

# Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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## **Revised draft declaration of the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: “Our commitment to upholding the prohibition of nuclear weapons and averting their catastrophic consequences”**

1. We, the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, have gathered for the second Meeting of States Parties in steadfast determination to address the existential threat to humanity posed by nuclear weapons and to uphold our commitment to their prohibition and complete elimination. We welcome the broad participation of signatory States and observer States, as well as other observers, civil society representatives, the scientific community, and survivors of nuclear weapons use and testing.
2. We celebrate the successful first Meeting of States Parties convened in Vienna from 21 to 23 June 2022 and welcome its declaration, outcomes and decisions, including the Vienna Action Plan.
3. We welcome the progress that has been achieved by States Parties across a broad range of Actions in the Vienna Action Plan, and further acknowledge the able stewardship of the co-chairs of the informal working groups, facilitators and focal point.
4. Progress also continues towards universalization of the Treaty since the first Meeting of States Parties and we recognize the significance of and warmly welcome the signatures by the Bahamas, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, and Sierra Leone, the ratifications by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic and Malawi, and the accession by Sri Lanka.
5. The Treaty currently stands strong with 93 signatories and 69 States Parties. We renew our call for all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Treaty without delay. We will continue to pursue universalization of the Treaty as one of our priorities.
6. Evidence-based policymaking on the effects of nuclear weapons, the process out of which the Treaty was created, must be central to all decisions and actions regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons. The establishment and ongoing work of the Scientific Advisory Group strengthens the effective implementation of the Treaty by enabling consideration of the most current scientific and technical knowledge and advice with regards to the implementation of the Treaty, which has helped inform the

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deliberations and decisions of States Parties. The Scientific Advisory Group, the first international scientific body created to advance nuclear disarmament under a multilateral treaty, is also instrumental in building and maintaining a network with the wider scientific community to reinforce awareness and promote universalization of the Treaty.

7. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons continues to benefit from actively involving a broad range of stakeholders such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, other relevant international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, individuals, religious leaders, and victims of and communities affected by nuclear weapons, among others. We reaffirm the gender provisions of the Treaty and that the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is essential in nuclear disarmament.

8. 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 on-going 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.

9. We reaffirm our grave concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, which cannot be adequately addressed, transcend national borders, pose grave implications for human survival and well-being and would be incompatible with respect for the right to life. Nuclear weapons inflict catastrophic destruction, and unspeakable suffering and death. Their use would have long-term damage to the environment, socioeconomic and sustainable development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations, including the disproportionate impact nuclear weapons have on women and girls.

10. The catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks associated with nuclear weapons underpin the moral and ethical imperatives for nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon free world, which among other drivers, inspired the creation of the Treaty and guide its implementation. These considerations must be at the center of all disarmament policies, highlighting the human cost of nuclear weapons and the need to protect human life and the environment.

11. Past use and testing of nuclear weapons have clearly demonstrated the unacceptable humanitarian and environmental consequences and ongoing legacies caused by their uncontrollable destructive capability and indiscriminate nature. We thus reaffirm our support for addressing the harms of nuclear weapons use and testing, including through the TPNW's positive obligations.

12. New scientific research has underscored the multifaceted and cascading effects of the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and associated risks. This growing and compelling scientific evidence should be broadened further, including scientific information on those effects that are still not understood in their entirety, and already warrants urgent policy responses at the international level.

13. The continued existence of nuclear weapons and lack of meaningful progress on disarmament undermine the security of all States, aggravate international tensions, heighten the risk of nuclear catastrophe and pose an existential threat to humanity as a whole. The only guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their complete elimination and the legally binding assurance that they will never be developed again.

14. We remain deeply alarmed by and firmly deplore threats to use nuclear weapons, as well as increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric. We stress that any use or threat of

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use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and further underscore that any use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to international humanitarian law. Such threats only serve to undermine the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and international peace and security. We condemn unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances.

15. We reject attempts to normalize nuclear rhetoric and any notion of so-called “responsible” behavior as far as nuclear weapons are concerned. The threat of inflicting mass destruction runs counter to the legitimate security interests of humanity as a whole. This is a dangerous, misguided and unacceptable approach to security. Nuclear threats should not be tolerated.

16. We applaud the growing explicit recognition that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible. However, these declarations, such as that agreed by members of the G-20, must go beyond statements and result in meaningful and tangible actions.

17. Far from preserving peace and security, nuclear weapons are used as instruments of policy, linked to coercion, intimidation and heightening of tensions. The renewed advocacy, insistence on and attempts to justify nuclear deterrence as a legitimate security doctrine gives false credence to the value of nuclear weapons for national security and dangerously increases the risk of horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation.

18. We regret the growing reliance on nuclear weapons in military and security concepts, doctrines and policies. There are now more States under extended nuclear security guarantees and nuclear stationing arrangements than when we last met. Any tendency towards the erosion of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime is of concern. We are disturbed by any placement of nuclear weapons on the territory of non-nuclear-armed States. The TPNW clearly prohibits receiving the transfer of, or control over, nuclear weapons or to allow their stationing, installation or deployment. We urge all States with such nuclear arrangements to put an end to them, and join the Treaty.

