July 6—Voices of the Non-Nuclear-Armed World and the Health of the Primary Anti-Nuclear Treaties—The Nonproliferation Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

A review the genesis and histories of these treaties and the challenges they face, the renewed nuclear arms race, and the forces pushing for, and against, a proliferation of nuclear-armed states in the 21st Century

A Brief Review of the Trajectory of Global Nuclear Arsenals

- Sharp, exponential increase from the 1950's to high point at the Cold War peak in the mid-1980's
- A sharp decline in the 1990's and early 2000's, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, with decommissioning and dismantling of many nuclear weapons
- No significant increase in the numbers of nuclear weapons globally over the last 35 years
- With the New Start Treaty in 2010, numbers of deployed nuclear weapons by the U.S. and Russia have been capped at 1550 each

FAST FACTS ON THE UNITED STATES

The nuclear age began when the U.S. conducted the **Trinity test on July 16, 1945.**

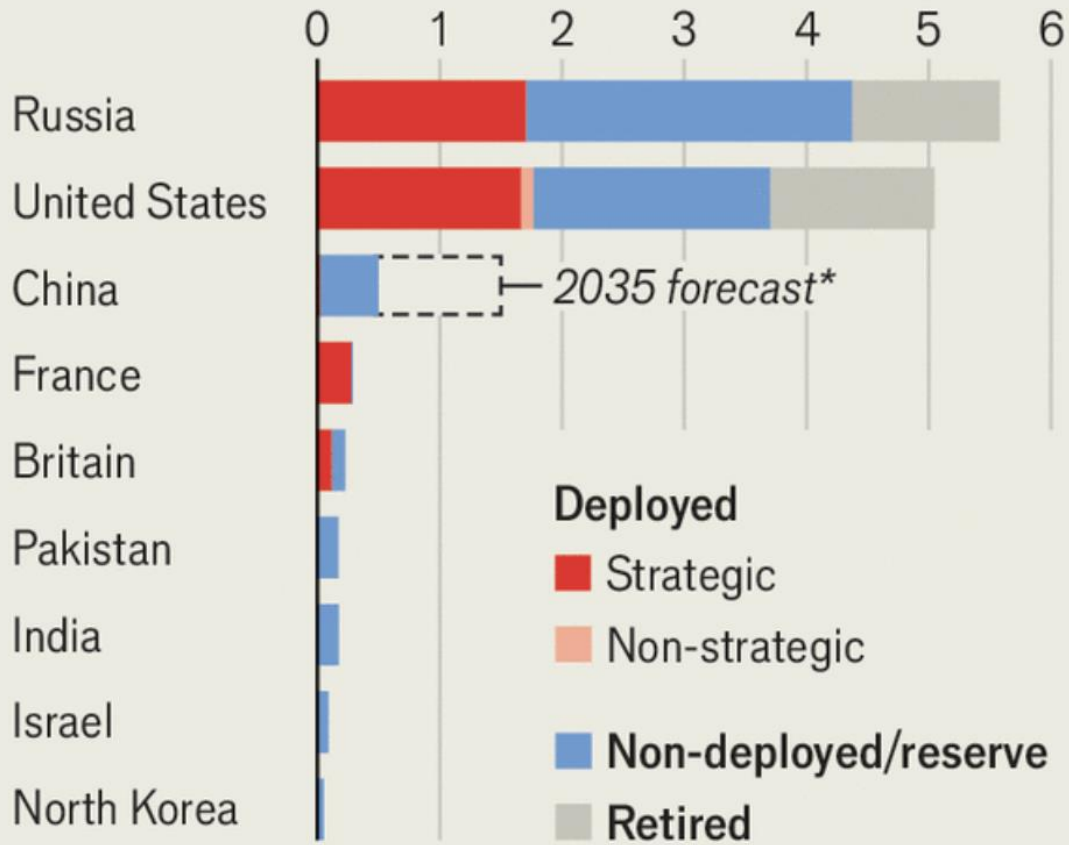
The U.S. is the only country to have used nuclear weapons in a conflict, bombing the Japanese cities of **Hiroshima and Nagasaki** on August 6 and 9, 1945.

