BRIEFING PAPER: TPNW FIRST REVIEW CONFERENCE

Implementation Overview and Recommendations

November 2026

Overview

Since the adoption of the Vienna Action Plan at the first Meeting of States Parties, TPNW States Parties and signatories – now representing a majority of the world's countries – have stood united in calling out nuclear dangers and pressing for nuclear elimination. With the nuclear taboo increasingly under strain, TPNW States Parties have strengthened the norms against prohibited nuclear weapon activities, including possession, threats of use, nuclear-sharing arrangements and testing, through regular joint statements by all TPNW States Parties and signatories condemning such activities.

At the first Review Conference, States Parties should review their progress thus far, celebrate their achievements, and consider how to adapt their approach to be even more effective in the next review cycle.

In general, ICAN recommends that States Parties:

- Re-prioritize work to advance the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including through high-level political engagement and allocation of sufficient governmental resources, recognizing that nuclear weapons pose a grave and growing threat to humanity and our planet;
- Strengthen the norms against all prohibited nuclear weapons activities, including by including by condemning such actions bilaterally or collectively;
- Challenge the dangerous and misguided concept of "nuclear deterrence" and engage with States that subscribe to this policy on the security risks posed by nuclear weapons;
- Adopt a strategy for each area of Treaty implementation for the next review cycle early in the intersessional period;
- Renew the mandates of the informal working groups (on universalization; victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance; and implementation of Article 4), of the Gender Focal Point, and of the Scientific Advisory Group.

Universalisation: Article 12

Under Article 12 of the treaty, states parties must "encourage States not party to this Treaty to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty, with the goal of universal adherence of all States to the Treaty".

Vienna Action Plan

The Vienna Action Plan lists 14 actions for universalisation, including making diplomatic démarches and outreach visits to the capitals of non-parties (Action 3), providing technical support for states parties to complete their ratification processes (Action 5), highlighting the importance of the treaty in national and regional statements (Action 9), and coordinating outreach efforts with partners such as the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and ICAN (Action 13). The states parties agreed to nominate national focal points to facilitate this work.

Implementation progress

The membership of the TPNW has increased to 75 States Parties and an additional 26 Signatory states, for a total of 101 States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Treaty as of 18 November 2026. They represent a global majority of States, and an increase of 10 new Signatories and 16 new States Parties since the first Meeting of States Parties. States Parties have worked actively to promote universalisation of the Treaty since the adoption of the Vienna Action Plan, including by organizing three Treaty signing ceremonies on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, holding five regional conferences to promote universalization in Accra (Ghana), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Jakarta (Indonesia), Pretoria (South Africa), and Wellington (New Zealand), making high-level speeches and engaging in bilateral outreach. States Parties conducted a consultative process to articulate the legitimate security concerns, threat and risk perceptions enshrined in the Treaty that result from the existence of nuclear weapons and the concept of "nuclear deterrence" and engaged regularly with States that subscribe to this concept, including through statements on the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons and bilateral outreach. The pace of progress on universalization, however, has slowed, and innovative and creative initiatives will be needed to underscore the urgency of Treaty signature and ratification.

Recommendations for the first Review Conference and next intersessional process

- Pursue universalization as a priority, including through the allocation of sufficient resources, and set specific goals and benchmarks in this regard;
- Increase States Parties' systematic engagement and coordination in promoting universalization;
- Adopt the TPNW Universalization Outreach Strategy, including outreach to signatory States, non-signatory States, on a regional basis, and engaging with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and ICAN, as proposed by the co-chairs of the informal working group on universalization.

Nuclear Disarmament Verification: Article 4

Article 4 of the TPNW, which has the heading "Towards the elimination of nuclear weapons," outlines the pathways for the elimination of nuclear weapons of nuclear-armed states and states hosting other countries' nuclear weapons on their territories who join the TPNW.

Vienna Action Plan

The Vienna Action Plan includes four actions, Actions 15-18, dedicated to the implementation of Article 4. There, states parties committed to discussing the competent international authority that would verify disarmament under Article 4 (Action 15), designating national contact points on Article 4 (Action 16), elaborating on requirements for disarmament extension requests (Action 17) and committing to support progress on nuclear disarmament verification (Action 18).

