
First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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Draft Vienna Action Plan

1. This Action Plan was adopted by the States Parties at the First Meeting of States Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in Vienna, Austria, 21-23 June 2022.
2. The purpose of this Action Plan is to facilitate effective and timely implementation of the TPNW and its objectives and goals following the First Meeting of States Parties. The Plan sets out concrete steps and actions, and elaborates on roles and responsibilities. The actions are designed to guide States Parties and other relevant actors in the practical implementation of the Treaty, and thus to support States Parties in meeting their obligations, and furthering the Treaty's objective and purpose in a cooperative spirit among States Parties and other involved stakeholders.
3. Implementation and universalization of the TPNW are essential to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and to addressing the harm caused by nuclear weapons to people and the environment.
4. With the following actions, the States Parties establish a framework to guide the implementation of the Treaty and set in motion processes to develop further areas of cooperation and implementation across the different provisions of the Treaty. The Vienna Action Plan details the actions States Parties will take during the intersessional period, primarily in preparation for the Second Meeting of States Parties but also beyond, in order to support implementation and universalization of the Treaty.

I. Universalization (Article 12)

5. Article 12 of the TPNW requires State Parties to “encourage States not party to the Treaty to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty, with the goal of universal adherence of all States to the Treaty.”
6. The situations and positions of states currently outside the Treaty differ widely. They include states already adhering to Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones or having comparable national laws in place, States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that do not possess nuclear weapons, and states currently relying on nuclear weapons for their security, including nuclear hosting states as well as nuclear-armed states. These differences need to be taken into account in implementing the universalization obligation stipulated in Article 12. Therefore, universalization efforts

are understood broadly, including through increasing signatures and ratifications, as well as promoting the underlying rationale of the total elimination of nuclear weapons due to their inherent risks and catastrophic humanitarian consequences. Universalization should serve as a strategy to maximize the authority of the Treaty's core norms and principles in international politics. To this end,

States Parties resolve to:

- Action 1: Make universalization efforts a priority of States Parties. These efforts should focus on increasing the number of signatures and ratifications, as well as actively engaging in promoting the norms, values and underlying arguments of the Treaty, such as concern about the inherent risks and catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, and the Treaty's effective contribution towards disarmament and international peace and security.
- Action 2: Call on all states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.
- Action 3: Promote universalization, including through ministerial or diplomatic demarches or outreach visits, either on their own or in a group of TPNW supporters, to capitals of non-state parties or at regional or other relevant organisations, highlighting the value of the Treaty and the political, legal and practical importance of signature and ratification.
- Action 4: Explore potential areas where further information to facilitate accession to the Treaty might be necessary, and potentially explore options to fill these gaps.
- Action 5: Share best practices and provide technical support for the ratification process, for example through capacity building activities, such as workshops and seminars, to explain the provisions of the TPNW in detail and help clarify the steps a prospective state party would have to undertake to implement the Treaty. To that end, parties will endeavour to utilise existing regional and multilateral frameworks, as feasible.
- Action 6: Appoint within 60 days national contact points for facilitating the implementation of Article 12.
- Action 7: Raise awareness of the Treaty at international conferences and regional workshops and seminars, as well as through the commissioning of studies and publications to promote the case for the TPNW.
- Action 8: Make every effort to increase the number of states voting in favour of the relevant resolutions before the UN General Assembly as a positive step in support of the Treaty.
- Action 9: Highlight the importance of the TPNW in statements, including at the political level, through joint regional or cross-regional statements, and resolutions and in all relevant fora, including organs of the UN disarmament machinery.
- Action 10: Highlight the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, the risks associated with these weapons, and the legal and ethical questions regarding the use and the threat of use of nuclear weapons and the practice of nuclear deterrence.
- Action 11: Cooperate with affected states not party to the Treaty to advance the objectives of the Treaty and to facilitate adherence to the Treaty.

