

**Izumi Nakamitsu**  
**High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

**Statement at the signing and ratification ceremony for the TPNW**

**Thursday, 22 September 2022, 2:00 – 2:45 PM**  
**Kuwait Boat Area UNHQ**

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is once again my great pleasure to take part in this signing and ratification ceremony for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Much has changed since we last met here in 2019. The Treaty has entered into force, States Parties have successfully held their first Meeting, at which they adopted a declaration, an action plan, and a number of important decisions.

I congratulate the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Dominican Republic for depositing their instruments of ratification today, and Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti and Sierra Leone for their signatures. I understand that Barbados will be signing later today. As the UN Secretary-General said in his message to the first Meeting of States Parties, “the [TPNW] is an important step towards the common aspiration of a world without nuclear weapons.” I am heartened to see the group of States that have taken this important step continue to grow.

Joining the TPNW sends a powerful signal of a State's commitment to achieving our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. But it is not merely a symbolic act. The decisions taken at the first Meeting of States Parties reflect a commitment to implementing the Treaty comprehensively and thoughtfully. TPNW States Parties have shown themselves to be powerful advocates for the vision that underpins their treaty. These are derived from a deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and an approach to disarmament that puts the victims and communities affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons at the centre.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons continues to be the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations. I look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our collective ambition of a more peaceful and prosperous planet for all.

I thank you very much for your attention.