The U.S. currently possesses **~5,244 nuclear weapons**, down from a peak of more than 31,000 in 1967.

Figure 1. Estimated global nuclear warhead inventories, 1945–2016. The global inventory (grey) of nuclear warheads (stockpiled plus those that are retired but still intact) has decreased significantly since the Cold War peak in 1986. The US stockpile (blue) peaked in 1967, while the Russian stockpile (red) peaked in 1986. As of early 2016, the world's nine nuclear-armed States possess an estimated 15,400 weapons. Source: Hans M. Kristensen and Robert S. Norris, "Status of World Nuclear Forces", Federation of American Scientists (FAS), 26 May 2016, available at: http://fas.org/issues/nuclear-weapons/status-world-nuclear-forces/.

Estimated nuclear-warhead inventories, '000

By type, June 2024



*Made by US Department of Defence

Source: Federation of American Scientists

The Non-Proliferation Treaty—A Brief Review

- The **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**, commonly known as the **Non-Proliferation Treaty** or **NPT**, is an international treaty whose objectives are to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.
- Signed in 1968, entered into force in 1970
- In 1995, parties agreed to extend the NPT indefinitely. The treaty is reviewed every five years in meetings called Review Conferences.
- As of August, 2016, 191 nations have adhered to the treaty. Four UN nations have not accepted/joined the NPT, three of which possess nuclear weapons—India, Israel, and Pakistan. South Sudan is the fourth.
- North Korea joined in 1985, did not comply, and withdrew in 2003.
- The NPT defines and "legitimizes" five nuclear weapons states—those that had built and tested nuclear weapons prior to January 1, 1967—The U.S., the Soviet Union (now Russia), the U.K., France and China.
- All other NPT member nations are defined as non-nuclear weapon states and are prohibited from producing or possessing nuclear weapons.

Article VI and the Central Bargain of the NPT

- The three pillars of the treaty—non-proliferation, disarmament, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology.
- The NPT non-nuclear-weapon states agree never to acquire nuclear weapons, and **in exchange,** the NPT nuclear-weapon states agree to share the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology and to pursue nuclear disarmament aimed at the ultimate elimination of their nuclear arsenals.
- The second pillar—disarmament—contains the central bargain—Article VI: all parties undertake to pursue good-faith negotiations on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race, to nuclear disarmament, and to general and complete disarmament.
- When the NPT was created, there were predictions of 25–30 nuclear weapon states within 20 years. Instead, 55 years later, only five states are not parties to the NPT, and they include the only four additional states that possess nuclear weapons—India, Israel, Pakistan, and North Korea.
- There is widespread impatience, disappointment and conviction that Article VI is being honored only in the breach by the nuclear weapons states.

Recent History of the NPT Review Conferences

- Since the beginning of the five-year Review Conferences, the outcomes have generally been disappointing, especially since 2010.
- The 2010 Review Conference succeeded in adopting a final consensus document, which included a 64-point action plan on non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful use of nuclear energy, reflecting a commitment to fulfill these three pillars of the NPT, and called for the implementation of the 1995 Middle East resolution.
- The 2015 Review Conference failed to reach agreement on a final consensus document, mainly because of disagreements (1) over the achieving a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction (a primary demand of the 1995 Middle East Resolution) and (2) over the pace of fulfilling disarmament commitments.
- The 2022 Review Conference (postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19) also did not reach consensus, which was blocked by Russia over disagreements related to the war in Ukraine.

The NPT as an Ongoing Collaboration Forum—Five Year Reviews and Annual Preparatory Committee Meetings

- The 2010 Review Conference set a comprehensive and demanding plan of action, insisting on full implementation of Article VI. Follow-up has been widely disappointing.
- The 2015 NPT Review Conference failed to reach a consensus agreement on a substantive final declaration. (This had happened previously—four out of nine times.) The primary obstacle involved the attempt to establish a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East (promised when the NPT was extended indefinitely in 1995). But the main contradiction plaguing the Review Conferences has involved the contested issue of disarmament under Article VI.
- The perpetuation of fear, suspicion, and mistrust among the nuclear weapons states; the blaring double-standard and hypocrisy; and the contradictions of the myths of the "right to possess nuclear weapons" applying only to the nuclear weapons states.
- Austrian Ambassador Kuglitsch's warning: "The forceful proclamation of alleged security benefits of nuclear weapons is a powerful proliferator."

