

UNIVERSALISING THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN AFRICA

JANUARY 2023



ABOUT ICAN

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organisations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. This landmark global agreement was adopted in New York on 7 July 2017. The campaign was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2017, for their “groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition” of nuclear weapons. More information about ICAN can be found at www.icanw.org.

ABOUT THE UN TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

On 7 July 2017 – following a decade of advocacy by ICAN and its partners – an overwhelming majority of the world’s nations adopted a landmark global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, known officially as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The TPNW 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 prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities. A nation that possesses nuclear weapons may join the treaty, so long as it agrees to destroy them in accordance with a legally binding, time-bound plan. Similarly, a nation that hosts another nation’s nuclear weapons on its territory may join, so long as it agrees to remove them by a specified deadline. Nations are obliged to provide assistance to all victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons and to take measures for the remediation of contaminated environments. The preamble acknowledges the harm suffered as a result of nuclear weapons, including the disproportionate impact on women and girls, and on indigenous peoples around the world. The TPNW entered into force on 22 January 2021.

Cover: TPNW signature and ratification ceremony, September 2022. Photo: ICAN | Darren Ornitz

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Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Introduction | 6 |
| Algeria | 13 |
| Angola | 15 |
| Benin | 17 |
| Botswana | 19 |
| Burkina Faso | 21 |
| Burundi | 23 |
| Cabo Verde | 24 |
| Cameroon | 26 |
| Central African Republic | 27 |
| Chad | 28 |
| Comoros | 29 |
| Congo | 31 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 33 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 35 |
| Djibouti | 37 |
| Egypt | 38 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 39 |
| Eritrea | 41 |
| Eswatini | 42 |
| Ethiopia | 43 |
| Gabon | 44 |
| Gambia | 45 |
| Ghana | 47 |
| Guinea | 49 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 50 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Kenya | 52 |
| Lesotho | 53 |
| Liberia | 55 |
| Libya | 56 |
| Madagascar | 58 |
| Malawi | 59 |
| Mali | 61 |
| Mauritania | 62 |
| Mauritius | 63 |
| Morocco | 64 |
| Mozambique | 66 |
| Namibia | 67 |
| Niger | 69 |
| Nigeria | 70 |
| Rwanda | 73 |
| São Tomé and Príncipe | 74 |
| Senegal | 75 |
| Seychelles | 76 |
| Sierra Leone | 78 |
| Somalia | 80 |
| South Africa | 81 |
| South Sudan | 84 |
| Sudan | 85 |
| Tanzania | 86 |
| Togo | 88 |
| Tunisia | 90 |
| Uganda | 91 |
| Zambia | 92 |
| Zimbabwe | 94 |

Introduction

The landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted at the United Nations in New York in July 2017 with the support of 122 states, including 42 African states.

Since then, 15 African states have become parties to the treaty, with a further 18 having signed but not yet ratified it. All African states have expressed their support for the treaty in the UN General Assembly, either through votes on resolutions or in national statements.

The TPNW not only codifies the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law, but also establishes a framework for the verifiable, time-bound elimination of nuclear-weapon programmes and obligations to assist victims of nuclear use and testing.

The UN secretary-general, António Guterres, hailed the TPNW's entry into force in January 2021 as "an extraordinary achievement and a step towards the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons". The chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, also celebrated the milestone, inviting those states that have not yet done so to join the treaty. In March 2022, the AU convened its first expert-level meeting to promote universalisation of the TPNW in Africa.

The TPNW complements and reinforces the 1996 Treaty of Pelindaba, which established Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The states parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba have called upon all AU member states "to speedily sign and ratify the [TPNW]".

African states' adherence to the TPNW

As at 10 January 2023

15

STATES PARTIES

Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa

18

FURTHER SIGNATORIES

Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Libya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe

21

NON-SIGNATORIES

Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda

At the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022, the states parties resolved “to make universalisation efforts a priority”, vowing not to rest “until the last state has joined the treaty” and “nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated”.

“We must ask the question, which might sound naive to those who have elaborated sophisticated arguments to justify their refusal to eliminate these terrible and terrifying weapons of mass destruction – why do they need them anyway?”

– Nelson Mandela, 1998

They adopted an action plan with 14 actions for universalisation, including making diplomatic démarches and outreach visits to the capitals of

non-parties, providing technical support for states to complete their ratification processes, highlighting the importance of the Treaty in national and regional statements, and coordinating outreach efforts with partners such as the United Nations, International Committee of the Red Cross and ICAN.

In a statement to mark the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, the African Group at the United Nations reaffirmed its “full support” for this action plan. Moreover, it urged “all members of the international community, especially nuclear-weapon states and those under the so-called nuclear umbrella, to seize the opportunity to sign and ratify the [TPNW] at an early date and to pursue the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world”.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, the African Group stressed that the TPNW “does not undermine the NPT, but rather complements and strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime with the NPT as its foundation”.

The importance of the TPNW for Africa

Given the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity – and the urgent need to redirect funds towards addressing the pandemic, the climate emergency and food insecurity globally – it is vital that states work together to advance nuclear disarmament.

Signing and ratifying the TPNW is an essential step to eliminate nuclear weapons and the only way to prevent nuclear dangers and promote peace and security in Africa and around the world. All

African states should join this landmark agreement as a matter of urgency.

The risk of the use of nuclear weapons is now greater than it was during the Cold War amidst increasingly hostile relations between nuclear-armed states. It continues to grow as all nuclear-armed states develop more and new types of nuclear weapon systems, and are engaged in modernising their arsenals, committing huge sums of the money to the vicious spiral of a new global nuclear arms race.

In 2021, in the midst of a global pandemic and the worsening climate crisis, nuclear-armed states spent \$82.4 billion on their arsenals, while reducing funding for development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Nuclear weapons are fundamentally incompatible with these goals, not only for their wasted expenditure but also because of their threat to humanity and the climate.

Any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic, widespread consequences, with the dead and injured numbering in the hundreds of thousands, if not millions. The radiological and climatic impacts of nuclear weapons do not stop at national boundaries, necessitating global action to prevent nuclear use.

Experts have calculated that a nuclear war between two nations involving just 100 Hiroshima-sized weapons (bombs with an explosive yield equivalent to about 16 kilotons of TNT) would cause worldwide climatic disruption and a catastrophic decline in food production across the planet, putting up to 2 billion people at risk of starvation. Africa would be especially vulnerable to the effects of a worldwide decline in food production given the statistics on low food security.

African adherence to the TPNW is an important step towards preventing the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that the use of nuclear weapons would have on the African continent and rendering these horrific weapons a relic of the past.

The international community is still paying the price for atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons between 1945 and 1980. Algeria suffered four atmospheric nuclear tests at the hands of France in the early 1960s, followed by more than a dozen underground tests. From February 1960 to February 1966, France detonated a total of 17 nuclear bombs in the Algerian Sahara. The resulting radiation is not geographically limited. The tests in Algeria spread radioactive fallout across the country, across Central and West Africa, and across the Mediterranean, including southern Europe.

The African peace and security architecture

Ever since the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) decision in 1963 on the denuclearisation of Africa, the African Union has actively promoted nuclear disarmament. In 2004, the AU Common African Defence and Security Policy characterised nuclear weapons as “common security threats facing Africa”.

In 2013, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the OAU/AU, African heads of

state adopted the Solemn Declaration, expressing determination to maintain a nuclear-free Africa and calling for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as part of the goal to achieve a conflict-free Africa.

As such, the TPNW is a multilateral treaty that is a critical element in the broader African peace and security architecture; one that is driven by the spirit of collective security and supports many of

the AU's current initiatives, including Silencing the Guns in Africa as well as the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. It further echoes the 2015 African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap, which calls to “effectively implement instruments and policies to address WMD disarmament and non-proliferation”.

The TPNW builds on the achievement of the 1996 African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty by transforming its regional norms into global norms.

The TPNW builds on the achievement of the 1996 African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, or Treaty of Pelindaba, which makes Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The TPNW helps transform Pelindaba's regional norms into global norms. The TPNW reinforces the prohibitions in the Treaty of Pelindaba, including on testing, stationing, developing and manufacturing nuclear weapons and strengthens the norm against the use, threat of use and possession of nuclear weapons, further delegitimising the dangerous and misguided theory of “nuclear deterrence”, which has long been invoked as a justification for maintaining nuclear weapons indefinitely. The TPNW also affirms the right of all states parties to peaceful nuclear energy.

Given the complementarity between the two treaties, states parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba can join the TPNW without many additional obligations. If a

state party to the Treaty of Pelindaba has adopted implementing national legislation, this could suffice for the national legislative obligations it would take on by acceding to or ratifying the TPNW.

