

# PLENARY II:

Advancing *Shared Well-Being* by Preventing  
and Transforming Violent Conflicts

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Action Point on Disarmament



# Religions for Peace

## ACTION POINT ON ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

### PROBLEM BEING ADDRESSED

Nuclear weapons threaten the very survival of humanity and our entire living planet, and according to the UN, the risk of their use is at its highest since the end of WWII. Any use – whether intentional, including by miscalculation, or by accidental – would cause catastrophic, widespread and persistent humanitarian and environmental consequences that transcend national boundaries and span generations. These immoral, unethical and illegitimate weapons go against the basic tenets of all the world's major religions, and communities of faith have historically played a large role in the push for their abolition.

On 7 July 2017, 122 nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) - the first multilateral, legally binding instrument to comprehensively and categorically prohibit nuclear weapons. To date, 70 nations have signed it and 23 have ratified it. It will enter into force once 50 governments have ratified it or acceded to it. In addition to achieving their legal prohibition, the TPNW is also changing the norm and creating a stigma against nuclear weapons. For this achievement ICAN was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

### RELIGIONS FOR PEACE AND THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

*Religions for Peace* from its origin to its presence has had a constant and resolute commitment to the total elimination of the nuclear weapons

*Religions for Peace* is an intrinsic partner and works side by side with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in this endeavour. The support of the Treaty by faith communities all around the world has been instrumental in achieving it and will be key to its ratification and adoption as a new global norm.

### COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Deeply concerned by the resumption of the nuclear arms race and the breaking down of arms control agreements;

Challenged by the need to secure the support of every nation to ensure the total eradication of these weapons – before they eliminate us;

Appreciating the historic and on-going commitment by *Religions for Peace* to the total elimination of the nuclear weapons;

We place before the Assembly the following Motion:

**“That the *Religions for Peace* World Assembly commits as a full partner to support the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and that *RfP's* commitment includes:**

1. Stigmatizing nuclear weapons by condemning their existence, possession and threat of use from ethical, moral and religious perspectives;
2. Further educating, mobilizing and engaging religious leaders and communities on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, the risk of their use and the urgent need for their elimination;
3. Affirming its support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and calling on all governments to sign and ratify it at the earliest;



**NOBEL  
PEACE  
PRIZE  
2017**

# THE NUCLEAR WEAPON BAN TREATY

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**Image:** Costa Rican ambassador  
Elayne Whyte Gómez presides over the  
historic United Nations negotiations for  
a treaty to outlaw nuclear weapons, in  
New York in June 2017.



# A NEW GLOBAL NORM

Nuclear weapons threaten the very survival of humanity and our entire living planet. Their effects transcend national boundaries and span generations. They are immoral, illegitimate and now – at long last – illegal.

On 7 July 2017, following a decade of advocacy by ICAN and its partners, 122 nations voted to adopt a historic global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, known officially as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This new legal instrument offers a powerful alternative to a world in which threats of mass destruction are allowed to prevail. It provides a pathway

forward at a time of alarming global crisis. If ever there were a moment for leaders to declare their unequivocal opposition to these weapons, that moment is now.

## **FILLING A LEGAL GAP**

Prior to the treaty's adoption, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a categorical ban, despite their catastrophic, widespread and persistent humanitarian consequences. The new agreement thus fills a major gap in international law. It prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing,

stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also bars them from assisting, encouraging or inducing others to engage in any of these prohibited activities.

Nations armed with nuclear weapons must, upon joining the treaty, commit to destroy their stockpiles in accordance with a legally binding, time-bound plan. Nations that host an ally's nuclear weapons on their territory must remove them by a specified deadline.

The treaty also obliges its parties to provide assistance to those who have suffered

as a result of the use and testing of nuclear weapons around the world, and to take measures to remediate contaminated environments.

The treaty was negotiated at UN headquarters in New York over four weeks in 2017, with the participation of a great majority of the world's nations. It is permanent in nature and will enter into legal force once 50 nations have formally ratified it.

Elayne Whyte Gómez, the Costa Rican ambassador who presided over the negotiations, remarked during the closing session: "We have managed to sow the first seeds of a world free of nuclear weapons."