Preparation Conferences leading to the 2026 Review Conference—The Gulf between the Aspirations of the NPT and the Divisions between Member States

Preparatory sessions in 2023, 2024, and 2025—not encouraging.

Aspirations of the NPT are well articulated by the NGO Arms Control Association statement, for the 3rd Preparatory Meeting for the upcoming 2026 Review Conference, in these priority action steps:

1. U.S. and Russia return to negotiations to implement and renew the New START Treaty, capping their arsenals, before New START expires in February, 2026.
2. All five NPY nuclear-armed states engage in serious dialogue leading to joint commitment to reduce nuclear risks and halt and reverse a new nuclear buildup.
3. Jointly reaffirm the *de facto* moratorium on nuclear testing and call on the nine CTBT hold-out states to ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty forthwith (i.e.., China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, United States, Russia).
4. Condemn threats of nuclear use as "inadmissible" and illegal.

"Presidents Trump, Putin, Xi, and the other leaders of the nuclear-armed states are gambling with the lives of every person on the planet. At some point, nuclear deterrence will fail, with catastrophic results. To improve humanity's odds of survival we demand that they follow through on their obligations under Article VI of the 1968 NPT to engage in good-faith negotiations to reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons and to achieve nuclear disarmament."

What are the stated goals and policies of Major Nuclear-Weapons States and their allies, for the 2026 Review Conference:

1. United States: *Platitudes*—the NPT remains a key tool to prevent nuclear war when the risks of nuclear war and nuclear proliferation have increased. Against the threat of the nuclear weapons build-up of China, Russian and North Korea, and Iran's possible future threat, President Trump is "working to ensure there is never a need for such weapons to be used again." Nothing about sustaining the New START Treaty beyond Feb. 2026, or about Article VI obligations.
2. United Kingdom: the U.K. commits to its "independent nuclear deterrent [as] essential to guarantee our security and that of our Allies in NATO," and welcomes Pres. Trump's remarks on the need for "denuclearisation" talks with Russian and China, but its goal of a world without nuclear weapons is now thwarted by realities that are an obstacle to disarmament.
3. China: China expressed sharp criticism of the U.S. for seeking nuclear superiority, its "modernization" upgrades, its nuclear alliances and "extended deterrence" arrange-ments, its policy of "first use," its large number of nuclear weapons deployed abroad, and its destabilizing "Golden Dome" missile defense plans. China accuses the U.S. of undermining the rights of other nuclear-weapons States, increasing nuclear instability and risk, ignoring non-nuclear weapon States to be free from nuclear threats, and overall blocking progress in nuclear disarmament.

3. China (continued)
Toward the goal of a nuclear-free world, a first step is for the U.S. and Russia to resume and sustain the New START Treaty and continue to reduce their nuclear arsenals. A second step is the adoption by all nuclear weapons States of a mutual no-first-use of nuclear weapons policy. China proclaims its own no-first-use policy and commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)and to negotiating a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.

4. Russia: Russia focuses almost entirely on support for all non-nuclear weapons States to be granted "legally binding negative security assurances (NSAs)," i.e., commitments that nuclear weapons will never be threatened or used against them, as central to the NPT. Russia criticized the practice of the "nuclear umbrella" by which non-nuclear states form alliances with nuclear-weapons States, including basing the latter's nuclear weapons—a practice that bars them from any universal NSA. Russia also criticizes the U.S. for not ratifying three of the four treaties establishing the existing four Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones.