Progress in implementing and universalising one treaty supports implementation and universalisation in the other. In the conclusions of its fourth ordinary session, the Conference of States Parties to the African Nuclear-Free-Weapon-Free Zone in 2018 “called on upon AU member states to speedily sign and ratify the treaty, emphasising that it advances international law in nuclear disarmament and is consistent with the goals of the Treaty of Pelindaba”. This call was reiterated by the African Union Peace and Security Council in a 2019 communique.

The TPNW also complements and reinforces earlier treaties, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

African states have collectively taken a firm, principled position against nuclear weapons and together declared that these horrific weapons are unacceptable and illegal, and they must be totally abolished before they are ever used again. It is now time to translate this unified position into action to universalise the TPNW. As more states become parties to the treaty over time, the pressure on nuclear-armed states to disarm will grow stronger. Universalising the Treaty of Pelindaba and TPNW will help to strengthen peace and security in the African Union. Every state that joins these essential disarmament agreements moves the international community closer to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

TPNW adherence by AU subregion

NORTH

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Algeria | Signatory |
| Egypt | Non-signatory |
| Libya | Signatory |
| Mauritania | Non-signatory |
| Morocco | Non-signatory |
| Tunisia | Non-signatory |
| (0 states parties) | |

SOUTH

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Angola | Signatory |
| Botswana | State party |
| Eswatini | Non-signatory |
| Lesotho | State party |
| Malawi | State party |
| Mozambique | Signatory |
| Namibia | State party |
| South Africa | State party |
| Zambia | Signatory |
| Zimbabwe | Signatory |
| (5 states parties) | |

EAST

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Comoros | State party |
| Djibouti | Signatory |
| Eritrea | Non-signatory |
| Ethiopia | Non-signatory |
| Kenya | Non-signatory |
| Madagascar | Signatory |

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Mauritius | Non-signatory |
| Rwanda | Non-signatory |
| Seychelles | State party |
| Somalia | Non-signatory |
| South Sudan | Non-signatory |
| Sudan | Signatory |
| Tanzania | Signatory |
| Uganda | Non-signatory |
| | (2 states parties) |

WEST

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Benin | State party |
| Burkina Faso | Signatory |
| Cabo Verde | State party |
| Côte d'Ivoire | State party |
| Gambia | State party |
| Ghana | Signatory |
| Guinea-Bissau | State party |
| Guinea | Non-signatory |
| Liberia | Non-signatory |
| Mali | Non-signatory |
| Niger | Signatory |
| Nigeria | State party |
| Senegal | Non-signatory |
| Sierra Leone | Signatory |
| Togo | Signatory |
| | (6 states parties) |

CENTRAL

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Burundi | Non-signatory |
| Cameroon | Non-signatory |
| Central African Republic | Signatory |
| Chad | Non-signatory |
| Congo | State party |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | State party |
| Equatorial Guinea | Signatory |
| Gabon | Non-signatory |
| São Tomé and Príncipe | Signatory |

(2 states parties)

Algeria

SIGNATORY

Signed: 20 September 2017

STATUS

Algeria has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Abdelkader Messahel, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Algeria, signed the TPNW when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017. In 2020, Algeria expressed its intention to ratify the treaty “in the very short coming time”.



Abdelkader Messahel, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Algeria, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: UNOLA

UNIVERSALISATION

Algeria has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”. In a statement to the United Nations in 2021, the minister of foreign affairs of Algeria, Ramtane

Lamamra, hailed the TPNW’s entry into force as “an essential contribution towards nuclear disarmament”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Algeria attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022, Algeria said that its decision to sign the TPNW in 2017 was informed by its own experience of the “dire consequences”, both environmental and humanitarian, of French nuclear tests carried out on its territory.

In a closing statement to the conference, Algeria and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Lamamra welcomed the TPNW’s entry into force and the “positive and ambitious results” achieved at the first meeting of states parties. He stressed “the necessity of all states’ adherence to the ban treaty” given the threat of nuclear weapons to humanity.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Algeria said that it was encouraged by the adoption of the declaration and action plan at the meeting of states parties, describing them as “ambitious steps towards

facilitating the effective and timely implementation of the treaty”. It hailed the TPNW as “an important milestone achieved by the international community in the delegitimisation of nuclear weapons”.

NUCLEAR TESTING IN ALGERIA

From 1961 to 1967, France conducted 17 nuclear test explosions in Algeria, leaving a legacy of environmental devastation and health problems. According to Algeria, its commitment to the cause of disarmament “stems from its unique experience caused by the devastating nuclear tests conducted on its national territory by France”. In 2021, the Algerian prime minister signed a decree to establish a national authority to remediate former French nuclear test sites.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Algeria participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, Algeria said that this initiative is “the result of the dedication of all those who are convinced that we have to do something” and “do not want to continue betting on the unbearable risk of annihilating all humanity”.

In its closing statement, Algeria expressed regret that the nuclear-armed states and others had chosen not to participate in the negotiations, but it emphasised that “we leave the door wide open for them”.

In 2016, Algeria voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.



Sabri Boukadoum, then-ambassador to the United Nations, chairs the UN first committee in 2016, when the mandate for the TPNW negotiations is secured.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Algeria was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Angola

Signed: 27 September 2018

SIGNATORY

STATUS

Angola has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Manuel Domingos Augusto, the then-minister of external relations of Angola, signed the TPNW in New York on 27 September 2018.

Angola described the opening for signature of the TPNW in 2017 as a “clear illustration” of the commitment of many states “to contribute greatly to the total eradication of nuclear weapons” and to “international peace and security”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

In February 2022, the Association Angola 2000, an ICAN partner organisation, convened a workshop in the capital, Luanda, to share perspectives on the ratification of the TPNW. Participants included representatives of the foreign and defence ministries, non-government organisations, churches, and the media.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Angola warned: “Nuclear weapons pose a growing catastrophic danger to humanity, and if states continue to increase and improve nuclear arsenals our collective security will be in danger.”



Manuel Domingos Augusto, the then-minister of external relations of Angola, signs the TPNW in 2018. Photo: UNOLA



ICAN partners in Angola convene a workshop with stakeholders in 2022 to promote ratification of the TPNW. Photo: Angola 2000

UNIVERSALISATION

Angola has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Angola participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Angola co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Angola was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Benin

STATE PARTY

Signed: 26 September 2018

Ratified: 11 December 2020

In force: 11 March 2021

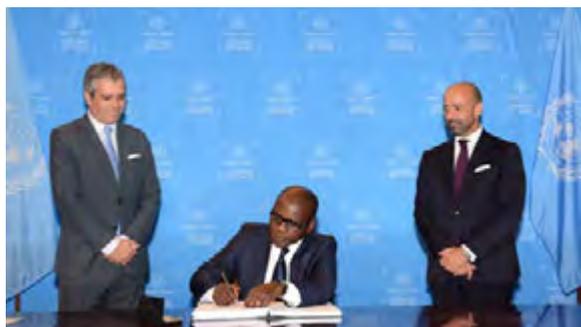
STATUS

Benin has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has been legally bound by it since 11 March 2021.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Hervé Dadjedji Djokpé, the secretary-general of the ministry of foreign affairs of Benin, signed the TPNW in New York on 26 September 2018.

Benin deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 11 December 2020. The national assembly passed a law in October 2020 authorising the ratification. Benin was the 51st state to ratify or accede to the TPNW.



Hervé Dadjedji Djokpé, the secretary-general of the foreign ministry of Benin, signs the TPNW in 2018. Photo: UNOLA

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Benin submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 9 April 2021 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state's nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, Benin has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign and ratify the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In 2018, Benin said that “the existence of nuclear weapons carries with it the risk of their use”, which “is why we consider the [TPNW] a step in the right direction”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Benin participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Benin participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Benin was absent for the vote on the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Benin was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Botswana

STATE PARTY

Signed: 26 September 2019

Ratified: 15 July 2020

In force: 22 January 2021

STATUS

Botswana has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It was among the original 50 states parties to the treaty when it entered into force on 22 January 2021.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Unity Dow, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Botswana, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York on 26 September 2019. Botswana deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 15 July 2020.

Botswana was the 40th state to ratify or accede to the TPNW. Its ratification coincided with the 11th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba, a regional treaty establishing Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.



Unity Dow, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Botswana, signs the TPNW in 2019. Photo: ICAN

“In concluding this milestone step,” said Collen Vixen Kelapile, Botswana’s permanent representative to the United Nations, “Botswana has once again reconfirmed its unwavering commitment to global peace and security through prohibition of nuclear weapons.”

He said that Botswana took pride in being counted among the earliest states parties to the TPNW and encouraged “all other peace-loving nations to collectively join hands and contribute to this noble endeavour for the prohibition of all nuclear weapons”.

