# Global Nuclear Arsenal Modernization and Spending Rise in 2023



The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reported on June 17, 2024, that the nine nuclear-armed states—United States, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, France, United Kingdom, and Israel—continued to modernize their nuclear arsenals in 2023, with a notable increase in global nuclear spending.

Russian and Belarusian military exercises in early June aimed at honing tactical nuclear weapons usage were part of broader Kremlin efforts to deter Western support for Ukraine.

Separately, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) stated that these states collectively spent $91.4 billion on nuclear weapons in 2023, a $10.7 billion increase from 2022. The United States accounted for 80% of this increase, spending $51.5 billion.

SIPRI estimates that around 2,100 deployed warheads are on high operational alert, mostly belonging to the US and Russia. For the first time, China is also believed to have warheads on high alert.

NATO’s Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg highlighted the increasing tensions and potential confrontation with both Russia and China, stressing the alliance’s considerations on nuclear deterrence measures.

The SIPRI Yearbook 2024 indicates a declining transparency on nuclear forces between the US and Russia, influenced by the suspension of the New START treaty and heightened discussions on nuclear-sharing arrangements.

Globally, approximately 12,121 nuclear warheads exist, with 9,585 in military stockpiles and 3,904 deployed on missiles and aircraft, a slight increase from the previous year.

In Asia, India, Pakistan, and North Korea are advancing their missile warhead deployment capabilities, a feature already possessed by the United States, Russia, France, UK, and China.