5. France: France emphasized its positive steps to implement NPT Article VI—halving its nuclear arsenal in the 1990's, elimination of its ground-launched weapons, one-third reduction of air and sea-based weapons, closing fissile material production and its nuclear testing site in the Pacific. France pushed for universal ratification of the CTBT and for a treaty to ban production of fissile material for nuclear weapons—as the only credible path to halting the arms race. France urged the U.S. and Russia to negotiate a successor treaty to the New START Treaty.

U.S. Statement to the NPT Preparatory Committee, May 2, 2025

"The fundamental role of U.S. nuclear weapons is to deter a strategic attack, assure allies and partners, and achieve objectives if deterrence fails. The United States will continue to maintain a safe, secure, reliable, and effective nuclear deterrent as long as nuclear weapons exist. As has been made clear by successive U.S. Administrations, the United States maintains a very high bar for nuclear employment and would consider the use of nuclear weapons only in extreme circumstances."

Nowhere in U.S. or other major powers' position statements is there any acknowledgement of:

- The prospect of Nuclear Winter and its sequalae in the event of any nuclear use,
- Any possible scenarios of what "if deterrence fails" would look like and what "objectives" would be possible or make sense in those contexts,
- Any frank recognition that ANY nuclear weapons use would be a mortal risk, if not death sentence, to ALL.

Slow Awakening from Our Nuclear Slumber

- A. The Four Horsemen of the Nuclear Apocalypse
- B. Report from the International Red Cross
- C. President Obama's Prague Speech and subsequent Nobel Peace Prize
- D. Three international conferences on the humanitarian impacts of a nuclear war.
- E. The Vatican turns: Pope Francis declares Nuclear Deterrence as morally unacceptable.
- F. The instituting of a United Nations Working Group to draft a treaty to outlaw nuclear weapons.
- G. Finalizing and ratification, so far, by 73 countries of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons-–the TPNW.

The Four Horsemen of the Nuclear Apocalypse

- Beginning in 2007, four elder statesmen of the Cold War, George Schultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger, and Sam Nunn wrote several op eds in the *Wall Street Journal*, asserting that we have entered a second nuclear age with grave risks (very possibly greater than during the Cold War), that nuclear weapons will be used, and called for taking steps toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- --Jan. 4., 2007—"A World Free of Nuclear Weapons"
- --Jan. 19, 2010—"How to Protect Our Nuclear Deterrent"
- --March7, 2011—"Deterrence in the Age of Nuclear Proliferation"
- --March 5, 2013—"Next Steps in Reducing Nuclear Risks"
- They subsequently founded The Nuclear Threat Initiative, an organization dedicated to prevent catastrophic attacks with weapons of mass destruction and disruption—nuclear, biological, radiological, chemical and cyber.

Surging Countervailing Voices

- --International Red Cross Report, Spring 2010
- The report contained a statement asserting that there is no way to respond to a nuclear detonation—that evacuation, triage, and aid would be completely unrealistic given the totality of destruction.
- 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and spurred by the Red Cross report, Norway, Austria, Ireland and New Zealand refocused attention on the humanitarian dimensions and risks associated with nuclear weapons. Soon after, European officials and activists met in Amersham, England, and decided to take action to cast nuclear disarmament as a humanitarian imperative and launched a diplomatic process consisting of a series of conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

Kindling Hope: President Obama

- President Obama's Prague Speech, April 5, 2009, pledged "To put an end to Cold War thinking…," and boldly declared "America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons."
- Reactions to Obama's statement were very mixed: a sign of hope, OR naively idealistic, unrealistic and unattainable.
- Obama moved ahead with a practical three-fold approach:
  --to prevent nuclear terrorism—the four Nuclear Security Summits
  --to lower the role of nuclear weapons in national security—a new Nuclear Posture Review
  --to reduce the nuclear arsenal (and to create the conditions to foster the international cooperation needed to secure nuclear materials and reinforce non-proliferation)—the New Start Treaty negotiated with Russia entered into force on February 5, 2011, reducing weapons to 1,550 deployed strategic warheads on each side by February 2018. Both countries claim to be on target with reductions.