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Botswana submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 8 February 2021 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state’s nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, Botswana has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In a statement to the UN General Assembly in 2021, the minister of defence of Botswana, Thomas Kagiso Mmusi,

described the TPNW as “a necessary foundation as well as a stimulus for future further steps towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons”.

Botswana also welcomed the entry into force of the TPNW, hailing it as “a clear commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and to multilateral disarmament”, and it “encourage[d] those member states who have not yet signed and ratified to do so without further delay”.

In 2019, Botswana underscored the significant role of the TPNW in “strengthening the global norms and practices against the use, proliferation, and possession of nuclear weapons by any country”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Botswana participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. It called on all states that have not yet ratified the treaty to do so, “as its universalisation is a step in the right direction to complete nuclear disarmament”.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, Botswana said that its early ratification of the TPNW indicated its “strong support for the total elimination of nuclear weapons”, adding that its “pro-elimination position is influenced by the need to prevent catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons”.

In a closing statement to the conference, Botswana and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Botswana said that the failure of the NPT review conference “should not overshadow the progress that has been made in relation to the [TPNW], in particular, its entry into force, successful first meeting of states parties, and the adoption of the Vienna action plan”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Botswana participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Botswana voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Botswana was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Burkina Faso

SIGNATORY

Signed: 22 September 2022

STATUS

Burkina Faso has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Olivia Ragnaghnewendé Rouamba, the minister of foreign affairs and regional cooperation of Burkina Faso, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York on 22 September 2022. Nuclear weapons “constitute a threat to the survival of all humanity because of their humanitarian consequences”, she said.

In a letter to ICAN in December 2022, Rouamba advised that Burkina Faso “will take the necessary steps in connection with the ratification of the [TPNW] in accordance with its commitment to building a peaceful, secure and prosperous world free of all nuclear weapons”.



Olivia Ragnaghnewendé Rouamba, the minister of foreign affairs, signs the TPNW in 2022. Photo: Darren Ornitz



Campaigners hold a meeting in the capital, Ouagadougou, in 2021 to promote Burkina Faso's adherence to the TPNW. Photo: WILPF Burkina Faso

UNIVERSALISATION

Burkina Faso has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In a statement to the United Nations in 2018, it said that the adoption of the TPNW makes it possible “to complete the legal architecture for disarmament”. In 2019, it welcomed the growing number of states that have signed and ratified the treaty, and noted that it complements the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968.

In September 2021, it hailed the TPNW's entry into force as “a great victory for all the peoples of the world and a very significant event in the history of humanity”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Burkina Faso attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. “Burkina Faso’s support for the TPNW is unwavering,” it said. “We commit ourselves to make all necessary steps to join it as soon as possible.”

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, Burkina Faso welcomed the TPNW’s entry into force, adding: “We are convinced that this treaty complements the NPT.”

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Burkina Faso said that the TPNW represents “a significant step forward”, and expressed its “wish that the said treaty contribute fully to the achievement of the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Burkina Faso participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Burkina Faso voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Burkina Faso was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Burundi

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Burundi has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Burundi has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.



Campaigners and government officials participate in a conference in Burundi in 2021 to celebrate the TPNW’s entry into force. Photo: CPD



ICAN representatives meet with Burundi’s ambassador in New York in 2022. Credit: ICAN

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Burundi attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022.

In December 2022, ICAN partners in Burundi held a multi-stakeholder workshop to promote adherence to the treaty.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Burundi participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Burundi co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Burundi was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Cabo Verde

STATE PARTY

Signed: 20 September 2017

Ratified: 20 June 2022

In force: 18 September 2022

STATUS

Cabo Verde has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has been legally bound by it since 18 September 2022.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Luis Filipe Lopes Tavares, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Cabo Verde, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.

In a statement to the United Nations following the signing, Cabo Verde said: “The existence of a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons of course will not make them immediately disappear but will reinforce the stigma against their use ... and represents a disincentive for proliferation.”

The national assembly of Cabo Verde unanimously adopted a resolution on 25 March 2022 to ratify the TPNW. Cabo Verde deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 20 June 2022, one day before the first meeting of states parties to the treaty, becoming the equal 63rd state party.



Luis Filipe Lopes Tavares, the then-minister of foreign affairs, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Cabo Verde submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 4 November 2022 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state’s nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, Cabo Verde has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign and ratify the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In a statement to the United Nations in 2017, it called on “all states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the TPNW as soon as possible”.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022, Cabo Verde and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Cabo Verde participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Cabo Verde co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Cabo Verde was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Cameroon

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Cameroon has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Cameroon voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution in 2018 that welcomed the adoption of the TPNW and called upon “all states that have not yet done so to sign, ratify, accept, approve, or accede to the treaty at the earliest possible date”. It did not participate in votes on the same resolution in 2019, 2020, 2021, or 2022.

The Cameroonian chapter of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom has carried out several activities in the capital, Yaoundé, to promote Cameroon’s accession to the TPNW, including two workshops with various stakeholders in 2022.



A press conference is held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in 2021 to encourage the government to sign and ratify the TPNW. Photo: WILPF Cameroon



A meeting with various stakeholders is convened in 2022 to discuss the TPNW. Photo: WILPF Cameroon

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Cameroon participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 but was absent for the vote on its adoption. In 2016, Cameroon voted in the first committee of the UN General Assembly in favour of a draft resolution that established the mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Prior to the adoption of the TPNW in 2017, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a comprehensive, globally applicable treaty-based prohibition. Cameroon supported calls in the UN General Assembly to fill this “legal gap”.

Central African Republic

SIGNATORY

Signed: 20 September 2017

STATUS

The Central African Republic has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Faustin Archange Touadera, the president of the CAR, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017. The government announced in October 2018 that “the internal procedure for ratifying the [TPNW] is in progress”. In May 2022, the CAR chapter of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom held a dialogue with parliamentarians on ratification of the TPNW. The treaty has not yet been submitted to the national assembly.



Faustin Archange Touadera, the president of the CAR, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN

UNIVERSALISATION

The CAR has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to join the treaty “at the earliest possible date”. (In 2022, it voted against the resolution. However, this was done in error.) In 2018, the CAR described the TPNW as “an important contribution to the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

The CAR did not formally participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and thus did not vote on its adoption. In 2016, the CAR voted in the first committee of the UN General Assembly in favour of a draft resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

The CAR was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Chad

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Chad has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

In 2020, Chad indicated that it would adhere to the TPNW “when the time comes”. It has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In February 2022, the Chadian chapter of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, in cooperation with the UN Development Programme, held a debate on the TPNW with the participation of public authorities, media and civil society.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Chad participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Chad voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Chad was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Comoros

STATE PARTY

Signed: 20 September 2017

Ratified: 19 February 2021

In force: 20 May 2021

STATUS

Comoros has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has been legally bound by it since 20 May 2021.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Azali Assoumali, the president of Comoros, signed the TPNW at a high-level meeting in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017. In an address to the United Nations the same week, he called on nuclear-armed states “to abandon their nuclear weapons programmes”.

In September 2020, the foreign ministry of Comoros and the Association SALAM, an ICAN partner, co-hosted a workshop in the country’s capital, Moroni, to brief members of parliament about the TPNW. The parliament approved ratification of the treaty in December 2020.

Comoros deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 19 February 2021, becoming the 54th state to ratify or accede to the TPNW.



Azali Assoumali, the president of Comoros, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN



Parliamentarians in Comoros attend a workshop to learn about the TPNW in 2020. Photo: ICAN



The parliament of Comoros approves ratification in 2020.

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Comoros submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 4 May 2021 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state's nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, Comoros has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In 2021, Comoros said that “each new signature and ratification of this important legal instrument strengthens the global norm against the use and possession of nuclear weapons, and brings us even closer to a world free from the nuclear threat”. In 2019, Comoros said that the TPNW “plays an important role in strengthening global standards against the use, proliferation, and possession of nuclear weapons by any state”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Comoros participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. It expressed its hope that the meeting would develop “recommendations that will make peace and security a priority”.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022,

Comoros and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Comoros welcomed the adoption and entry into force of the TPNW and the success of its “historic” first meeting of states parties. It called on all states that have not yet signed and ratified the treaty “to do so without further ado”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Comoros did not formally participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and thus did not vote on its adoption.

In 2016, Comoros voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”. However, it subsequently informed the UN secretariat that it had intended to abstain from voting.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Comoros was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Congo

STATE PARTY

Signed: 20 September 2017

Ratified: 17 May 2022

In force: 15 August 2022

STATUS

The Republic of the Congo has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has been legally bound by it since 15 August 2022.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Jean-Claude Gakosso, the minister of foreign affairs of the Congo, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.

