



AUSTRALIA

DISARMAMENT,

ARMS CONTROL, AND

NUCLEAR SECURITY TREATIES

A bipartisan history compiled by
Dr Tilman Ruff AO
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There is a proud bipartisan history of Australia joining disarmament, arms control, and nuclear security treaties.

Australia has joined almost every applicable universal and regional arms control and disarmament agreement at this time, with the exception of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which opened for signature in New York on 20 Sep 2017.

As laid out in this document, Australia has joined these treaties under both Labor and Coalition governments. There have been a total of seventeen signatures and ratifications and one accession by Labor, and a total of twenty-three signatures and ratifications under the Coalition. Labor has existed for longer, but the Coalition has been in government more since the Liberal Party was founded in 1944.

There are multiple examples of treaties that were signed by a Coalition government and ratified by a Labor one (eg. the NPT), and one vice versa (the ATT).

Australia has joined previous major treaties banning indiscriminate and inhumane types of weapons; biological and chemical weapons, anti-

personnel landmines, and cluster munitions. Four such signatures and ratifications took place under Coalition and four under Labor governments (shaded boxes in the table). The notable current gap is the treaty banning the worst weapons of mass destruction—the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons—which Australia is yet to sign.

The period between signature and ratification of past treaties has been variable, extending up to over five years in the case of the Biological Weapons Convention, almost seven years in the case of the Nuclear Terrorism Convention, more than nine years for Geneva Convention IV on the protection of civilians in war, and more than twelve years for Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions.

Protocols to a treaty are listed following the respective treaty, otherwise treaties are listed in chronological order of their signature. Amendments and protocols to treaties are not comprehensively listed; reservations and/or declarations are not included.

Labor prime ministers are in **red**, Liberal prime ministers are in **blue**.

TREATY**SIGNED****RATIFIED**

1925 Geneva Protocol	-	Scullin Acceded 22 Jan 1930
Genocide Convention	Chifley 11 Dec 1948	Chifley 8 July 1949
Geneva Convention (IV)	Menzies 4 Jan 1950	Menzies 14 Oct 1958
Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions	Fraser 7 Dec 1978	Hawke 21 June 1991
Antarctic Treaty	Menzies 1 Dec 1959	Menzies 23 June 1961
Partial Test-Ban Treaty (PTBT)	Menzies 8 Aug 1963	Menzies 12 Nov 1963
Outer Space Treaty	Holt 27 Jan 1967	Holt 10 Oct 1967
Non-Proliferation Treaty* (NPT)	Gorton 27 Feb 1970	Whitlam 23 Jan 1973
Seabed Treaty	Gorton 11 Feb 1971	Whitlam 23 Jan 1973
Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC)	McMahon 10 April 1972	Fraser 5 Oct 1977
ENMOD Convention	Fraser 31 May 1978	Hawke 7 Sep 1984
The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)	Fraser 8 April 1982	Hawke 29 Sep 1983
Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)	Hawke 22 Feb 1984	Hawke 22 Sep 1987
South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (SPNFZ)	Hawke 6 Aug 1985	Hawke 11 Dec 1986
Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)	Keating 13 Jan 1993	Keating 6 May 1994

TREATY

SIGNED

RATIFIED

Comprehensive Nuclear- Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)	Howard 24 Sep 1996	Howard 9 July 1998
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty	Howard 3 Dec 1997	Howard 14 Jan 1999
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	Howard 9 Dec 1998	Howard 1 July 2002
Nuclear Terrorism Convention (ICSANT)	Howard 14 Sep 2005	Gillard 16 March 2012
Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)	Rudd 3 Dec 2008	Gillard 8 Oct 2012
Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)	Gillard 3 June 2013	Abbott 3 June 2014

The Treaties

1925 Geneva Protocol: Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare
(signed Geneva 17 June 1925)

Genocide Convention: Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
(opened for signature Paris 9 Dec 1948)

Geneva Convention (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War
(opened for signature Geneva 12 Aug 1949)

Protocol I Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts
(opened for signature Bern 12 Dec 1977)

Protocol II Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts
(opened for signature Bern 12 Dec 1977)

Antarctic Treaty
(signed by the 12 original parties Washington DC 1 Dec 1959)

Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT): Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water
(signed by 3 original parties Moscow 5 Aug 1963 and opened for signature by other states at London, Moscow and Washington DC 8 Aug 1963)

Outer Space Treaty: Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies
(opened for signature London, Moscow, and Washington DC 27 Jan 1967)

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
(opened for signature London, Moscow, and Washington DC 1 July 1968)
*Australia also has an additional safeguards protocol in force

Seabed Treaty: Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof
(opened for signature in London, Moscow, and Washington DC 11 Feb 1971)

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC): Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction
(opened for signature London, Moscow, and Washington DC 10 April 1972)

ENMOD Convention: Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques
(opened for signature Geneva 18 May 1977)

Inhumane Weapons Convention (CCW): Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects
(opened for signature New York 10 April 1981)
*Australia is a party to the original and amended convention, protocols I - V and their amendments.

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment (CPPNM)
(opened for signature New York and Vienna 3 March 1980)

South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (SPNFZ) (Treaty of Rarotonga)
(opened for signature Rarotonga 6 August 1985)

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC): Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction
(opened for signature Paris 13 Jan 1993)

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
(opened for signature New York 24 September 1996)

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Convention): Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction
(opened for signature Ottawa 3-4 Dec 1997 and New York 5 Dec 1997)

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
(opened for signature Rome 17 July 1998 and New York 18 October 1998)

Nuclear Terrorism Convention (ICSANT): International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
(opened for signature New York 14 September 2005)

Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)
(opened for signature Oslo 3 December 2008)

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
(opened for signature New York 3 June 2013)

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