# OUR CAMPAIGN

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is a diverse coalition of non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the UN nuclear weapon ban treaty. Our partners range from local peace groups to global federations representing millions of people. The campaign was founded in Australia in 2007 and initially developed through International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. We were inspired by the success of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which a decade earlier had played an instrumental role

in the negotiation of the anti-personnel mine ban treaty.

Since our founding, we have worked to build a global groundswell of public opposition to nuclear weapons. By engaging a broad range of groups and working alongside the Red Cross and like-minded governments, we have helped reshape the debate on nuclear weapons and generate momentum towards their total eradication.

## HUMANITARIAN FOCUS

ICAN served as the civil society partner for three major diplomatic conferences in 2013 and 2014 focusing on the humanitarian impacts of

nuclear detonations, which brought together most of the world's governments.

In 2015 we helped garner the support of 127 nations for a pledge to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. And in 2016 our campaign successfully lobbied for the UN General Assembly to adopt a resolution to launch negotiations the following year on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons”. For our major role in bringing about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – adopted with overwhelming support – we were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017.

## HOW WE WORK

ICAN coordinates global days of action, raises public awareness, and engages in advocacy at the UN and in national parliaments. We work with survivors of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and of nuclear testing, helping share their testimonies with the public and lawmakers. Many prominent people have lent their support to the campaign, including Nobel laureates Desmond Tutu, musician Herbie Hancock, artist Yoko Ono, and actors Martin Sheen and Michael Douglas. The UN secretary-general has praised our work.

**Image:** In June 2017, as negotiations begin in New York for a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, Japanese activists light one thousand candles in front of Hiroshima's iconic A-bomb dome.







### SUMITERU TANIGUCHI

As a 16-year-old boy, **Sumiteru Taniguchi** (left) was riding his bicycle in Nagasaki when a US atomic bomb exploded 1.8 km away, scorching his back and leaving the skin on his right arm hanging down from the shoulder to the fingertips. His horrific burns required many operations. Here he is pictured alongside a photograph of himself taken in 1945. After decades struggling against the bomb, he passed away in 2017.

### IROJI KEBENLI

**Iroji Kebenli** (right), of the Marshall Islands, suffered burns to his skin in 1954 after contact with “Bikini snow” – radioactive ash and coral fragments dispersed over Bikini Atoll and other islands following US nuclear tests. Still today, many Marshallese citizens remain displaced from their home islands.





# CATASTROPHIC HARM

Nuclear weapons are the most destructive, inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. Both in the scale of the devastation they cause and in their uniquely persistent, spreading, genetically damaging radioactive fallout, they are unlike any other weapons.

A single nuclear weapon detonated over a populated area could kill millions of people. The use of a large number of nuclear weapons would disrupt the global climate, causing widespread agricultural collapse and famine. The burning cities ignited by nuclear explosions would loft smoke high into the upper atmosphere,

blanketing the globe. This, in turn, would cool, darken and dry the Earth's surface, decimating food crops – putting potentially billions of people at risk of starvation.

Nuclear weapons have been used twice in warfare, on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Close to a quarter of a million civilians were incinerated in an instant or suffered agonizing deaths in the weeks and months after the attacks. Many thousands more have died in the seven decades since from radiation-related illnesses.

More than two thousand nuclear weapons have also been exploded as part of

test programmes, with long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.

## EFFECTS OF A BOMBING

Nuclear weapons release vast amounts of energy in the form of blast, heat and radiation. Almost everything close to ground zero is vaporized. Ionizing radiation at high doses kills cells, damages organs and can be acutely fatal. At all doses, it increases the lifetime risk of cancer, chronic disease and genetic damage. Children, especially girls, and women are more susceptible than men to radiation harm.

The Red Cross and other relief agencies have warned

repeatedly that no meaningful humanitarian response would be possible following a single nuclear detonation anywhere, let alone in the aftermath of a full-scale nuclear war.

In the preamble to the UN nuclear weapon ban treaty, nations express their deep concern about the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons” and recognize the consequent need to “completely eliminate such weapons”. They state that elimination remains “the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances”.