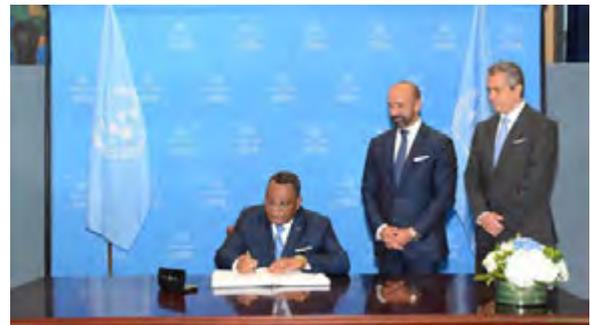
The senate approved ratification of the treaty on 1 December 2021 and the national assembly on 20 December 2021. The national assembly's president, Isidore Mvouba, remarked that the TPNW "is worth its weight in gold" and a valuable contribution to international peace and security. The Congo deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 17 May 2022, becoming the 61st state party.

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, the Congo submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 24 August 2022 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state's nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, the Congo has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty "at the earliest possible date".

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022, the Congo and 64 other TPNW supporters urged "all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay".



Jean-Claude Gakosso, the minister of foreign affairs of the Congo, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: UNOLA

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

The Congo participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, the Congo voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

The Congo was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Côte d’Ivoire

STATE PARTY

Signed: 20 September 2017

Ratified: 23 March 2022

In force: 21 June 2022

STATUS

Côte d’Ivoire has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has been legally bound by it since 21 June 2022, the opening day of the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW in Vienna.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Marcel Amon-Tanoh, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Côte d’Ivoire, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.

In a statement to the United Nations in 2020, Côte d’Ivoire announced that it was working to consolidate its commitment to the TPNW “through the completion of the ratification procedure”.

The council of ministers adopted a draft law in December 2020 authorising the president to ratify the TPNW, and the national assembly gave its approval on 14 September 2021, with the senate consenting on 20 December 2021. Côte d’Ivoire deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 23 March 2022, becoming the 60th state to ratify or accede to the TPNW.



Marcel Amon-Tanoh, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Côte d’Ivoire, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Côte d’Ivoire submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 20 June 2022 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state’s nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, Côte d’Ivoire has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Côte d'Ivoire participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. It described the entry into force of the treaty as a “source of hope for our populations and states that aspire to a world without nuclear weapons”.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022, Côte d'Ivoire called for “universal adherence” to the TPNW and welcomed the successful convening of the first meeting of states parties, including “the adoption of an ambitious action plan for the total elimination of nuclear weapons”. In a closing statement to the conference, Côte d'Ivoire and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, the minister of foreign affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, Kandia Camara, said that “the most immediate and sure way towards a tangible and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons remains, without question, the [TPNW] and its universalisation”.

“The success of the first meeting of states parties last June remains one of the rare reasons for satisfaction, in terms of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, recorded during this year,” she said. “My delegation would therefore like to launch a strong appeal to all states which have not yet done so to accede to this treaty without delay, in particular the states possessing nuclear weapons.”

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Côte d'Ivoire said that, as one of the first states to sign the TPNW in 2017, it “is honoured to actively contribute to the promotion of its universalisation and its implementation”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Côte d'Ivoire participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Côte d'Ivoire voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Côte d'Ivoire was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

STATE PARTY

Signed: 20 September 2017

Ratified: 22 September 2022

In force: 21 December 2022

STATUS

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has been legally bound by it since 21 December 2022.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Leonard She Okitundu, the then-minister of foreign affairs of the DRC, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017. The minister of human rights, Albert-Fabrice Puela, deposited the country's instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general at a high-level ceremony on 22 September 2022.

The council of ministers approved ratification of the treaty on 6 May 2022 and the president, Felix Tshisekedi, signed an ordinance on 15 August 2022 authorising the same. The DRC was the equal 67th state to ratify or accede to the TPNW.



Leonard She Okitundu, the then-minister of foreign affairs of the DRC, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN



Albert-Fabrice Puela, the minister of human rights, deposits the instrument of ratification in 2022. UNOLA



Campaigners in the DRC meet with members of parliament in 2021 to encourage ratification of the TPNW.

IMPLEMENTATION

The DRC has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In 2020, the DRC said that it “has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment in favour of international peace and security by signing [the TPNW]” and encouraged “all peace-loving countries” to become states parties. In 2021, the DRC welcomed the TPNW’s entry into force.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

The DRC attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. “Deterrence is a false guarantee of security that keeps the world in the balance of terror,” it said. “Nuclear disarmament is an emergency and is becoming a necessity for our security.”

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, the DRC welcomed the “historic adoption” of the TPNW in 2017 and its entry into force in 2021, as well as the success of its first meeting of states parties. It said that the treaty “has greatly contributed to the search for the achievement of our common objective, which is a world without nuclear

weapons”. In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, the DRC said that it considers the TPNW to complement and reinforce the NPT, and encouraged “states which have not yet done so to accede to this instrument, because it constitutes an important step towards a world free of nuclear weapons and, if we are sincere in our quest for disarmament, we have a collective responsibility to ensure its universalisation”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

The DRC participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, the DRC co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

The DRC was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Djibouti

SIGNATORY

Signed: 9 January 2023

STATUS

Djibouti has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Mohamed Siad Doualeh, the permanent representative of Djibouti to the United Nations, signed the TPNW in New York on 9 January 2023. In a statement to the United Nations in October 2022, Djibouti announced that it would adhere to the TPNW as part of its “commitment to peace and disarmament”. It also encouraged other states that have not yet signed it to do so.



Mohamed Siad Doualeh, the Djiboutian ambassador to the UN, signs the TPNW in 2023. Photo: ICAN

UNIVERSALISATION

Djibouti has typically voted in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the TPNW “at the earliest possible date”. While it abstained from voting on the resolution in 2021, it voted in favour in 2022.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Djibouti participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Djibouti voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Djibouti was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Egypt

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Egypt has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Egypt has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In September 2017, Egypt described the adoption of the “landmark treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons” as a remarkable development and a clear sign “that the circumstances have changed on the international stage”.

The ministry of foreign affairs of Egypt indicated in 2020 that the matter of signing and ratifying the TPNW “is subject to an ongoing internal review and assessment by the Egyptian government”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Egypt participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, Egypt said that the treaty should “formalise the categorical rejection of the possession and use of nuclear weapons” and “solidify the international denunciation of nuclear weapons”.

In 2016, Egypt co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Egypt was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Equatorial Guinea

SIGNATORY

Signed: 22 September 2022

STATUS

Equatorial Guinea has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Simeón Oyono Esono Angue, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of Equatorial Guinea, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York on 22 September 2022.

“Today the world needs the promise of a future without the fear of annihilation that nuclear weapons can cause,” he said. “For Equatorial Guinea, the TPNW formalises ... our firm international conviction that any use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable, regardless of its justification.”



Simeón Oyono Esono Angue, the minister of foreign affairs, signs the TPNW in 2022. Photo: Darren Ornitz

UNIVERSALISATION

Equatorial Guinea has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Equatorial Guinea said that it signed the TPNW based on its commitment “to be a contributor to world peace and security, helping to strengthen world regulations against nuclear weapons and promoting efforts towards their total abolition”. It called on countries that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the treaty.

In a closing statement to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, Equatorial Guinea and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.



Representatives of Equatorial Guinea and ICAN meet in New York in 2022 to discuss the TPNW.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Equatorial Guinea participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, Equatorial Guinea said that “nuclear weapons pose a direct and constant threat to all of humanity”, and this conference offers us a “unique and vital opportunity” to eliminate such weapons.

In 2016, Equatorial Guinea voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Prior to the adoption of the TPNW in 2017, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a comprehensive, globally applicable treaty prohibition. Equatorial Guinea supported calls in the UN General Assembly fill this “legal gap”.

Eritrea

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Eritrea has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Eritrea has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Eritrea declared the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons to be “illegal and immoral” and described the universalisation of the TPNW as one of a number of “critical steps towards complete denuclearisation”.

“At a time when international cooperation and solidarity is most needed, geopolitical tensions between major powers are polarising and destabilising the world. The spectre of nuclear annihilation that most of us thought was relegated to the theoretical discussion is real now.”

In 2019, Eritrea said that ratification of this “landmark” treaty will help achieve “a world free of nuclear arms”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Eritrea participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Eritrea voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Eritrea was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Eswatini

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Eswatini has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Eswatini has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”. In 2019, Eswatini welcomed the “historical adoption” of this “landmark treaty”, stressing that it complements and strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime. In 2018, it announced that it was involved in internal processes to become a state party to the TPNW soon.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Eswatini participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 but was absent for the vote on its adoption. In 2016, Eswatini co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Eswatini was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.