Implementation progress

TPNW States Parties work on Article 4 has created the international forum with the largest number of participating States to advance nuclear disarmament verification, as the TPNW is the only multilateral treaty to mandate work on this issue. Specifically, States Parties have engaged in technical consultations with experts regarding the nuclear disarmament verification provisions of the TPNW, including with regard to the competent international authority that would verify the dismantlement or removal of nuclear weapons, and the process for nuclear disarmament verification under the Treaty. The Scientific Advisory Group has provided presentations to States to inform their work. Engagement with international technical agencies on nuclear disarmament verification under the TPNW has been limited.

Recommendations for the first Review Conference and next intersessional process

- Continue to demonstrate that nuclear disarmament verification is feasible, and that once a nuclear-armed or nuclear-hosting state joins the TPNW, there is a pathway under the Treaty to eliminate or remove those nuclear weapons;
- Increase the exchange of technical knowledge amongst TPNW States Parties, with the support of the Scientific Advisory Group, on nuclear disarmament verification;
- Convene events and conduct outreach in Vienna to engage international technical agencies on TPNW implementation work, including nuclear disarmament verification.

Victim Assistance, Environmental Remediation and International Cooperation: Articles 6 & 7

Article 6 of the TPNW requires states parties to provide victim assistance and environmental remediation to individuals and areas "under their jurisdiction or control affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons." Article 7 requires all states parties in a position to do so to provide assistance to affected states parties and to victims themselves, as well as obligating all states parties to cooperate to facilitate the treaty's implementation.

Vienna Action Plan

The Vienna Action Plan includes fourteen actions, Actions 19–32, dedicated to the implementation of Articles 6 and 7. The intersessional working group focused on three key themes: to discuss the feasibility of and propose guidelines for an international trust fund for affected states parties (Action 29), to consider developing a voluntary reporting format and for affected states parties to provide initial assessments of the effects of nuclear weapons use and testing (Actions 27 and 30), and to develop national plans for the implementation of these articles (Action 31).

Implementation progress

States Parties have drawn greater international attention to the harms caused by nuclear weapons use and testing and how States can support survivors, including through the work to implement the Treaty, as well as initiatives launched by TPNW States Parties in other forums such as the UN General Assembly. Two States Parties, Kazakhstan and New Zealand, have submitted national assessments of the effects of nuclear weapons testing and adopting and implementing national laws on victim assistance. The co-chairs of the Articles 6 and 7 working group have developed guiding principles for an international trust fund for States that have been affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons to inform discussions. States Parties also adopted reporting guidelines and a reporting format on national implementation of articles 6 and 7. Some States Parties have engaged relevant stakeholders in aspects of their work, including inviting stakeholder participation in meetings and requesting written input on some proposed documents. Given the significant attention devoted to the establishment of an international trust fund, other possible avenues for implementing articles 6 and 7 and related commitments under the Vienna Action Plan have so far been under-explored.

Recommendations for the first Review Conference and next intersessional process

- Make a meaningful contribution towards assisting people who have suffered harm from nuclear weapons use and testing and towards remediating contaminated environments;
- Request UNODA to establish a database system to facilitate assistance requests and offers for assistance to implement victim assistance and environmental remediation provisions;
- Establish an ad hoc committee to produce recommendations for the Terms of Reference of a future International Trust Fund;
- For States Parties affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons that have not yet done so, conduct assessments of the effects of nuclear weapons use and testing, develop national plans for the implementation of victim assistance and environmental remediation obligations and report on them to future Meetings of States Parties;
- For States Parties in a position to do so, contribute to the mobilization of resources and the provision of technical, material and financial assistance to States Parties affected by nuclear weapons use or testing, and report on such international cooperation at future Meetings of States Parties.

Scientific Advisory Group

The first Meeting of States Parties decided to create a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) composed of 15 members, taking into account the need for a comprehensive spread of relevant fields of scientific

and technological expertise, gender balance and equitable geographical distribution. The SAG is co-chaired by Dr. Patricia Lewis and Dr. Zia Mian.

Vienna Action Plan

States Parties agreed to support the work of the Scientific Advisory Group and identify and engage scientific and technical experts in their countries in Actions 33 and 34 of the Vienna Action Plan.