Action 12: Engage with those States that for the moment remain committed to nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence, inter alia by providing opportunities for dialogue, highlighting the underlying rationale of the Treaty and the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and their inherent risks, and pursuing a fact-based approach in engaging with concerns or criticisms about the TPNW.

Action 13: Encourage and support involvement and active cooperation of all relevant partners and, to the extent possible, coordinate these universalization efforts to facilitate domestic ratification processes. These partners include the United Nations and the UN Secretary General, including UN regional centres for peace and disarmament, other international institutions and organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and other non-governmental organizations as well as parliamentarians and interested citizens.

Action 14: Share information on their universalization activities within the TPNW through reports to Meetings of States Parties or Review Conferences, updates to the informal contact group on universalization, or other appropriate means.

II. Towards the elimination of nuclear weapons (Article 4)

7. Article 4 of the TPNW is one of the fundamental precepts that establishes this legal instrument as a disarmament treaty and as part of the broader disarmament legal architecture. To achieve its disarmament goal, the TPNW envisages the designation of a competent international authority or authorities (IA(s)), with particular negotiation and verification mandates. This reflects the awareness of the TPNW's negotiators that implementing Article 4 is a substantial endeavor that should be undertaken in a considered and holistic manner.

8. There is no requirement for the designation of an IA(s) by the First Meeting of States Parties or by the entry into force of the Treaty for a State Party to which Article 4.1 or Article 4.2 applies. In this early stage of implementation of the Treaty, further reflection and work on developing such a mechanism with the input of State Parties, as well as relevant scientific and technical input is the most substantive and meaningful way to approach the implementation of these provisions. To this end,

States Parties resolve to:

Action 15: Pursue further discussions during the intersessional period towards developing a coherent approach on matters related to a competent international authority or authorities (IA(s))- , from the general obligations of States Parties to the specific mandate of the IA(s), and providing guidance for the designation of IA(s).

Action 16: Designate within 90 days national contact points with regard to the designation of the IA(s).

Action 17: Elaborate during the intersessional period on the specific requirements of extension requests related to Article 4 of the Treaty for nuclear-armed states' destruction of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in their ownership, possession or control (Article 4 (2)) and for the removal of such weapons or devices from nuclear hosting states (Article 4 (4)). This intersessional process should be based upon or informed by advice from the Scientific Advisory Group and information from relevant international technical agencies.

Action 18: Commit their best efforts to advancing and supporting progress on nuclear disarmament verification, while recognizing that verification is not an end in itself, nor a substitute for nuclear disarmament, but a positive enabler for progress on disarmament.

III. Victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance (Articles 6 and 7)

9. The TPNW's positive obligations are central to the humanitarian goals of the Treaty. They aim to address the harm from past use and testing of nuclear weapons as well as the ongoing and expected future harm from the resulting contamination. Articles 6 and 7 draw on similar provisions in other humanitarian disarmament treaties but they are the first of their kind in a nuclear weapons treaty. These articles are designed to address the human and environmental effects of nuclear weapons and to provide affected States Parties with technical, material, and financial support to further the implementation of the Treaty. To this end,

States Parties resolve to:

Action 19: Engage with relevant stakeholders, including international organizations, civil society, affected communities, indigenous peoples, and youth, and work cooperatively to advance effective and sustainable implementation of Articles 6 and 7. In particular, they will closely consult with, actively involve, and disseminate information to, affected communities at all stages of the victim assistance and environmental remediation process.

Action 20: Engage and promote information exchange with states not party to the Treaty that have used or tested nuclear weapons, or any other nuclear explosive devices, on their provision of assistance to affected states parties for the purpose of victim assistance and environmental remediation.

Action 21: Establish national focal points for Articles 6 and 7, with appropriate contact details for consultations, no later than 3 months after the 1MSP.

Action 22: Adopt or adapt and implement relevant national laws and policies on Articles 6 and 7, where appropriate.