# HOW THE BAN WAS ACHIEVED

## 2007 LAUNCH OF ICAN GLOBALLY



The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is launched at events around the world. Our mission: to eliminate the worst weapons of mass destruction via a treaty that categorically prohibits them. ICAN campaigners begin working to build a global groundswell of opposition to nuclear weapons and form close partnerships with like-minded governments.

## 2010 NEW HUMANITARIAN FOCUS



The Red Cross and Red Crescent movement adopts nuclear disarmament as a top priority, and all parties to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, including five nuclear-armed nations, express their “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons”. This provides the basis for future statements and conferences on the subject.

## 2012 FIRST HUMANITARIAN STATEMENT



On behalf of 16 nations, Switzerland delivers the first in a series of joint statements on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons, urging all nations to “intensify their efforts to outlaw nuclear weapons”. Support for this humanitarian call grows with each new iteration of the statement. Eventually, 159 nations – around four-fifths of all UN members – join the appeal.

## 2013 OSLO CONFERENCE



Eager to strengthen the evidence base for prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons, Norway hosts the first-ever intergovernmental conference on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons, attended by 128 nations. Relief organizations warn that they would be powerless to respond meaningfully in the aftermath of a nuclear attack. Several UN agencies participate.

## 2014 NAYARIT CONFERENCE



Mexico hosts the second humanitarian consequences conference, in the state of Nayarit, with 146 nations present. It calls for the launch of a “diplomatic process” to negotiate a “legally binding instrument” to prohibit nuclear weapons – a necessary precondition for reaching the goal of elimination. It declares the conference “a point of no return”.

## 2014 VIENNA CONFERENCE



Five hundred ICAN activists gather for the third conference on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons, in Vienna. A record 158 nations participate. Austria presents a pledge to cooperate in efforts to “fill the legal gap” in the international regime governing nuclear weapons. Within months, 127 nations formally endorse the document, known as the Humanitarian Pledge.

## 2016 A UNITED NATIONS MANDATE



A special UN working group on disarmament convenes in Geneva to discuss new legal measures to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. It recommends the negotiation of a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, which the Red Cross hails as having “potentially historic implications”. Two months later, 123 governments vote to establish a formal UN mandate for treaty negotiations.

## 2017 TREATY NEGOTIATIONS



Ending two decades of paralysis in multilateral nuclear disarmament efforts, diplomats spend four weeks negotiating “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”. On 7 July, 122 nations vote to adopt the historic accord. Then, on 20 September, it opens for signature, and the leaders of 50 nations sign it immediately.

# NUCLEAR FORCES TODAY

Nine nations together possess an estimated 14,930 nuclear weapons, of which more than 90 per cent are in the arsenals of the United States and Russia. Approximately 1,800 warheads are kept on high alert – ready to be launched within minutes of a warning.

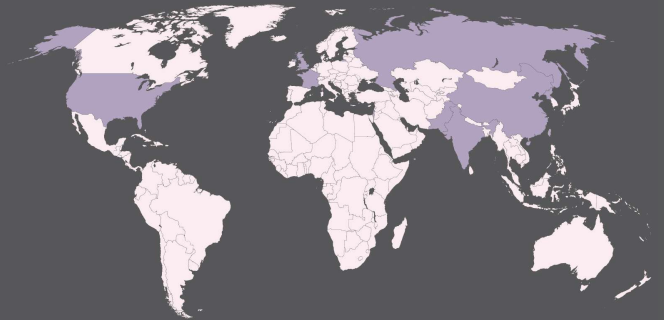
Most nuclear weapons today are many times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

The failure of the nuclear-armed nations to disarm has heightened the risk that others will one day acquire nuclear weapons. The only guarantee against the spread

and use of nuclear weapons is to eliminate them without further delay.

Although the leaders of some nuclear-armed nations have expressed their “vision” of a nuclear-weapon-free world, all are actively upgrading and modernizing their nuclear arsenals. They have no plans as yet to dismantle them completely.

Five European nations host US nuclear weapons on their soil as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey), and roughly two dozen other nations claim to rely on US nuclear weapons in their military doctrines.



