

## Fact Sheet on New START Treaty

- On April 8, 2010, the presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation signed the “New START treaty.” START is an acronym for “Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.”
- During the United States ratification process, the Treaty garnered bipartisan support, and the U.S. Senate approved the Treaty on December 22, 2010, by a 71–26 vote.
- The Treaty entered into force on February 5, 2011. It restricts United States and Russian arsenals to 1,550 total deployed strategic warheads, as well as limiting intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine launched ballistic missiles, and heavy bombers.
- The Treaty includes valuable verification protocols. Through the Treaty’s verification regime— which includes short-notice, on-site inspections at military bases and facilities—the United States is able to verify the data provided by Russia regarding its strategic nuclear arsenal. The Treaty provides both countries insight into each other’s strategic nuclear delivery systems, warheads, and facilities, as well as data exchanges to track the status and makeup of nuclear weapons systems.
- During a March 2017 hearing on nuclear deterrence requirements of the House Armed Services Committee, Air Force General Paul Selva, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, endorsed the New START Treaty, saying the Treaty is “a bilateral, verifiable agreement that gives us some degree of predictability on what our potential adversaries look like”.
- During a February 26, 2019, Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, Commander of the United States Strategic Command (STRATCOM) General John Hyten said he was “a big supporter of the New START agreement” and that the New START treaty provides “insights into the Russians capabilities. Those are hugely beneficial to me.”
- The Department of State confirmed in February 2018 that Russia had met the Treaty’s central limits on strategic arms and stated that “implementation of the New START Treaty enhances the safety and security of the United States”.
- The 2018 Nuclear Posture Review stated that arms control agreements can “foster transparency, understanding, and predictability in adversary relations, thereby reducing the risk of misunderstanding and miscalculation”.
- The Richard G. Lugar and Ellen O. Tauscher Act to Maintain Limits on Russian Nuclear Forces (H.R.2529 and S.2394) would extend the New START Treaty from its initial termination date in February 2021 to February 2026, as provided for under Article XIV of the Treaty, unless the President determines and informs the appropriate congressional committees that (1) Russia is in material breach of the Treaty; or (2) the United States and Russia have entered into a new arms control agreement to replace the Treaty that provides equal or greater constraints, transparency, and verification measures with regard to Russia’s nuclear forces.