Implementation progress

Fifteen experts were appointed to the Scientific Advisory Group in February 2023. The Group has since provided technical input to States Parties, reported on their work and on the status and developments of nuclear weapons to Meetings of States Parties and established a network of experts to support the goals of the Treaty. Some States Parties have supported the Scientific Advisory Group, included by providing financial support and speaking at their meetings. At the third Meeting of States Parties, States decided to establish an intersessional consultative process to consult and make recommendations on the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference of the Scientific Advisory Group, as its mandate will end at the first Review Conference. In the lead up to the first Review Conference, the Scientific Advisory Group remained active, engaging with and providing advice to TPNW States Parties, developing a network of scientific experts to support the goals of the Treaty, and monitoring international developments regarding the status of nuclear weapons.

Recommendations for the first Review Conference and next intersessional process

- Ensure that the scientific evidence of the risks and consequences of nuclear weapons is widely disseminated and forms the basis of conversations on nuclear weapons;
- Encourage States Parties to nominate experts and make efforts to have a regionally diverse and gender-balanced Scientific Advisory Group.

Complementarity of the TPNW

The first Meeting of States Parties decided to appoint an informal facilitator or facilitators "to further explore and articulate the possible areas of tangible cooperation between the Treaty and the Non-Proliferation Treaty during the intersessional period." (Action 36). Ireland and Thailand have taken on the role of co-facilitators.

Vienna Action Plan

The TPNW builds upon, contributes to and complements a rich and diverse disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. In the Vienna Action Plan, states parties agreed therefore to four actions, Actions 35-38, to "highlight and underscore these complementarities with specific disarmament instruments, particularly the Non-Proliferation Treaty." States parties committed to "emphasize the complementarity of the Treaty with the existing disarmament and non-proliferation regime at appropriate opportunities, including preparatory meetings and review conferences of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and with relevant multilateral nuclear disarmament-related initiatives and groupings" (Action 35), "to cooperate with other international bodies, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Preparatory Commission for the

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in order to enhance cooperation, including in the areas of nuclear safeguards and verification" (Action 37), and "to continue to work together on outreach projects in order to raise awareness" (Action 38).

Implementation progress

States Parties have completed a consultative process among States Parties, Signatories and other stakeholders on how the TPNW complements and strengthens other elements of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, nuclear-weapon-free-zones, and international humanitarian and human rights law. They have also facilitated the universalization of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and facilitating universalization of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, evidenced by the decisions of several States to ratify the TPNW in conjunction with actions on safeguards and the test ban.

Recommendations for the first Review Conference and next intersessional process

- Facilitate the active participation of a wide range of relevant stakeholders to strengthen the Treaty's implementation;
- Revise the role of the co-facilitators on complementarity of the Treaty to be co-facilitators on international engagement and inclusion, with a mandate to support the active participation of a wide range of relevant stakeholders in Treaty implementation, as articulated in Actions 37-42 of the Vienna Action Plan.

Gender and Nuclear Weapons

The first Meeting of States Parties decided to appoint a 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 second Meeting of States Parties (Action 48).

The TPNW addresses gender in its preamble, in paragraphs 4 and 22, as well as in Article 6. Paragraph 4 recognises that the catastrophic impacts of nuclear weapons "have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionizing radiation" and paragraph 22 recognises "that the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security, and committed to supporting and strengthening the effective participation of women in nuclear disarmament." Article 6 requires that victim assistance be provided in a manner that is "gender-sensitive."

Vienna Action Plan

The Vienna Action Plan dedicates a section to implementing the gender provisions of the TPNW, Actions 47-50, which recommend that "gender considerations are taken into account across all TPNW-related national policies, programs and projects" (Action 47), and that states parties begin work on developing guidelines on ensuring age- and gender- sensitive victim assistance (Action 49) and that gender perspectives are integrated into international cooperation and assistance (Action 50). Other actions in the Action Plan also address gender, such as the establishment of a "geographically diverse and gender balanced network of experts" to support the TPNW (Action 34).

Implementation progress

Many States Parties have expressed support for the gender provisions of the Treaty and some have heard expert presentations and engaged in discussions on age- and gender-sensitive victim assistance. The Gender Focal Point consulted on age- and gender-sensitive guidelines for victim assistance with States Parties and civil society and recommended their adoption by States Parties at the first Review Conference.

Recommendations for the first Review Conference and next intersessional process

- Advance the equal, full and effective participation of women in nuclear disarmament and integrate gender perspectives across the work of the Treaty;
- Adopt the proposed age- and gender-responsive guidelines on victim assistance.