COUNTRY	WARHEADS	TESTS
United States	6,800	1,054
Russia	7,000	715
United Kingdom	215	45
France	300	210
China	270	45
India	110–120	6
Pakistan	120–130	6
Israel	80	?
North Korea	10–20	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,930</b>	<b>2,087</b>

*Source: Federation of American Scientists, 2017*



**Image:** ICAN activists in Melbourne, Australia, film a campaign video in 2014.

# HOW THE BAN WORKS

History shows that the prohibition of certain types of weapons facilitates progress towards their elimination. Weapons that have been outlawed by international treaties are increasingly seen as illegitimate, losing their political status and, along with it, the resources for their production. Arms companies find it more difficult to acquire funds for work on illegal weapons, and such work carries a significant reputational risk. Banks and other financial institutions divest from these producers.

The UN nuclear weapon ban treaty complements the prohibitions on biological and chemical weapons,

anti-personnel land mines and cluster munitions, and reinforces various other legal instruments on nuclear weapons, including the non-proliferation treaty of 1968. It strengthens the global taboo against the use and possession of nuclear weapons – challenging any notion that these are legitimate, acceptable weapons for certain nations.

Underpinning the decision by governments and civil society to pursue the ban was our belief that changing the rules regarding nuclear weapons would have a major impact even beyond those nations that would formally adopt the treaty at the outset.

This belief stemmed from experience with treaties outlawing other weapons, which have established powerful norms that greatly influence the policies and practices of states that are not yet parties to them.

ICAN is confident that the new treaty will spur long-overdue progress towards disarmament when the norms it enshrines take hold.

## EVERYONE'S SECURITY

The treaty aims not only to advance nuclear disarmament, but also to prevent further proliferation. It will enhance the security of people everywhere, not least of all those in nations

currently armed with nuclear weapons, who are more likely than others to be the victims of a nuclear attack.

The three conferences on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons in 2013 and 2014 shed new light on the perils of living in a world armed to the brink with these weapons. They clarified the urgent need to prohibit them under international law.

The treaty embodies the principle that there can be no safe hands for nuclear weapons, establishing the same standard for all its parties. Far from ignoring the security concerns of governments, the treaty is a direct response to them.





## NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for our work “to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and our “ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons”. The prize is a tribute to the tireless efforts of many millions of campaigners and concerned citizens worldwide who, ever since the dawn of the atomic age, have loudly protested nuclear weapons, insisting that they can serve no legitimate purpose and must be forever banished from the face of our earth. It is a tribute also to the survivors

of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – the *hibakusha* – and victims of nuclear test explosions around the world, whose searing testimonies and unstinting advocacy were instrumental in securing the nuclear weapon ban treaty.

The award shines a needed light on the path towards a world free of nuclear weapons. It will amplify our message as we work assiduously in coming years to ensure the full implementation of the historic new accord. Any nation that seeks a more peaceful world, forever free of the nuclear menace, will sign and ratify the treaty without delay.

# PROHIBITED WEAPONS

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, like conventions banning other inherently indiscriminate and inhumane weapons,

is based on the principles and rules of international humanitarian law – in particular, the principle that the right of parties to an

armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited, the rule that weapons must be capable of distinguishing between

civilians and combatants, and the prohibition on the use of weapons that cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering.



## BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Banned under the Biological Weapons Convention

**1972**



## CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention

**1993**



## LAND MINES

Banned under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty

**1997**



## CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Banned under the Convention on Cluster Munitions

**2008**



## NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Banned under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

**2017**

**Image:** The United States detonates an atomic bomb underwater at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands in 1946.



**“TO THE LEADERS OF COUNTRIES ACROSS THE  
WORLD, I BESEECH YOU: IF YOU LOVE THIS  
PLANET, YOU WILL SIGN THIS TREATY.”**

**– SETSUKO THURLOW, HIROSHIMA SURVIVOR**

**NUCLEARBAN.ORG**

# Campaigner guide to TPNW Signature and Ratification

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) opened for signature in New York on 20 September 2017 and will enter into force once 50 states have ratified or acceded to it. This guide is designed to assist campaigners in promoting signature and ratification of the TPNW.