Obama's Faustian Bargain with the Republican's in Congress

- Large Senate opposition to President Obama's nuclear policies from the beginning: on December 15, 2009, 41 Senators sent a letter to President Obama saying that further reductions of the nuclear arsenal would be acceptable only if accompanied by "a significant program to modernize our nuclear deterrent."
- The Senate approved the treaty on the very last day with 71 votes (four more that the needed 2/3's) in exchange for a commitment to "modernize" our nuclear weapons (with a budget of $1 trillion over the next three decades) and a virtual guarantee that we will be living with nuclear weapons in perpetuity.
- --On June 19, 2013, President Obama delivered a speech at the Brandenburg Gate, Germany, announcing plans to unilaterally reduce the U.S. deployed nuclear arsenal by one-third, to 1000. This plan fell on deaf hears and has never been acted.
- --Concurrently, with the evolution of Vladimir Putin's power in Russia, Russia appears to have turned away from efforts to reduce nuclear arsenals and also is embarking on its own modernization programs. Other nuclear states are following suit.

International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

- 1) Oslo, Norway (March 2013)--126 nations represented.
- 2) Nayarit, Mexico (February 2014)--147 nations represented.
- 3) Vienna, Austria (December 2014)—158 nations represented.
- --Also in attendance was a broad spectrum of international organizations and civil society. In four sessions, experts addressed the short and long-term consequences of nuclear weapons, the impact of nuclear testing, the risk drivers for deliberate or inadvertent use of nuclear weapons, and the norms under existing international law regarding the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons explosions.
- --The consensus was that the humanitarian consequences and risks associated with nuclear weapons are far higher and graver than previously assumed.

Categorical Policy Change from the Vatican

Pope Francis sent a message to the Vienna Conference stating that the Vatican is no longer able to view the practice of nuclear deterrence as moral:

“Nuclear deterrence and the threat of mutually assured destruction cannot be the basis for an ethics of fraternity and peaceful coexistence among peoples and states. The youth of today and tomorrow deserve far more.”

Nuclear Winter: A Graver Threat than Previously Believed

One of the most significant presentations at the December 2014 Vienna Conference was by Dr. Michael J. Mills, from the National Center for Atmospheric Research:

“Global Famine after a Regional Nuclear War: Overview of Recent Research.”

Its bottom line is that even a “small” war, say, the detonation of 100 small nuclear weapons between Pakistan and India would result in global atmospheric effects over a decade or more, causing catastrophic famine and attendant societal chaos affecting a billion or more people.

Nations participating in the Ban Treaty Negotiation Conference

- *Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica,* ***Japan****, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal,* ***Netherlands****, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Rep Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.*
- Conspicuously absent: Finland and Greenland

No Nuclear-Weapons State, and none of the NATO Nations, participated, except the Netherlands

- <u>The Member Nations of NATO--29</u>
- Albania
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Montenegro

How would a Nuclear Ban Treaty relate to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)?

- The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) does not ban nuclear weapons as such. However, it does prohibit nations from acquiring nuclear weapons if they did not already have them at the time that the NPT was negotiated, and it requires all of its parties to pursue negotiations in good faith for nuclear disarmament.
- The NPT specifically envisages the creation of new legal instruments to advance the objective of nuclear disarmament. The nuclear weapon ban treaty will complement and reinforce the NPT rather than replace or undermine it. The NPT will remain in force after the ban treaty has been concluded.

Nations Voting ***Yes*** for Negotiations on a Ban Treaty

(126 total in the General Assembly and/or First Committee)