Action 23: Coordinate and develop mechanisms, where needed, to facilitate the provision, by States Parties in a position to do so, of the international cooperation and technical, material, and financial assistance that affected states parties may require to implement the Treaty's victim assistance and environmental remediation provisions. Mechanisms should match needs, which may arise at any stage of implementing Article 6, with offers of assistance.

Action 24: Cooperate with the UN system, relevant international, regional, or national organizations or institutions, relevant non-governmental organizations or institutions, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and bilaterally, as appropriate, in the development of their implementation framework.

Action 25: Conduct all victim assistance, environmental remediation, and international cooperation and assistance activities in accordance, in particular, with the principles of accessibility, inclusivity, non-discrimination, and transparency and in coordination with affected communities, and provide victim assistance in a manner that is age- and gender-sensitive given the disproportionate

impact of nuclear weapons use and testing on women and girls and indigenous people.

Action 26: Review the implementation framework as well as implementation of Articles 6 and 7 regularly, in particular as new information emerges and situations evolve, and draw, as appropriate, on lessons from implementation measures for positive obligations in other treaty regimes.

Action 27: Recognize the importance of information exchange for the implementation of Articles 6 and 7. To this end, consulting with, and bearing in mind the needs and constraints of, affected states, States Parties will develop guidelines for voluntary reporting on national measures related to victim assistance, environmental remediation, and international cooperation and assistance, including deadlines, as appropriate. In the development of these guidelines States Parties will draw on the input of relevant stakeholders, including international organizations, civil society, affected communities, indigenous peoples, and youth.

Action 28: Consider developing a voluntary and a non-burdensome format for reporting during the intersessional period before the 2MSP, in close cooperation with states concerned, taking into account best practices for reporting under other disarmament treaties. For affected States Parties, such reports could include the effects of nuclear weapons in their territory, their progress in implementing the Treaty's victim assistance and environmental remediation obligations, and where they may need external support. Other States Parties could report on what international cooperation and assistance they have provided, and on their outreach to states not party in support of their objectives of Articles 6 and 7.

Action 29: Discuss the feasibility of, and propose possible guidelines for, establishing an international trust fund for states that have been affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons, taking into account relevant precedents for such a trust fund. The purpose of such a fund would be, inter alia, to provide aid to assist survivors and to support measures toward environmental remediation.

States Parties affected by nuclear weapons use or testing resolve to:

Action 30: Assess the effects of nuclear weapons use and testing with respect to areas under their jurisdiction or control, including, in particular, the needs of victims and contamination of the environment, as well as national capacities to address them. Initial assessments could focus on gathering existing knowledge about ongoing and expected effects, and current and planned responses to date, and determining what additional information is needed. These initial assessments should be completed by and shared with the 2MSP.

Action 31: Develop national plans for implementation of their victim assistance and environmental remediation obligations, which include budgets and timeframes. Such plans could be integrated into existing frameworks to increase efficiency, and international cooperation and assistance should be provided where needed to reduce the burden on affected States Parties. Affected States Parties should share their progress with the 2MSP.

States Parties in a position to do so resolve to:

Action 32: Act upon their obligation under Article 7 (3) to assist those States Parties with clearly demonstrated needs for external support, by contributing to the mobilization of resources and the provision of technical, material and financial assistance to States Parties affected by nuclear weapons use or testing, to further the implementation of this Treaty.

IV. Institutionalizing scientific and technical advice for the effective implementation of the TPNW

10. Further enriching the knowledge on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons and a shared understanding of the risks of nuclear weapons as well as technical guidance for the implementation of Article 4 will be important to ensure the effective implementation of the Treaty. The establishment of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) aims to assist States Parties in implementing the Treaty and in strengthening the credibility of the implementation process. To this end,

States Parties resolve to:

Action 33: Support the work of the SAG, including through the appointment of recognized experts drawn from the broadest possible pool in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and/or the humanitarian consequences and risks associated with nuclear weapons, and the requisite humanitarian response, active at relevant institutions and universities on the basis of their expertise in the particular scientific fields relevant to the implementation of the TPNW.

