

*"This is how we are building a powerful norm against nuclear weapons: not through lofty statements or empty promises, but through hands-on, focused action involving a truly global community of governments and civil society."*

Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director - ICAN

# THE FIRST MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS



## INTRODUCTION

From June 21-23, 2022, a historic meeting took place between all State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to mark the Treaty's entry into force and to chart a path towards full and effective implementation of the Treaty. The result of this meeting, known as 1MSP, were the following Declaration and Action Plan for a world free of nuclear weapons.

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

TREATY

ON THE

PROHIBITION

OF

NUCLEAR

WEAPONS

## DECLARATION: "OUR COMMITMENT TO A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS"

1MSP concluded with the following statement. "In the face of the catastrophic risks posed by nuclear weapons and in the interest of the very survival of humanity [...] We will not rest until the last state has joined the Treaty, the last warhead has been dismantled and destroyed and nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated from the Earth."

### The declaration contained the following key points:

- The international community should celebrate the TPNW's achievement of comprehensively prohibiting nuclear weapons in international law. This **prohibition is seen as a fundamental step towards the irreversible, verifiable and transparent elimination of nuclear weapons.**
- The moral and ethical imperatives that inspired the treaty must remain central to future action against nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are incompatible with the fundamental respect for life, and imperil the achievement of environmental sustainability, socioeconomic development, economic growth, food security, and the health of future of current and future generations.
- **The Treaty's humanitarian spirit must be pursued through its positive obligations,** aimed at redressing harm caused by nuclear weapons use and testing.
- **Nuclear weapons are not instruments of peace but rather of policy, linked to coercion, intimidation, and heightening of tensions.**
- The Declaration expressed dismay that none of the nuclear-armed states are making serious steps to reduce their reliance on nuclear weapons.
- The Declaration emphasized the need to **support all measures that can contribute on the road to nuclear disarmament** including: bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, development of disarmament verification measures, strengthening negative security assurances, and prohibiting fissile material production for nuclear weapons use.
- The involved nations urged all states to join the TPNW. "We have no illusions about the challenges and obstacles that lie before us in realizing the aims of this Treaty. **But we move ahead with optimism and resolve.** In the face of the catastrophic risks posed by nuclear weapons and in the interest of the very survival of humanity, we cannot do otherwise."

## ACTION PLAN

Critical to 1MSP was a commitment to mapping out specific actions for State Parties to pursue ahead of the Second Meeting of State Parties to the TPNW, set to take place in November and December of 2023. The Action Plan was formulated in recognition of the fact that lofty rhetoric is not enough to further the campaign for total abolition. Fifty specific actions were laid out that state parties agreed to, including:

- **Encourage nations not party to the TPNW to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty.** Methods include diplomatic outreach visits, conferences, discussion workshops, the commissioning of scientific studies and highlighting the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.
- Pursue and discuss the **establishment of an international authority with an explicit mandate for disarmament negotiation and verification processes.** Including the future establishment of a specific framework for the disarmament process of a nuclear-weapons state wishing to enter the TPNW.
- **Pursue the positive obligations of the Treaty in recognition of its humanitarian aims.** This includes addressing the harm from past use of testing and use of nuclear weapons with a critical emphasis on consulting, engaging, and involving affected communities at all stages of the process.
  - States are called to establish national focal points for Articles 6 and 7 of the TPNW and to adopt appropriate national laws and policies with regard to humanitarian and environmental remediation.
  - States are called to consider the establishment of an international trust fund for the purpose of providing aid to assist survivors and support measures towards environmental remediation in states that require financial assistance to do so. **States in a position to do so must assist those states with a clear need for external support.**
- **Establish a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to enrich the knowledge of humanitarian impacts and present risks** in addition to providing technical guidance and credibility for the implementation process.
- **Cooperate with other relevant international bodies and treaties** such as the IAEA, the CTBT, and the NPT, ICAN, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other civil society organizations.
- **Emphasize the gender-responsive nature of the TPNW** and establish a Gender Focal Point to work to implement the gender provisions of the treaty. This includes age and gender-sensitive Victim Assistance.

*"We will take every path that is open to us, and work persistently to open those that are still closed. We will not rest until the last state has joined the Treaty, the last warhead has been dismantled and destroyed and nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated from the Earth."*

**- The Declaration**

*"This political declaration is a very strong document, despite many difficulties we face. With this powerful document, we can go forward, and all Hibakusha support this, it is a great document to make my city, Nagasaki, the last city ever to suffer from an atomic bombing"*

**- Masao Tomonaga, Nagasaki survivor**

*"The once unthinkable prospect of nuclear conflict is now back within the realm of possibility. More than 13,000 nuclear weapons are being held in arsenals across the globe. In a world rife with geopolitical tensions and mistrust, this is a recipe for annihilation."*

**- Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General**