Russian Ministry of Defense said that deployment may not happen until 2011, noting that the RS-24 will carry three warheads.

**2008:** On 7 April, after a bilateral meeting in Sochi, Russia, Putin stated that Russia was to continue working with the U.S. to maintain all the useful and necessary parts of the START treaty.

On 9 April, the United States announced that the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program completed the elimination of SS-24 "scalpel" ICBM, including their supporting components, in accordance to START I obligations.

On 29 May, Russia announced that it had dismantled 36 outdated Topol mobile ballistic missile systems in 2007 and twelve in two consecutive operations in March and May 2008 under the provisions of the START I treaty.

On 11 September, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov stated Russia was still awaiting concrete proposals from the U.S., a statement confirming Russian sources contending that the U.S. had not supplied necessary working papers to move the negotiation process forward.

On 29 September, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov stated that the bilateral negotiations on the future of START were "not so far heading anywhere."

**2007:** In March, U.S. and Russia commenced bilateral consultations at the level of the deputy minister to explore a post-START agreement, including a possible extension of certain verification elements of the treaty.

In July, statements were made at an informal meeting between U.S. President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Kennebunkport, Maine, expressing support for the replacement of START I, which expires at the end of 2009. While there were

no direct talks pertaining to the START I treaty during the meeting, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov commented that both countries were committed to reducing strategic arms levels to "the lowest possible level consistent with their national security requirements." Supporters of the START treaty process expressed hope that the dialogue was to encourage a disarmament discussion in the future.

**2001:** On 4 January, the Russian Defense Ministry accused the United States of violating its START I obligations of disarmament in regards to the U.S. LGM-118A Peacekeeper ICBM. The United States considered destroying the first stage of the Peacekeeper to be sufficient under START I guidelines. However, the Russian Defense Ministry contended that all stages of the missile must be destroyed under START I. In response, the Pentagon claimed that the second and third stages of the Peacekeeper are used for space launch vehicles, which are permitted under START I.

On 24 August the United States announced the destruction of the last Minuteman III silo at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

On 30 October, Ukraine completed its compliance obligation under the START I Treaty by destroying its last SS-24 ICBM silo.

On 13 November President Putin announced that in late October the last Ukrainian nuclear warhead had been destroyed in Russia.

On 5 December the United States and Russia announced that both parties had fulfilled START I requirements. In particular, Russia announced that it had reduced its deployed strategic delivery vehicles to 1136 and its accountable warheads to 5518. This accomplishment marked the largest arms control reduction in history.

**1997:** In congruence with START I obligations, on 22 December the United States announced that the last Minuteman II silo was destroyed at Whiteman Air Force Base.

**1996:** On 23 November, after transferring its remaining ICBMs and nuclear warheads to Russia, Belarus announced that it had fulfilled its START I and NPT obligations and officially became a non-nuclear-weapon State.

**1995:** On 9 November, a revision of the START I treaty was signed in Geneva, allowing converted mobile strategic missiles to be used as space launchers.

On 1 March, START I baseline inspections began and lasted 120 days.

**1994:** On 5 December at the Budapest Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United States, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine exchanged instruments of ratification for START I, thereby marking the treaty's entry into force.

In May, the Joint Commission on Inspection and Compliance met in Geneva to discuss the implementation details of START I. Representatives from the United States, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine signed several agreements that will help to realize the multilateral obligations of START I.

**1993:** On 18 November the Ukrainian Parliament ratified START I and the Lisbon Protocol. However, given Ukraine's serious reservations about the Treaties, doubts arose concerning Ukraine's commitment to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

On 2 July Kazakhstan ratified START I and subsequently acceded to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state on 14 February 1994.

On 23 April, President Clinton announced an accelerated reduction schedule for U.S. strategic forces under START I in an attempt to further strengthen disarmament and security measures.

On 4 February, Belarus ratified START I, the Lisbon Protocol and acceded to the NPT.

**1992:** On 4 November, Russia ratified START I. However, Russia announced that it would not exchange its instrument of ratification until Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine were to accede to the NPT as non-nuclear weapon states.

On 23 May, the United States, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine signed the Lisbon Protocol in Portugal. Furthermore, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine agreed to accede to the NPT as non-nuclear weapon states in "the shortest possible time".

**1991:** On 31 July, President Bush and President Gorbachev signed START I. The Treaty was expected to cut strategic warheads arsenals by approximately 35%.