Action 34: Identify and engage scientific and technical experts and institutions in TPNW States Parties by the 2MSP and, through the SAG, establish a geographically diverse and gender balanced network of experts to support the goals and TPNW.

V. The relationship of the TPNW with the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime

11. While the TPNW is a stand-alone legally binding instrument, it builds upon, contributes to and complements a rich and diverse disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. In order to highlight and underscore these complementarities with specific disarmament instruments, particularly the NPT,

States Parties resolve to:

Action 35: Emphasise the complementarity of the TPNW with the existing disarmament and non-proliferation regime at appropriate opportunities, including Preparatory Meetings and Review Conferences of the NPT, and with relevant multilateral nuclear disarmament-related initiatives and groupings.

Action 36: Appoint an informal facilitator to further explore and articulate the possible areas of tangible cooperation between the TPNW and the NPT during the intersessional period, and provide support for the efforts of the informal facilitator.

Action 37: Cooperate with other international bodies, such as the IAEA and the CTBTO, in order to enhance cooperation, including in the areas of nuclear safeguards and verification. Such cooperation should enhance the complementarity between the TPNW, the NPT and the CTBT.

Action 38: Continue to work together on outreach projects in order to raise awareness, not only among governments, but also with civil society, academia, parliamentarians and the general public, including youth organizations, so as to highlight the complementarity between the TPNW and the existing disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaties.

VI. Other matters essential for achieving the Treaty's aims

Principles of inclusivity and cooperation among stakeholders in the implementation of the Treaty

States Parties resolve to:

Action 39: Meet their obligations in the Treaty's established spirit of cooperation, inclusivity and transparency, and to integrate gender considerations in across the work of the Treaty's implementation.

Action 40: Cooperate closely with the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, academia, affected communities and other civil society organisations.

Action 41: Facilitate the active participation of relevant stakeholders, and take into account the different needs of people in affected communities and indigenous people and ensure strong ownership by all States Parties.

Action 42: Contribute on a voluntary basis to initiatives to facilitate widespread representation at meetings of the Treaty.

Additional Aspects of Support for Treaty Implementation

12. The effective functioning and full implementation of the Treaty have been enhanced through the decisions taken at the First Meeting of States Parties to establish an intersessional structure that takes into account the requirements and resources available in this early phase of the TPNW.

States Parties resolve to:

Action 43: Support the efforts of the Coordinating Committee and the informal working groups in their coordination of the intersessional work between MSPs.

Action 44: Continue to reaffirm the valuable role of the United Nations in providing support to MSPs.

Action 45: Enhance and make use of synergies between the Treaty and other relevant instruments of disarmament and of international humanitarian and human rights law to which TPNW States Parties are party.

Transparency and exchange of information

States Parties resolve to:

Action 46: Fulfil their obligation to provide initial declarations under Article 2 without delay.

Implementing the Gender Provisions of the TPNW

13. As States Parties move forward with Treaty implementation, they should reflect on the gender-related provisions of the Treaty and consider specific implementation actions to operationalise them. To this end,

States Parties resolve to:

Action 47: Emphasize the gender-responsive nature of the TPNW and recommend that gender considerations are taken into account across all TPNW-related national policies, programs and projects.

Action 48: Establish a Gender Focal Point to work during the intersessional period to support the implementation of the gender provisions of the Treaty and report on progress made to the 2MSP.

Action 49: Begin work during the intersessional period to develop guidelines for ensuring age- and gender-sensitive Victim Assistance, taking into account relevant approaches in other humanitarian disarmament instruments.

Action 50: Begin work during the intersessional period to develop guidelines for the integration of gender perspectives in international cooperation and assistance, taking into account relevant approaches in other humanitarian disarmament instruments.