Afghanistan	Comoros	Guyana	Mexico	Sierra Leone
Albania	Congo	Honduras	Mongolia	Singapore
Algeria	Costa Rica	Indonesia	Mozambique	Solomon Island (in FC)
Angola	Cote d'Ivoire	Iran	Myanmar	Somalia (in FC)
Antigua & Barbuda	Cuba	Iraq	Namibia	South Africa
Argentina	Cyprus	Ireland	Nauru (in FC)	Sri Lanka
Austria	***DPRK (North Korea)***	**Italy**	Nepal	Suriname
Azerbaijan	(in FC)	Jamaica	New Zealand	Sweden
Bahamas	DRC (Congo) (in FC)	Jordan	Niger	Tajikistan
Bahrain	Djibouti	Kazakhstan	Nigeria	Thailand
Bangladesh	Dominica (in FC)	Kenya	Oman	TFYR Macedonia
Barbados	Dominican Republic	Kiribati	Palau	Timor-Leste
Belize (in FC)	Ecuador	Kuwait	Panama	Togo
Bhutan	Egypt	Lao PDR	Papua New Guinea	Tonga
Bolivia	El Salvador	Lebanon	Paraguay	Trinidad & Tobago
Botswana	Equatorial Guinea	Lesotho	Peru	Tunisia
Brunel Darussalam	Eritrea	Libya	Philippines	Uganda
Burkina Faso	**Estonia**	Liechtenstein	Qatar	United Arab Emirates
Burundi (in FC)	Fiji	Madagascar	Rwanda (in FC)	UR Tanzania
Cabo Verde	Gabon	Malawi (in FC)	St Kitts & Nevis	Uruguay
Cambodia	Gambia (in FC)	Malaysia	St Lucia	Vanuatu
Central African Republic (in FC)	Ghana	Malta	St Vincent & Grenadines	Venezuela
Chad	Grenada (in FC)	Marshall Islands	San Marino	Viet Nam
Chile	Guinea (in FC)	Muritania	Saudi Arabia	Yemen
Columbia	Guinea-Bissau (in FC)	Mauritius	Senegal	Zambia (in FC)
				Zimbabwe

Nations Voting ***No*** for Negotiations on a Ban Treaty

(35 total in the General Assembly and/or First Committee)

Andorra	***France***	Luxembourg	***Russia***
Australia	Germany	Micronesia (FSM)	Serbia
Belgium	Greece	Monaco	Slovakia
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Hungary	Montegegro	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Iceland	Norway	Spain
Canada	***Israel***	Poland	Turkey
Croatia	Japan	Portugal	***United Kingdom***
Czech Republic	Latvia	Republic of Korea	***United States***
Denmark	Lithuania	Romania	

Nations that Abstained, or Did Not Vote

Abstaining			
Armenia	Finland	Morocco	***Pakistan***
Belarus	***India***	Netherlands	Sudan
China	Mali	Nicaragua	Switzerland
			Uzebekistan
Not Voting			
Benin	Republic of Maldova	South Sudan	
Haiti	Sao Tome & Principe	Syria	
Liberia	Seychelles	Ukraine	

Treaty Obligations

- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) prohibits States Parties from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, or stockpiling nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Signatories are barred from transferring or receiving nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, control over such weapons, or any assistance with activities prohibited under the Treaty. States are also prohibited from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. Lastly, States Parties cannot allow the stationing, installation, or deployment of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices in their territory. In addition to the Treaty's prohibitions, States Parties are obligated to provide victim assistance and help with environmental remediation efforts.
- The Treaty entered into force 90 days after the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession was deposited. January 22, 2021. It is now legally binding on all TPNW treaty parties.

The Rationale for the Nuclear Ban Treaty

- Nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited in a comprehensive and universal manner:
  1972—Biological Weapons Convention
  1993—Chemical Weapons Convention
  1997—Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty
  2008—Convention on Cluster Munitions
- The vast number of UN nations believe that nuclear weapons must now be placed on the same legal footing as other weapons of mass destruction.
- The new treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons will strengthen the global norms against using and possessing these weapons and spur long-overdue progress towards disarmament.
- Progress on nuclear disarmament has stalled in recent years, with nuclear-armed nations investing heavily in the build- up and modernization of their nuclear arsenals.
- Such a ban treaty will reinforce existing legal instruments on nuclear weapons, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty, regional nuclear-weapon-free zones, and the treaty banning nuclear test explosions.
- The ban treaty reflects an underlying belief that changing the rules regarding nuclear weapons will have a major impact beyond those nations that may formally adopt the treaty at the outset.