## UPCOMING HIGH-LEVEL CEREMONY

A high-level ceremony for further signatures and ratifications of the TPNW will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on **26 September 2019** at 5:00PM. This is an excellent opportunity for leaders to sign the treaty or deposit their instruments of ratification or accession. A state wishing to participate in the high-level ceremony should register its interest in advance with the UN Office of Legal Affairs.

## Does your country support the TPNW?

To check whether your country has already signed, ratified or acceded to the TPNW, see the [list of signatories and states parties](#) on the ICAN website.

- If your country has **signed but not ratified** the TPNW, it should now take the necessary steps for ratification. See Section 1 below for suggested actions to promote ratification by your country.
- If your country has **neither signed nor ratified** the TPNW, check whether it [voted in favour of the adoption of the TPNW](#) on 7 July 2017 or has indicated its support for the treaty in any other way.
  - For **supportive states**, see Section 2 below for suggested actions.
  - For **unsupportive states**, see Section 3 below for suggested actions.
- If your country has already **ratified or acceded** to the TPNW, no additional formal steps are required. However, Section 4 below offers suggestions for actions by states parties to encourage other states to join the treaty.

## SECTION 1

# Promoting ratification by signatory states

Several states have signed the TPNW but not yet ratified it.

The process of ratification differs from one country to another. Usually it involves a review of the treaty by relevant government departments (*e.g.*, the foreign ministry, defence ministry and attorney-general's office) and approval by the legislature. The judiciary might also assess whether the treaty is consistent with the national constitution. However, in some countries, ratification is more straightforward, involving only the executive.

To complete its ratification process, a state must submit an "instrument of ratification" to the UN Secretary-General. This is a formal document signed by the head of state, head of government or foreign minister declaring that the state consents to be legally bound by the treaty. It is deposited once all domestic processes have been completed. The UN Office of Legal Affairs has provided [sample text](#) for such an instrument.

By ratifying the TPNW promptly, your country can contribute to the treaty's timely entry into force. For most countries that do not possess nuclear weapons, ratification is a straightforward process, as they have already made a legal undertaking under the Non-Proliferation Treaty never to acquire such weapons. Many countries have also supported a prohibition on nuclear weapons at a regional level by joining a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

## What is the ratification process in your country?

For some countries, information about ratification processes can be readily found online. See this useful [guide](#). For others, you may need to ask an official at the foreign ministry to explain the process. He or she should also be able to advise whether steps have already been taken towards ratification. An official from the parliament might also be able to update you on progress and advise of avenues for civil society input.

## Possible actions to encourage your country to ratify

- Set up meetings with senior officials who are in a position to influence the speed of ratification, such as the foreign minister, the chair of your parliament's foreign affairs committee, or others who work with them.
- Encourage the Red Cross or Red Crescent national society in your country to promote ratification of the treaty. All such national societies have a [mandate](#) to work towards this goal.
- Write an opinion article about the importance of the treaty for your country and submit it to a newspaper. A government will be more inclined to pursue ratification if it is seen as a matter of public concern.





**Photo:** In April 2019, representatives of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, an ICAN partner organization, met with senior officials in Kathmandu, including the foreign minister, to promote Nepal's ratification of the TPNW.

## SECTION 2

### Promoting signature by supportive states

The TPNW can be signed in New York at any time. Signature is largely a symbolic act and does not constitute formal consent by the state to be legally bound by the treaty. Many leaders opt to sign treaties during the high-level opening of the UN General Assembly (known as “leaders’ week”), which is held each September.

A head of state (*e.g.*, president), head of government (*e.g.*, prime minister), or foreign minister is automatically empowered to sign the TPNW on behalf of his or her state. Moreover, any one of these individuals may vest that power in another individual (*e.g.*, the state’s permanent representative to the United Nations or a deputy minister).

#### Who makes the decision to sign?

A decision to sign a treaty is typically taken by the executive branch of government. But the precise process for approving signature will differ from one country to another. In many countries, the foreign ministry will review the treaty and the foreign minister will make a recommendation to the cabinet on whether to proceed with signature. The signature process is usually much simpler and less onerous than the process for ratification.