Representatives of ICAN, the Red Cross, and Eswatini meet in New York in 2022 to discuss the TPNW.

Ethiopia

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Ethiopia has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Ethiopia has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In a statement to the United Nations in 2020, Ethiopia said that it has “fully supported the treaty and we look forward to ratifying it”. In 2019, it hailed the adoption of the TPNW as “an important milestone towards achieving the goal of a world without nuclear weapons”.



Ethiopian campaigners and government officials meet in Addis Ababa in 2022 to celebrate the first anniversary of the TPNW's entry into force. Photo: SRaRO

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Ethiopia participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, Ethiopia said that “concrete actions to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons” are “critically urgent” and expressed dismay that these deadly weapons “are being further modernised and upgraded”.

In 2016, Ethiopia voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Ethiopia was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

In 2012, an African regional roundtable meeting was held in Addis Ababa to share perspectives on the need for a global ban on nuclear weapons.

Gabon

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Gabon has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Gabon has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Gabon said: “There is a need for collective action to achieve disarmament, as well as the adoption of bilateral and multilateral agreements, such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

While Gabon did not formally participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017, it was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, Gabon voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

Gambia

STATE PARTY

Signed: 20 September 2017

Ratified: 26 September 2018

In force: 22 January 2021

STATUS

The Gambia has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It was among the original 50 states parties to the treaty when it entered into force on 22 January 2021.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Adama Barrow, the president of the Gambia, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.

Mamadou Tangara, the minister of foreign affairs, deposited the country's instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 26 September 2018.

The Gambia was the 16th state overall to ratify or accede to the TPNW, and the first state in Africa.



Adama Barrow, the president of the Gambia, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: UNOLA



Mamadou Tangara, the minister of foreign affairs, deposits the instrument of ratification in 2018. Photo: ICAN

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, the Gambia submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 15 March 2021 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state's nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, the Gambia has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty "at the earliest possible date".

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

The Gambia participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, the Gambia voted in the first committee of the UN General Assembly in favour of a draft resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence the negotiations in 2017 on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

The Gambia was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Ghana

SIGNATORY

Signed: 20 September 2017

STATUS

Ghana has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, the minister of foreign affairs of Ghana, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.

In a statement to the United Nations in September 2021, the government said that “national processes are currently under way in Ghana for the ratification of the treaty and the subsequent deposit of our instrument of ratification”.



Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, the minister of foreign affairs of Ghana, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: UNOLA



Government officials, parliamentarians, and members of civil society participate in a workshop in Accra in July 2021 to promote ratification of the TPNW. Source: Ghana MFA

UNIVERSALISATION

Ghana has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

Ghana has said that the TPNW “provides a universally agreed path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons” and “has revived the disarmament debate”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Ghana attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. “This meeting could not have come at a more important time given the heightened risk of nuclear war in recent times,” said Thomas Mbomba, a deputy minister. “The government of Ghana is considering the

legal instrument that would seal the ratification of this all-important treaty,” he announced. “It is our hope that our country will soon join the ranks of state parties before the next meeting of states parties.”

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022, Ghana and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Ghana called on all states to adhere to the TPNW. “As the only legally binding global treaty that outlaws nuclear weapons, Ghana believes that the [TPNW] helps to address the existing loopholes in international law regarding the development, testing, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,” it said.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Ghana welcomed the TPNW’s entry into force, which it said “would contribute to furthering the agreed global objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons”. It also welcomed the convening of the first meeting of states parties.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Ghana participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, Ghana described the treaty-making process as “long overdue” and “a genuine and timely opportunity to break the impasse and to make real progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons”.

In 2016, Ghana voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Ghana was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Guinea

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Guinea has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Guinea has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Guinea said that “no nation in the world can wage nuclear war and emerge victorious”, hence the need for all countries, “small or large, rich or poor”, to fight for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. “The survival of our planet greatly depends on it.” Guinea also expressed regret at the increase in investments in nuclear weapons.



Campaigners discuss the TPNW with the minister of foreign affairs, Ibrahima Kalil Kaba, in 2021. Photo: ACRL-RfP

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Guinea participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 but was absent for the vote on its adoption. In 2016, Guinea voted in the first committee of the UN General Assembly in favour of a draft resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Guinea was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Guinea-Bissau

STATE PARTY

Signed: 26 September 2018

Ratified: 15 December 2021

In force: 15 March 2022

STATUS

Guinea-Bissau has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has been legally bound by it since 15 March 2022.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

João Ribeiro Butiam Có, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Guinea-Bissau, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York on 26 September 2018.

The national people's assembly of Guinea-Bissau approved ratification of the TPNW on 8 June 2021, and the instrument of ratification was deposited with the UN secretary-general on 15 December 2021. On the occasion of the ratification, the minister of foreign affairs of Guinea-Bissau, Suzi Barbosa, said: "The ratification of the [TPNW] constitutes the last and important step towards the unequivocal affirmation of Guinea-Bissau's commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons."

Guinea-Bissau was the 58th state to ratify or accede to the TPNW.



João Ribeiro Butiam Có, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Guinea-Bissau, signs the TPNW in 2018. Photo: UNOLA

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Guinea-Bissau submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 23 February 2022 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state's nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, Guinea-Bissau has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty "at the earliest possible date".

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Guinea-Bissau participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

While Guinea-Bissau did not formally participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017, it was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, Guinea-Bissau co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Guinea-Bissau was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Kenya

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Kenya has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

In an address to the United Nations in September 2017, the then-cabinet secretary for foreign affairs of Kenya, Amina Mohamed, welcomed the “historic adoption” of the TPNW, which “gives us renewed hope that it is possible, if we work together, to rid the world of nuclear weapons”.

In October 2021, Kenya said that it “calls for the banning of nuclear weapons and endorses the adoption of the [TPNW] – a critical milestone in achieving a nuclear-free world”. Kenya has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign and ratify the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Kenya participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the UN in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, Kenya co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.



Kenyan parliamentarians attend a workshop in Nairobi in 2021 to learn about the TPNW. Photo: ACRL



Government officials and members of civil society discuss the TPNW at a meeting in Kenya in 2021. Photo: ACRL

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Kenya was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Lesotho

STATE PARTY

Signed: 26 September 2019

Ratified: 6 June 2020

In force: 22 January 2021

STATUS

Lesotho has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It was among the original 50 states parties to the treaty when it entered into force on 22 January 2021.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Lesego Makgothi, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Lesotho, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York on 26 September 2019. Lesotho deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 6 June 2020, becoming the 38th state to ratify or accede to the TPNW.



Lesego Makgothi, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Lesotho, signs the TPNW in 2019. Photo: ICAN

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Lesotho submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 18 February 2021 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state's nuclear weapons on its territory.

Lesotho has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty "at the earliest possible date".

In September 2021, the minister of foreign affairs of Lesotho, Matšepo Ramakoa, hailed the TPNW's entry into force as an "important milestone" and "the pinnacle of worldwide movement to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons".

Addressing the UN in 2017, the then-prime minister of Lesotho, Thomas Thabane, said that the TPNW's adoption earlier that year was "a historic achievement of our time" and the treaty "must be ratified and implemented by all".

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Lesotho participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022, Lesotho and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Ramakoa welcomed the TPNW’s entry into force as “a significant milestone in the efforts towards promoting universalisation and full implementation of the TPNW”.

“It is gratifying to note the steadily increasing number of member states of the United Nations becoming signatories to this treaty,” she said, adding that Lesotho “supports all efforts to enhance the institutional fabric of the TPNW”.

She welcomed the convening of the meeting of states parties and the adoption of a declaration and action plan, “which will help set the course for the treaty’s implementation and pave the way for our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons”.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Lesotho said that it is “strongly committed to the TPNW and will continue to support the principle of complete nuclear disarmament, as the utmost prerequisite for maintaining international peace and security”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Lesotho participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Lesotho voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Lesotho was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Liberia

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Liberia has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Liberia has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”. (In 2022, it voted against the resolution. However, this was done in error.) In 2021, as part of the universal periodic review conducted by the UN Human Rights Council, Liberia accepted a recommendation to sign and ratify the TPNW.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Liberia participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, Liberia co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Liberia was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Libya

SIGNATORY

Signed: 20 September 2017

STATUS

Libya has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Mohamed Taha Siala, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Libya, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017. In a statement to the UN following the signing, Libya said that “the international community has moved in the right direction by agreeing on a legally binding treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons”.