Who are the leading nations pushing for the Ban Treaty? Can the treaty be blocked by the nuclear weapons states, or by the UN Security Council?

- The UN resolution to initiate the negotiations was submitted by a core group of six nations: Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, Nigeria and South Africa.
- A total of 57 nations were co-sponsors of the resolution and 113 nations voted in favor of it in the General Assembly in December, 2016.
- No nation had the power to block the negotiations. The treaty was not subject to approval by the UN Security Council, where five nuclear-armed nations wield a veto.
- The TPNW came into full force on January 22, 2021.

Very little notice of the Ban Treaty Negotiation Conference in the U.S. Media

- An article appeared on March 28, 2017, on Page A10 of the *New York Times*, New York edition with the headline: “United States and Allies Boycott U.N. Talks for a Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons.”
- On March 27th, Reuters published an article featuring U.S. UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, along with other leaders from nuclear -weapons states, boycotting the conference.
  "You are going to see almost 40 countries that are not in the General Assembly today," Haley said. "In this day and time we can't honestly that say we can protect our people by allowing the bad actors to have them and those of us that are good, trying to keep peace and safety, not to have them.”
- *The Guardian* also took notice:” Negotiations to ban nuclear weapons begin, but Australia joins US boycott.” “Negotiations on a treaty to outlaw nuclear weapons have begun in New York, but have been publicly condemned by the United States, which is leading a coalition of more than 40 countries – including Australia – boycotting the talks.”
- On April 1st, *The Japan Times* published an editorial expressing disappointment that Japan elected not to participate in the conference, urging it to make good on its commitment to nuclear abolition.
- On March 15th, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace published an article by Matthew Harries, “The Real Problem With a Nuclear Ban Treaty,” claiming that such a ban would be ineffective, undermine the NPT, and represents “intentionally or not…an attack on the nuclear-armed democracies—the United States in particular—and their allies to the near-exclusive benefit of Russia and China.”

Review of Stated Reasons Various Nations Voted "NO" or Abstained

in the vote to go forward with the Ban Treaty Negotiation Conference:
(Virtually all stated their long-term commitment to a world without nuclear weapons.)

- A nuclear weapons Ban Treaty would be ineffective—because none of the nuclear-weapons-armed states and the nuclear weapons-reliant states are participating.
- The Ban Treaty would undermine or weaken the Non-Proliferation Treaty, especially Article VI.
- The Ban Treaty conference has adopted a decision process based on voting, rejecting the consensus rule, thereby undermining or weakening the obligation binding power on participants of any treaty adopted.
- The Ban Treaty conference is too precipitous, short-circuiting a step-by-step approach that would assure disarmament implementation in a "balanced, mutual, irreversible and verifiable" manner.
- The Ban Treaty would not "balance" the imperative of eliminating nuclear weapons with the imperative of the "maintenance of global security" (U.S. terms) or the "undiminished security" of participating nations (Pakistan's terms).
- The Ban Treaty would undermine or diminish the authority of the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

My favorite response—Sweden's explanation for voting in favor of the negotiations.

- The deadlock in recent years in progress in nuclear disarmament, manifested in the failure of the NPT 2015 Review Conference, and the fact that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has not yet entered into force.
- The humanitarian perspective has become dominant.
- Our main motivation—the overarching goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
- The issues are highly complex. Will the Ban Treaty process help lead to full nuclear disarmament?—we simply do not know. "But given the stakes involved, we believe we have an obligation to try, mindful of the challenges involved."
- We do not believe there is a "legal gap" within existing treaty law: the NPT remains the indispensable cornerstone for nuclear disarmament. A Ban Treaty can complement and reinforce the implementation of Article VI of the NPT.
- The Ban Treaty movement is a clear stance against an increasingly dangerous status quo.

2017 Nobel Peace Prize

ICAN: International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Internet Resources

- http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org
-
- http://www.nuclearzero.org
-
- http://www.nti.org
-
- https://www.ploughshares.org
-
- http://www.icanw.org
-
- http://www.**un**.org/en/ga/**first**/
-
- http://www.nukewatch.org