#### Possible actions to encourage your country to sign

- Begin by checking with an official at the foreign ministry (*e.g.*, in the disarmament division) whether the TPNW is under consideration for signature and, if so, what steps need to be taken for approval.

- Write to the foreign minister, or another relevant high-level official, to encourage him or her to sign the TPNW. If possible, arrange a meeting with the minister to set out the case for signature.
- Encourage other influential individuals and organizations to approach the foreign minister to discuss the TPNW (e.g., his or her colleagues in the national parliament or the head of the national Red Cross or Red Crescent society in your country).
- Submit an article to a newspaper explaining the importance of the TPNW and why your country should sign and ratify it.



**Photo:** At a high-level ceremony at the UN headquarters in September 2018, nine new states signed the TPNW and four ratified it. The president of the UN General Assembly, among other dignitaries, spoke at the event.



**Photo:** In May 2019, ICAN campaigners from Ghana, Nigeria and Togo addressed the parliament of the Economic Community of West African States to promote signature and ratification of the TPNW.

## SECTION 3

### Promoting signature by unsupportive states

In countries that have not yet expressed support for the TPNW, different campaign strategies will need to be employed to build political will and a broad constituency in favour of the treaty. Here are some possible actions to consider:

- Reach out to members of your national parliament and ask them to sign the [ICAN Parliamentary Pledge](#). This is an individual commitment to work towards your country's signature and ratification of the TPNW.
- Encourage political parties to embrace the treaty as part of their policy platform. This could be particularly useful in situations where those parties could form a government following an upcoming election.
- Encourage journalists and parliamentarians to question senior officials about their decision not to sign the treaty and, if appropriate, use freedom-of-information laws to expose the underlying reasons for your government's inaction.
- Reach out to members of your local municipal council to enlist your city or town as an endorser of the [ICAN Cities Appeal](#). Cities and towns can help put pressure on your national government to take action.
- Commission an opinion poll from a research agency to demonstrate the high level of public support for your country's ratification of the TPNW. This may give politicians the confidence to act or call out those who are standing in the way.
- Organize public forums, workshops and other events to build a broad-based civil society movement in support of the treaty.



**Photo:** Parliamentarians in Australia show their support for the TPNW at an event in September 2018 organized by ICAN to mark the first anniversary of the treaty's opening for signature.



## SECTION 4

### Encouraging states parties to take further action

There are many actions that states that have already ratified or acceded to the TPNW can take to encourage other states to become parties. For example:

- States parties should refer positively to the TPNW in their national statements to the UN General Assembly and in other relevant international forums, and call on all states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the treaty.
- States parties can work to ensure that regional bodies promote signature and ratification of the TPNW, *e.g.*, by convening workshops and developing action plans.
- Foreign ministers and other senior officials of states parties can discuss the TPNW on a bilateral basis with their counterparts in states that have not yet joined.



**Photo:** The government of Guyana, in partnership with ICAN, hosted a [regional forum](#) in June 2019 to promote signature and ratification of the TPNW by Caribbean states. Guyana was among the first states to become a party to the treaty in September 2017.



**Photo:** In August 2018, the South African foreign ministry and ICAN co-hosted a [regional conference](#) in Pretoria with delegates from 20 African states to promote signature and ratification of the TPNW across the region.

## FURTHER RESOURCES

- **Ratification kits:** The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and International Committee of the Red Cross have each published [ratification kits](#) to assist states in becoming parties to the TPNW.
- **Treaty text:** Official [versions](#) of the TPNW exist in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Unofficial translations have also been published in a number of other languages.
- **Ban Monitor:** For analysis of the extent to which a state's existing policies and practices comply with or contradict the activities that are prohibited by the TPNW, see the [Ban Monitor](#).

If your government has specific concerns or questions relating to the application of the TPNW or seeks further assistance with their process, the ICAN staff team would be pleased to supply relevant briefing materials and tailored advice. Contact [info@icanw.org](mailto:info@icanw.org).

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