Mohamed Taha Siala, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Libya, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN

UNIVERSALISATION

Libya has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Libya attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. It called on all states “to abandon the use of weapons of mass destruction and to end the arms race, in order to uphold international peace and security”.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Libya said that it participated in the negotiation of the TPNW in 2017 due to its concern about the ongoing nuclear arms race and its “uncontrollable risks”. It called on nuclear-armed states “to show their good faith and solidarity with all efforts to rid the world of these lethal weapons and to accede to this treaty without delay in order to achieve its universality”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Libya participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 but was absent for the vote on its adoption. In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, Libya said that the successful conclusion of a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons would have a “profound impact on our efforts to promote nuclear disarmament”. In 2016, Libya co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Libya was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Madagascar

SIGNATORY

Signed: 20 September 2017

STATUS

Madagascar has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Hery Rajaonarimampianina, the then-president of Madagascar, signed the TPNW in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.



Hery Rajaonarimampianina, the then-president of Madagascar, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: UNOLA

UNIVERSALISATION

Madagascar has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Madagascar participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Madagascar voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Madagascar was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Malawi

STATE PARTY

Signed: 20 September 2017

Ratified: 29 June 2022

In force: 27 September 2022

STATUS

Malawi has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has been legally bound by it since 27 September 2022.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Emmanuel Fabiano, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Malawi, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.

In 2021, as part of the universal periodic review conducted by the UN Human Rights Council, Malawi accepted a recommendation to ratify the TPNW.

Malawi deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 29 June 2022, becoming the 66th state party. It was the first state to adhere to the TPNW following the conclusion of the first meeting of states parties in Vienna one week earlier, which resolved to pursue universalisation of the treaty as a priority.



Emmanuel Fabiano, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Malawi, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN



Campaigners meet in Lilongwe in 2022 with parliamentarians to promote ratification of the TPNW. Photo: PEFENAP

IMPLEMENTATION

Per Article 12, Malawi has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022, Malawi and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, the foreign minister of Malawi, Nancy Tembo, said: “It should be our ambition as a collective to rid our world of all weapons of mass destruction because of the indiscriminate damage they cause.”

Given the threat that nuclear weapons pose to “the very survival of humanity and our environment”, their continued existence “challenges the instinctive human desire for self-preservation”, she said. By ratifying the TPNW, Malawi further indicated its “unwavering commitment to the global disarmament agenda”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Malawi participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, Malawi co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Malawi was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Mali

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Mali has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Mali has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2020 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”. In 2018 and 2019, it abstained from voting on the resolution.

In February 2022, the Timbuktu Center for Strategic Studies on the Sahel, an ICAN partner organisation, convened a workshop in the capital, Bamako, to promote Mali’s accession to the TPNW. Officials from the foreign ministry participated.



Officials from the ministry of foreign affairs of Mali and representatives of the Timbuktu Centre Think Thank meet in 2022 to discuss the TPNW. Photo: Timbuktu Centre

TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Mali did not formally participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and thus did not vote on its adoption. In 2016, Mali abstained from voting on the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Mali was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Mauritania

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Mauritania has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

In a statement to the United Nations in 2020, Mauritania said that the TPNW “makes a sizeable contribution to working towards our common goal [of a nuclear-weapon-free world] and is undeniably an historical step”.

Mauritania has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Mauritania attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Mauritania noted that it was among the many states that supported the adoption of the TPNW in 2017. It hailed the treaty as “an important and outstanding collective contribution to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Mauritania participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Mauritania co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Mauritania was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Mauritius

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Mauritius has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Mauritius has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In 2021, the minister of foreign affairs of Mauritius, Alan Ganoo, said that the TPNW and Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968 “remain among the outstanding achievements of the United Nations”. In 2020, Mauritius described the TPNW as an “important instrument” that “sustains the commitment of the international community to uphold the disarmament agenda”.



Representatives of the Council of Religions, Mauritius, meet with the prime minister, Pravin Kumar Jugnauth, in 2020 to discuss the TPNW. Photo: Government of Mauritius

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Mauritius participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. The prime minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth, highlighted this fact in a speech to the UN General Assembly that year and said that his country “hope[s] to see complete denuclearisation throughout the world”.

In 2016, Mauritius voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Mauritius was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the negotiations.

Morocco

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Morocco has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Morocco has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In 2021, Morocco described the adoption of the TPNW as “a major step in the evolution of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Morocco attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. “This is a moment to deepen our reflection, give impetus to the implementation of the treaty, and engage in a constructive and frank dialogue with a view to building consensus to free the world from nuclear weapons,” it said.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022, Morocco noted the “historic entry into force” of the TPNW as a sign of progress towards a world without nuclear weapons, but underscored that this and other positive developments “do not hide the

lack of tangible progress” being made by nuclear-armed states towards disarmament.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Morocco said that “we should all undertake further efforts to ensure the prohibition of [nuclear] arms”. It highlighted its participation in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, which “breathe[d] new life into dialogue”.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Morocco said that, given “the irreversible consequences of nuclear weapons on the environment and human lives”, all states must “move resolutely towards the complete prohibition of these weapons”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Morocco participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. It served as a vice-president of the bureau.

In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, Morocco said that this “historic process”, if successful, “would undeniably contribute to the building of confidence and the strengthening of regional and international peace and security”.

Following the treaty’s adoption, Morocco welcomed the new agreement as “a landmark step towards the total

elimination of these weapons and towards a more reassuring future”.

In 2016, Morocco abstained from voting on the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Prior to the adoption of the TPNW in 2017, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a comprehensive, globally applicable treaty prohibition. Morocco supported calls in the UN General Assembly fill this “legal gap”.

Mozambique

SIGNATORY

Signed: 18 August 2020

STATUS

Mozambique has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Antonio Gumende, the permanent representative of Mozambique to the United Nations, signed the TPNW in New York on 18 August 2020.

UNIVERSALISATION

Mozambique has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.



Mozambican parliamentarians participate in a workshop about the TPNW in Maputo in 2020.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Mozambique attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. It announced that “currently internal procedures are under way” in Mozambique to ratify the treaty “as quickly as possible”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Mozambique participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, Mozambique voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Prior to the adoption of the TPNW in 2017, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a comprehensive, globally applicable treaty prohibition. Mozambique supported calls in the UN General Assembly fill this “legal gap”.

Namibia

STATE PARTY

Signed: 8 December 2017

Ratified: 20 March 2020

In force: 22 January 2021

STATUS

Namibia has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It was among the original 50 states parties to the treaty when it entered into force on 22 January 2021.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Neville Gertze, the permanent representative of Namibia to the United Nations, signed the TPNW in New York on 8 December 2017. Namibia deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 20 March 2020. Gertze said that he hoped that Namibia's ratification would "encourage more [UN] member states to come on board, that we can in this way make our contribution towards a world that is much safer, and that we can do away with these illegal weapons". Namibia was the 36th state to ratify or accede to the TPNW.

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Namibia submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 21 February 2021 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state's nuclear weapons on its territory.



Neville Gertze, the permanent representative of Namibia to the United Nations, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: UNOLA

Per Article 12, Namibia has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty "at the earliest possible date".

In a statement to the United Nations in 2020, Namibia applauded those member states that have ratified the TPNW and urged others to do the same. In 2021, it welcomed the TPNW's entry into force as "a big leap towards the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons".



Gertze chairs a meeting in New York in 2022 to promote universalisation of the TPNW in Africa.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Namibia participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. “We must acknowledge that any use of nuclear weapons has devastating humanitarian consequences, and that these weapons continue to be an existential risk to humanity,” it said.

In the margins of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, Namibia chaired an African Group meeting to promote universalisation of the TPNW. In a closing statement to the conference, Namibia and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Namibia’s deputy minister of international relations and cooperation, Jenelly Matundu, said that her country’s ratification of the TPNW in 2020 demonstrated “our commitment to non-proliferation, disarmament and the irreversible and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons”.

“We applaud those member states that have ratified the TPNW in the course of this year and urge other member states to ratify the TPNW,” she said, expressing

concern that no nuclear-armed state has yet joined the TPNW and emphasising the complementarity of the TPNW to the NPT.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Namibia said that it is “encouraged by the entry into force of the TPNW and the progress in its implementation”. “The TPNW remains a major step towards a world free of nuclear weapons and, if we are genuine in our pursuit towards disarmament, we have a collective responsibility to ensure its universalisation,” it said.

In November 2022, in accordance with its Article 12 obligation to promote universal adherence to the TPNW, Namibia recommended that Brazil ratify the TPNW as part of the UN Human Rights Council’s universal periodic review.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Namibia participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, Namibia co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Namibia was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Niger

SIGNATORY

Signed: 9 December 2020

STATUS

Niger has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Abdou Abarry, the permanent representative of Niger to the UN, signed the TPNW in New York on 9 December 2020.

