

"[This] showcases what is possible within multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations and bolsters the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture."

Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General

THE SECOND MEETING OF STATE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

SUMMARY

From November 27 to December 1, 2023, the 2nd Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW was held in New York.

Many states have joined the Treaty since 2022 but the global nuclear threat has increased. This meeting concluded that reliance on nuclear deterrence is a major security issue that requires urgent attention, called for further research on humanitarian impacts and paved the road ahead to 3MSP.

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

TREATY

ON THE

PROHIBITION

OF

NUCLEAR

WEAPONS

PROGRESS SINCE THE FIRST MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

A Growing Community: Since 1MSP the Bahamas, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, and Sierra Leone signed the treaty; the Dominican Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Malawi ratified the treaty; Sri Lanka acceded to the treaty; and Indonesia, enacted the TPNW into law within its parliament.

Nearly half of the parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty have now signed the TPNW, demonstrating frustration at the lack of progress toward disarmament from nuclear-armed countries.

Working Groups: 1MSP established working groups on disarmament verification; victim assistance, environmental remediation, and international cooperation and assistance; and universalization. These groups have met several times to further the causes of the TPNW.

The **Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)**, the first international scientific body created by a multilateral treaty process to promote nuclear disarmament, has met nine times and submitted a formal report on nuclear weapons risks, humanitarian consequences and nuclear disarmament. The report can be found here: <https://front.un-arm.org/publications/tpnw-sag-report.pdf>

MOVING FORWARD

2MSP concluded with a series of decisions designed to realize the Action Plan and move towards the realization of the TPNW's goals. These decisions include:

- Formalizing an intersessional structure for the implementation of the Treaty.
- Establishing a mechanism for convening thematic debates of particular relevance at future Meetings.
- Focused discussions will be held to **consider the feasibility and guidelines for establishing an international trust for victim assistance and environmental remediation**. A report will be submitted to the third Meeting of States Parties with the aim of establishing such a trust at 3MSP.
- Establishing an intersessional consultative process to submit a report to 3MSP **containing comprehensive recommendations to challenge the security paradigm based on nuclear deterrence** by highlighting the risk and assumptions inherent in nuclear deterrence in contrast with the scientific evidence about the dire humanitarian consequences.

DECLARATION: “OUR COMMITMENT TO UPHOLDING THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND AVERTING THEIR CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES”

2MSP concluded with the following statement:

- The States Parties to the TPNW remain steadfast in their **“determination to address the existential threat to humanity posed by nuclear weapons and to uphold our commitment to their prohibition and complete elimination.”**
- **“Nuclear risks are being exacerbated** in particular by the continued and increasing salience of and emphasis on nuclear weapons in military postures and doctrines, coupled with the ongoing qualitative modernization and quantitative increases in nuclear arsenals, and the heightening of tensions. **We cannot stand idly by while signs indicate that humanity is moving closer to global nuclear catastrophe at this dangerous inflection point.”**
 - The Declaration stresses that any threat of the use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international humanitarian law and the UN Charter.
 - They applaud explicit declarations against the use of nuclear threats - such as from the G20 - but call for meaningful, tangible, actions from those nations.
- Nuclear deterrence should not be recognized as a legitimate security doctrine. Such rhetoric gives “false credence” to the value of nuclear weapons and dangerously increases the risk of vertical and horizontal nuclear proliferation. Nuclear weapons are used as instruments of policy to coerce, intimidate, and raise tensions.
- Universalization remains of paramount importance. The Declaration urges all States to join the Treaty without delay; to sign and ratify the CTBT to uphold and strengthen norms against nuclear weapons testing; and to make progress per their legally binding obligation to move towards a world free of nuclear weapons under Article VI of the NPT.
- The Declaration reaffirms the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons as the moral and ethical imperative for nuclear disarmament. Nuclear weapons are incompatible with the right to life and the goal of sustainable development.
 - The States Parties call for further scientific research on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons use as an urgent policy issue at the international level.
 - The Parties reaffirm their support for addressing the historic harms of nuclear weapons use and testing, including through the TPNW’s positive obligations.

AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

On behalf of 26 impacted community organizations and 45 allied organizations a statement was read at 2MSP. The full statement can be found [here](#) and contained the following critical message:

“Healing comes through action... We call for the nuclear-armed states, in particular, to join the Treaty and be accountable for their actions.

We call on States Parties to the TPNW to push relentlessly for its universalization.

We hope that governments of the day recognize that Indigenous Peoples rights matter, as do the rights of all victims of nuclear bombs everywhere.

Finally, let us all commit to put an end to the possession, development, testing, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, so that not one more person will suffer as we have.”

Additional Points

92 nations were represented at the meeting as participants or observers. This included states with nuclear weapons defense doctrine but no actively armed nuclear weapons states.

New research was presented during the meeting that demonstrated greater understanding of the cascading effects of nuclear weapons on food supplies, the financial system, and energy supplies.

90 Investors, representing \$1 trillion in assets under management, put out a joint statement that included a call to end the financing relationship between nations and the nuclear arms industry.

The Third Meeting of States Parties will take place March 3-7, 2025.

Quotes

“In a world where challenges persist in meeting basic human needs, the investment of substantial financial resources in expanding nuclear arsenals is indefensible and counterproductive.”

“We are more determined than ever in our unyielding commitment to delegitimizing, stigmatizing and totally eliminating nuclear weapons.”

- The Declaration

“Leaders around the world must confront the reality that nuclear threats now being voiced by certain policymakers reveal the folly of continued legitimization of nuclear weapons including through promoting so-called nuclear deterrence.”

- Statement of Parliamentary Representatives to the 2MSP (including Rep Jim McGovern (D-MA))