19. The perpetuation and implementation of nuclear deterrence in military and security concepts, doctrines and policies not only erodes and contradicts non-proliferation, but also obstructs progress towards nuclear disarmament.

20. This is not only a security issue. In a world where challenges persist in meeting basic human needs, the investment of substantial financial resources in modernizing and expanding nuclear arsenals is indefensible and counterproductive as it comes at the expense of investment in sustainable development for genuine human wellbeing, as well as disarmament, education, diplomacy, environmental protection, and health.

21. As the United Nations Secretary-General recognized in his recently-released New Agenda for Peace, the existential threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity must motivate us to ensure their total elimination. We, the States Parties to the TPNW, heed this call and reiterate the high priority we attach to urgent, complete, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament.

22. This increasingly challenging international security context further underscores the vital importance and relevance of the TPNW. We are more determined than ever in our unyielding commitment to delegitimizing, stigmatizing and totally eliminating nuclear weapons.

23. We are playing our part to advance and strengthen the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture as a whole, including under other complementary treaties such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the cornerstone of the nuclear

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disarmament and non-proliferation regime, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and treaties establishing nuclear-weapon free-zones.

24. It therefore concerns us that two consecutive review processes of the NPT have been unable to agree on necessary urgent measures to make credible progress on nuclear disarmament or ensure the implementation of a series of agreed measures. In the period since the first Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW, none of the Nuclear-Weapon States have made progress in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and in their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the elimination of their nuclear weapons. Instead, we have seen enhancements of nuclear arsenals, active pursuit of quantitative expansions and even reduced transparency. Unquestionably, this represents a failure to meet their legally-binding obligations under Article VI of the NPT to engage in serious and good-faith negotiations towards the elimination of their nuclear arsenals, as well as the unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals agreed at and reiterated during NPT Review Conferences.

25. As fully committed States Parties to the NPT, we, the TPNW States Parties, reaffirm the complementarity between the TPNW and the NPT. We continue to implement our obligations and comply with our responsibilities, undertakings and agreements under the NPT. We are pleased to have advanced the implementation of article VI of the NPT by bringing into force a comprehensive legal prohibition of nuclear weapons.

26. Furthermore, we will continue to advance the provisions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference regarding the concern over the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, as well as those on addressing the environmental rehabilitation of the territories affected by radioactive contamination, among others.

27. We once again emphasize that nothing in the TPNW shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of its States Parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

28. It is vital that all States continue to take decisive steps towards signing and ratifying the CTBT. Progress toward its entry into force should be strengthened, and we reiterate our commitment to continue to support all efforts to that end. We are concerned that existing and additional delays, preconditions or other conditionalities by Annex II States continue to make the entry into force an increasingly distant goal. We urge all States that have not signed or ratified, or that have signed but not ratified, the CTBT, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it without delay. We urge all States to continue upholding the global norm against nuclear weapons testing and to relegate the terrible legacy of testing to history.

29. Recognizing the immense contribution of nuclear-weapons free zones to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and enhancing international peace and security, we call upon States Parties to the treaties establishing such zones which have not yet done so, to join the TPNW without delay in recognition of the shared basis of such treaties and the TPNW and to enhance mutually-reinforcing cooperation. We also recognize the importance of the continued strengthening of all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, inter alia, through the ratification of existing treaties and relevant protocols and the withdrawal or revision of any reservations or interpretative declarations contrary to the object and purpose of the treaties establishing such zones, and of the creation of such zones in areas where they do not currently exist, including in the Middle East.

30. We, as States Parties to the TPNW, highlight the importance of continuing progress in the universalization and full implementation of these complementary instruments and prevent regression. Work will continue with all States, including

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through open discourse with those with reservations about the TPNW, and other stakeholders on work surrounding complementarity.

31. We unequivocally affirm that our commitment to the TPNW and its object and purpose remains unaffected when completing fulfilment of obligations emanating from treaties previously subscribed to, where these do not conflict with obligations of the TPNW. We shall take all necessary measures for effective implementation of the purposes and objectives of this Treaty and will continue to review our international and bilateral obligations in order to ensure consistency with regard to the Treaty and its object and purpose. We call on all non-States-Parties to refrain from any activities that could have an adverse impact on the implementation of the object and purpose of the Treaty.

32. Furthermore, we also believe that the international community must address new and continually evolving developments in science and technology in the nuclear domain, including on the possible implications of some applications of emerging technologies that would inhibit or undermine the object and purpose of the Treaty.

33. Recognizing the instrumental role of a diversity of stakeholders, we renew our pledge to continue to collaborate through an inclusive approach with international organizations, parliamentarians, civil society, scientists, communities affected by nuclear weapons, victims of nuclear weapons, financial institutions, and youth.

34. In light of a global climate characterized by a deficit of trust, we reaffirm the need to build confidence among all members of the international community. As such, we are equally unambiguous on our willingness to work collaboratively with all States, in concerted action to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons.

35. We, the States Parties to the TPNW, will not stand by as spectators to increasing nuclear risks and the dangerous perpetuation of nuclear deterrence. We are resolutely committed to the universalization and effective implementation of the Treaty and the fulfillment of the Vienna Action Plan. We will work relentlessly to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons for the sake of current and future generations. We undertake and recommit to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used, tested or threatened to be used, under any circumstances, and will not rest until they are completely eliminated.