UNIVERSALISATION

Niger has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Niger attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. It announced that its ratification of the treaty “is progressing and certainly high up the agenda”.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, Niger and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022,

Niger said that the TPNW must be perceived by all as “complementary” and “non-contradictory” to the NPT, and welcomed the convening of the first meeting of states parties “and its conclusions”.

“The signature and ratification of this instrument by all the nuclear powers would undoubtedly pave the way for the institutionalisation of a norm of prohibition in the field of nuclear weapons,” it said. “This, in general, will move our world away from the dreaded nuclear armageddon.”

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Niger did not formally participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the UN in New York in 2017 and thus did not vote on its adoption. In 2016, Niger voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Niger was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Nigeria

STATE PARTY

Signed: 20 September 2017

Ratified: 6 August 2020

In force: 22 January 2021

STATUS

Nigeria has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It was among the original 50 states parties to the treaty when it entered into force on 22 January 2021.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Geoffrey Onyeama, the foreign minister of Nigeria, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.

In an address to the UN earlier that week, Nigeria's president, Muhammadu Buhari, said: "The crisis in the Korean peninsula underscores the urgency for all member states, guided by the spirit of enthroning a safer and more peaceful world, to ratify without delay the [TPNW]."

Nigeria deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 6 August 2020, the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. In a message to commemorate the bombing, the Nigerian diplomat Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, speaking in his capacity as president of the UN General Assembly, called on "all member states to sign and ratify the [TPNW]".



Geoffrey Onyeama, the minister of foreign affairs of Nigeria, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN



Nigeria's federal executive council, chaired by the president, approves the TPNW ratification in 2019.

Nigeria was the equal 41st state to ratify or accede to the TPNW.

In 2021, Nigeria recalled the "historical entry into force" of the TPNW and said that it "remains proud to have participated in the process leading to its adoption, as well as being one of the first states to sign and ratify the treaty".

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Nigeria submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 20 February 2021 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state's nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, Nigeria has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

At the United Nations in 2020, Buhari urged states that have not yet done so “to quickly ratify the treaty for the actualisation of its important objective”.



Campaigners and government officials from West African states meet in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2019 to discuss universalisation of the TPNW. Photo: Benjamin Alutoho

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Nigeria participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. “The prohibition of nuclear weapon programmes is a necessary step towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons,” it said.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, Nigeria expressed full support for the TPNW: “Rather than undermine the NPT, the nuclear ban treaty offers a strong and complementary process in furtherance of the disarmament pathways of the NPT.”

In a closing statement to the conference, Nigeria and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Nigeria noted its role as a member of the “core group” of states that promoted the negotiation of the TPNW and reiterated its support for the declaration and action plan adopted at the first meeting of states parties.

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Nigeria urged “all members of the international community, especially nuclear-weapon states and those under the so-called ‘nuclear umbrella’, to seize the opportunity to sign and ratify the treaty at an early date and to pursue the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.”

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Nigeria participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, Nigeria described the initiation of the treaty-making process as “an epic accomplishment” after almost half a century “of minimal progress” in multilateral efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament.

In its closing statement, Nigeria said: “States both big and small must be united in reminding one another of the

overarching need to protect the ecosystem and demonstrate due diligence and consideration for others ... Nigeria, and indeed the entire continent of Africa, shall remain a nuclear-free zone.”

Nigeria, Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, and South Africa comprised a “core group” of states that played a leading role in bringing the negotiations about and ensuring their ultimate success.

In 2016, Nigeria co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.



Nigerian delegates converse at the UN headquarters in New York in June 2017 during the second round of TPNW negotiations. Photo: ICAN



Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the Nigerian ambassador to the United Nations, briefs the media on 7 July 2017 following the TPNW’s adoption. Photo: ICAN

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Nigeria was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the negotiations.

Rwanda

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Rwanda has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Rwanda has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”. (It abstained from voting on the resolution in 2019.)

In January 2022, the Association de Jeunes de Saint Charles Lwanga, in cooperation with the Commission Episcopale Justice et Paix, convened a workshop in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, with government officials and other stakeholders to discuss the TPNW. Following the meeting, the foreign ministry indicated that Rwanda would adhere to the treaty in due course.



ICAN partners in Rwanda convene a workshop with stakeholders in 2022 to promote adherence to the TPNW.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Rwanda did not participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and thus did not vote on its adoption.

In 2016, Rwanda was absent for the vote on the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

São Tomé and Príncipe

SIGNATORY

Signed: 20 September 2017

STATUS

São Tomé and Príncipe has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Urbino José Gonçalves Botelho, the then-minister of foreign affairs of São Tomé and Príncipe, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.



Urbino José Gonçalves Botelho, the then-minister of foreign affairs, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN

UNIVERSALISATION

São Tomé and Príncipe has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign and ratify the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

São Tomé and Príncipe participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, São Tomé and Príncipe was absent for the vote on the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

São Tomé and Príncipe was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Senegal

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Senegal has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Senegal has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.



ICAN representatives meet with the Senegalese ambassador in New York in 2022. Credit: ICAN

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Senegal attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, Senegal said that nuclear weapons “continue to place the world in the permanent threat of a nuclear

catastrophe”. “To achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament,” it added, “the states in possession of these arsenals must put an end to their modernisation.”

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Senegal welcomed the TPNW’s entry into force and the convening of its first meeting of states parties. “This treaty reinforces the nuclear disarmament pillar of the NPT and deserves the support of the entire international community,” it said.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Senegal participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Senegal voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Senegal was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Seychelles

STATE PARTY

Signed: 26 September 2018

Ratified: 9 July 2021

In force: 7 October 2021

STATUS

Seychelles has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has been legally bound by it since 7 October 2021.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Danny Faure, the then-president of Seychelles, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York on 26 September 2018. The cabinet of Seychelles approved ratification of the treaty on 1 July 2020, and the national assembly unanimously approved it on 30 June 2021. Seychelles deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 9 July 2021.

In introducing the parliamentary motion to approve the ratification, the leader of government business, Bernard Georges, said: “Seychelles has always been vulnerable to nuclear weapons. Ever since the island of Diego Garcia became a military base, Seychelles has been at the centre of nuclear weapons and, with numerous other military bases being set up in the region, we are surrounded by a nuclear presence.”



Danny Faure, the then-president of Seychelles, signs the TPNW in 2018. Photo: ICAN



Members of the national assembly unanimously approve ratification of the TPNW in 2021. Photo: National Assembly

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, Seychelles submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 3 March 2022 confirming that it does not own, possess, or control nuclear weapons, has never done so, and does not host any other state's nuclear weapons on its territory.

Per Article 12, Seychelles has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty "at the earliest possible date".

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Seychelles participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, Seychelles was absent for the vote on the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on "a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination".

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Seychelles was among 127 states that endorsed a "humanitarian pledge" in 2015–16 to cooperate "in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons". The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Sierra Leone

SIGNATORY

Signed: 22 September 2022

STATUS

Sierra Leone has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

David J Francis, the minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation of Sierra Leone, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York on 22 September 2022.



David J Francis, the minister of foreign affairs of Sierra Leone, signs the TPNW in 2022. Photo: Darren Ornitz

UNIVERSALISATION

Sierra Leone has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Sierra Leone welcomed the adoption and entry into force of the TPNW, which it said “serves as a complementary instrument to the [Non-Proliferation Treaty] and will end the long impasse in multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations”.

Sierra Leone noted that it was “an active participant” in the negotiations on the TPNW in 2017 and has continued “to support the treaty at every given opportunity”, including with its recent signature. “We call on all member states who have not done so to sign and ratify the TPNW. There is an urgent need to make concrete and systematic progress towards this end.”



ICAN discusses the TPNW with Anthony Brewah, Sierra Leone's attorney-general, in Geneva in 2021.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Sierra Leone was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Sierra Leone participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Sierra Leone co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

Somalia

NON-SIGNATORY

SUMMARY

Somalia has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

UNIVERSALISATION

Somalia has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution in the first committee in 2021 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Somalia did not formally participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and thus did not vote on its adoption.

In 2016, Somalia voted in the first committee of the UN General Assembly in favour of a draft resolution that ultimately established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Somalia was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

South Africa

STATE PARTY

Signed: 20 September 2017

Ratified: 25 February 2019

In force: 22 January 2021

STATUS

South Africa has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). It was among the original 50 states parties to the treaty when it entered into force on 22 January 2021.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Jacob Zuma, the then-president of South Africa, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.

