

DECREE
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

on the fundamentals of the state policy of the Russian
Federation in the field of nuclear deterrence

In order to ensure the implementation of the state policy of the Russian
Federation in the field of nuclear deterrence, I decide:

1. To approve the attached Fundamentals of the state policy of the Russian
Federation in the field of nuclear deterrence.
2. This Decree comes into force from the day of its signing.

President of the Russian Federation V. Putin
Moscow, Kremlin June 2, 2020 N ° 355

APPROVED
Decree of the President of the
Russian Federation
June 2, 2020 No. 355

FUNDAMENTALS

Of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the field of nuclear deterrence

I. General Provisions

1. These fundamentals are a strategic defense planning document and reflect official views on the essence of nuclear deterrence, define the military dangers and threats which nuclear deterrence exists to neutralize, the principles of nuclear deterrence, as well as the conditions for the transition of the Russian Federation to the use of nuclear weapons.
2. Guaranteed deterrence of a potential adversary from aggression against the Russian Federation and/or its allies is one of the highest state priorities. The deterrence of aggression is ensured by the totality of the military power of the Russian Federation, including nuclear weapons.
3. The state policy of the Russian Federation in the field of nuclear deterrence (hereinafter referred to as the state policy in the field of nuclear deterrence) is a set of coordinated, united by a common plan of political, military, military-technical, diplomatic, economic, informational and other measures based on forces and means nuclear deterrence, to prevent aggression against the Russian Federation and/or its allies.
4. State policy in the sphere of nuclear deterrence is defensive in nature, aimed at maintaining nuclear forces of the potential at a level sufficient to ensure deterrence, and guarantees the protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity, deterring potential enemy aggression against the Russian Federation and (or) its allies, and in the event of a military conflict - to prevent the escalation of hostilities and their cessation on conditions acceptable to the Russian Federation and (or) its allies.

5. The Russian Federation considers nuclear weapons exclusively as a means of deterrence, the use of which is an extreme and compelled measure, and is making all necessary efforts to reduce the nuclear threat and prevent aggravation of interstate relations that could provoke military conflicts, including nuclear ones.

6. The legal framework of these Principles is constituted by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, generally recognized principles and norms of international law, international treaties of the Russian Federation in the field of defense and arms control, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, other regulatory legal acts and documents regulating defense and security issues.

7. The provisions of these Fundamentals are binding on all federal government bodies, other government bodies and organizations involved in nuclear deterrence.

8. These Fundamentals may be specified depending on external and internal factors affecting the provision of defense.

II. The essence of nuclear deterrence:

9. Nuclear deterrence is aimed at ensuring that the potential adversary understands the inevitability of retaliation in the event of aggression against the Russian Federation and/ or its allies.

10. Nuclear deterrence is ensured by the presence in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation of combat-ready forces and means capable of using nuclear weapons to inflict unacceptable damage on a potential enemy in any situation, as well as the willingness and determination of the Russian Federation to use such weapons.

11. Nuclear deterrence is carried out continuously in peacetime, during the period of direct threat of aggression and in wartime, until the start of the use of nuclear weapons.

12. The main military dangers, which, depending on changes in the military-political and strategic situation, can develop into military threats of the Russian Federation (threats of aggression) and which can be neutralized by nuclear deterrence, are:

- a) the potential enemy builds up on the territories adjacent to the Russian Federation and its allies and in the adjacent sea areas of the general purpose forces groups, which include nuclear weapons delivery vehicles;
- b) the deployment by states that consider the Russian Federation as a potential adversary of anti-ballistic missile defense systems and means, medium- and shorter-range cruise and ballistic missiles, high-precision non-nuclear and hypersonic weapons, shock unmanned aerial vehicles, and directed energy weapons;
- c) the creation and deployment in space of missile defense and strike systems;
- d) the presence of nuclear weapons and (or) other types of weapons of mass destruction among states that can be used against the Russian Federation and (or) its allies, as well as means of delivery for these types of weapons;
- e) the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons, their means of delivery, technologies and equipment for their manufacture;
- f) deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery vehicles in the territories of non-nuclear states.

13. The Russian Federation carries out nuclear deterrence in relation to individual states and military coalitions (blocs, unions) that consider the Russian Federation as a potential adversary and possess nuclear weapons and (or) other types of weapons of mass destruction or significant combat potential of general forces.

14. In the implementation of nuclear deterrence, the Russian Federation takes into account the deployment by a potential adversary in the territories of other states of offensive means (cruise and ballistic missiles, hypersonic aircraft, attack unmanned aerial vehicles), directed energy weapons, anti-missile defense, a warning about a nuclear missile, nuclear weapons and (or) other types of weapons of mass destruction that can be used against the Russian Federation and (or) its allies.

15. The principles of nuclear deterrence are:

- a) compliance with international arms control obligations;
- b) the continuity of measures to ensure nuclear deterrence;
- c) the adaptability of nuclear deterrence to military threats;
- d) the uncertainty for a potential adversary of the scale, time and place of the possible use of forces and means of nuclear deterrence;
- e) centralization of state management of the activities of federal executive bodies and organizations involved in nuclear deterrence;
- f) the rationality of the structure and composition of the forces and means of nuclear deterrence, as well as their maintenance at a level minimally sufficient to fulfill the tasks;
- g) maintaining the constant readiness of the allocated part of the forces and means of nuclear deterrence for combat use.

16. The nuclear deterrence forces of the Russian Federation include ground, sea and air-based nuclear forces.

III. Conditions for the transition of the Russian Federation to the use of nuclear weapons:

17. Russian Federation reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response to the use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction against it and (or) its allies, as well as in the case of aggression against the Russian Federation using conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is threatened.

18. The decision to use nuclear weapons is made by the President of the Russian Federation.

19. The conditions determining the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons by the Russian Federation are:

a) the receipt of reliable information about the launch of ballistic missiles attacking the territory of the Russian Federation and (or) its allies;

b) the use by the adversary of nuclear weapons or other types of weapons of mass destruction across the territories of the Russian Federation and (or) its allies;

c) the enemy's influence on critical state or military facilities of the Russian Federation, the failure of which will lead to the disruption of the retaliatory action of nuclear forces;

d) aggression against the Russian Federation with the use of conventional weapons, when the very existence of the state is jeopardized.

20. The President of the Russian Federation may, if necessary, inform the military-political leadership of other states and (or) international organizations of the readiness of the Russian Federation to use nuclear weapons or of the decision to use nuclear weapons, as well as the fact of their use.

IV. Tasks and Functions of the Federal Government Agencies, Other Government Agencies, and Organizations for the Implementation of State Policy in the Field of Nuclear Deterrence

21. General management of state policy in the field of nuclear deterrence is carried out by the President of the Russian Federation.

22. The Government of the Russian Federation is implementing measures to implement economic policies aimed at maintaining and developing nuclear deterrence facilities, as well as formulating and implementing foreign and informational policies in the field of nuclear deterrence.

23. The Security Council of the Russian Federation forms the main directions of the military policy in the field of nuclear deterrence, and also coordinates the activities of federal executive bodies and organizations involved in the implementation of decisions adopted by the President of the Russian Federation regarding nuclear deterrence.

24. The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, through the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, directly plans and conducts organizational and military measures in the field of nuclear deterrence.

25. Other federal executive bodies and organizations participate in the implementation of decisions adopted by the President of the Russian Federation regarding nuclear deterrence in accordance with their powers.