In an address to the United Nations that same day, he said: “We are making a clarion call to all member states of the UN to sign and ratify the ban treaty in order to rid the world and humanity of these lethal weapons of mass destruction.”



Jacob Zuma, the then-president of South Africa, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN



Jerry Matthews Matjila, the permanent representative of South Africa to the UN, deposits the instrument of ratification in 2019. Photo: UNOLA

The national assembly of South Africa approved ratification of the TPNW in November 2018. Jerry Matthews Matjila, the permanent representative of South Africa to the United Nations, deposited the country’s instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 25 February 2019. South Africa was the 22nd state to ratify or accede to the TPNW.

In 2021, South Africa welcomed the entry into force of the “milestone” TPNW as “one of the most important developments towards nuclear disarmament” since the founding of the United Nations.

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, South Africa submitted a declaration to the UN secretary-general on 18 February 2021 confirming that it possessed nuclear weapons in the past but has not manufactured, stationed, or tested nuclear weapons since “voluntarily abandoning” its nuclear-weapons program in 1989.

Per Article 12, South Africa has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

At the United Nations in 2019, South Africa hailed the TPNW as “a bold and positive step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons” and urged all states to ratify it.

In August 2018, South Africa co-hosted in Pretoria a regional conference to encourage African states to join the TPNW. Delegations representing 20 states participated and “pledged to work with policymakers in capitals to effect the policy processes necessary to ensure signature and ratification of the [TPNW]”.



Luwellyn Landers, the then-deputy foreign minister of South Africa, speaks at an African regional conference in Pretoria in 2018 to promote the TPNW. Photo: DIRCO

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

South Africa participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. Alvin Botes, the deputy minister of international relations and cooperation, said: “It has indeed been a long journey and now we are finally here, working on the implementation of this vital treaty.”

“We must recognise that this treaty is the democratic wish of the overwhelming majority of UN member states and the people of the world. No longer should the world’s peoples be held hostage to the unspeakable terror of these weapons.”

South Africa and Malaysia were appointed co-chairs of an informal working group responsible for promoting universalisation of the TPNW ahead of the second meeting of states parties.

In this capacity, they co-facilitated a high-level signing and ratification for the TPNW in the margins of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2022. Five states signed and two ratified the treaty on this occasion.

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference in August 2022, South Africa hailed the TPNW’s entry into force in 2021 as a “historical moment”. It said that the momentum behind the treaty is “unstoppable”. “The TPNW’s intention is to stigmatise and delegitimise nuclear weapons based on the adverse and indefensible humanitarian consequences of their use,” it added. “Therefore, this treaty goes hand in hand with the intention of the NPT.” In a closing statement to the conference, South Africa and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

on 26 September 2022, South Africa described the TPNW as “a catalyst for much overdue progress in the disarmament pillar of the NPT, and in fulfilling the historic bargain between the nuclear-weapon states and the non-nuclear-weapon states.”

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, South Africa encouraged all states “to ratify the TPNW and join the community of nations that are committed to a world free of nuclear weapons. They have a moral duty to join and we have a moral duty to bring them in, under the TPNW umbrella.”

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

South Africa participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. It served as a vice-president of the bureau.

In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, South Africa hailed the treaty-making process as “a major milestone in the history of nuclear disarmament” and argued that a “higher norm on nuclear weapons can only strengthen international security”. It rejected as “illogical” and “morally unethical” the argument “that nuclear weapons are indispensable for the security of some states, but not for others”.

In its closing statement, South Africa said that it was its duty to vote yes to this treaty, quoting the anti-apartheid leader Desmond Tutu: “Disarmament is not an option for governments to take up or ignore. It is a moral duty owed by them to their citizens and to humanity as a whole.”

South Africa, Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, and Nigeria comprised a “core group” of states that played a leading role in bringing the negotiations about and ensuring their ultimate success. In 2016, South Africa co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.



The South African ambassador Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko briefs members of the press following the TPNW's adoption.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

South Africa was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

FORMER WEAPONS PROGRAMME

South Africa formerly possessed an arsenal of six nuclear weapons. It dismantled them prior to acceding to the NPT in 1991, recognising that its security was best achieved through disarmament. In 1994, the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed that South Africa had dismantled one partially completed nuclear weapon and six completed weapons.

South Sudan

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

South Sudan has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

UNIVERSALISATION

South Sudan has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution in 2021 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

South Sudan did not formally participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and thus did not vote on its adoption.

In 2016, South Sudan was absent for the vote on the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

Sudan

SIGNATORY

Signed: 22 July 2020

STATUS

Sudan has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Omer Mohamed Ahmed Siddig, the permanent representative of Sudan to the UN, signed the TPNW on 22 July 2020.

In October 2020, Sudan said that it “is currently undertaking its internal legal and administrative processes to ratify the treaty” and urged other states to become parties to the TPNW also.

UNIVERSALISATION

Sudan has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Sudan participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Sudan abstained from voting on the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Sudan was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Tanzania

SIGNATORY

Signed: 26 September 2019

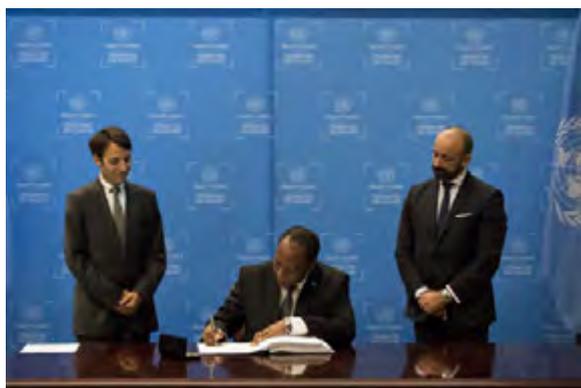
STATUS

Tanzania has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Palamagamba Kabudi, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Tanzania, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York on 26 September 2019. He remarked that “the treaty is important, not only because it complements existing international instruments on nuclear weapons, but also because it places those weapons on the same legal footing as other weapons of mass destruction”.

Tanzania announced in 2019 that its domestic process for ratifying the TPNW is under way. It reiterated this in 2021.



Palamagamba Kabudi, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Tanzania, signs the TPNW in 2019. Photo: ICAN

UNIVERSALISATION

Tanzania has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, and ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In 2021, Tanzania welcomed the TPNW’s entry into force as “a big milestone to see in human history”. It encouraged all UN members that have not yet joined the TPNW “to find a way to do so”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Tanzania attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022.

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Tanzania reiterated that its internal ratification process for the TPNW is “already ongoing”. It encouraged “more states to sign and ratify the treaty to make the dream of the world free from nuclear weapons realistic”.

“We are indebted to our children and their generation to witness this dream which for so long has been in deadlock but now, through the [TPNW], we can see the light ahead,” it said. “What is needed is mutual trust and transparency to achieve the goal.”

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Tanzania participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In its opening statement to the negotiating conference, Tanzania said that the use of nuclear technology “in weapon systems remains the worst nightmare to all of us” and poses “a great security risk to the entire humanity”.

In September 2017, Augustine Mahiga, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Tanzania, said: “Tanzania commends the recent adoption of the nuclear ban treaty, which puts nuclear weapons on the same legal ground as other weapons of mass destruction.” He added that “[w]e should all support this treaty”.

In 2016, Tanzania voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Tanzania was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Togo

SIGNATORY

Signed: 20 September 2017

STATUS

Togo has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Robert Dussey, the minister of state and minister of foreign affairs of Togo, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017. In 2019, Togo said that its ratification procedure for the treaty “is almost complete”. In March 2022, the Togolese chapter of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom convened a training workshop in the capital, Lomé, with government officials and civil society representatives to promote Togo’s ratification of the TPNW.



Robert Dussey, the minister of state and minister of foreign affairs of Togo, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN



The Togolese chapter of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom holds a workshop in 2022 to promote Togo’s ratification of the TPNW.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

In the first committee of the UN General Assembly in October 2022, Togo reaffirmed “its position in favour of complete, immediate, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament” and welcomed the successful convening of the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW in Vienna in June 2022, including the adoption of an action plan.

It highlighted the commitments on universalisation of the treaty, assistance to victims of nuclear weapons, measures to clean up the environment, international cooperation and assistance, gender mainstreaming, and an intersessional structure for implementation of the treaty.

UNIVERSALISATION

Togo has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.



ICAN meets with Dussey in Munich in 2020. Photo: ICAN

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Togo participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption. In 2016, Togo voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Togo was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Tunisia

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Tunisia has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Tunisia has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”. In 2021, Tunisia welcomed the TPNW’s entry into force and noted that it strengthens the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Tunisia delivered a statement on behalf of the Arab Group, which described the TPNW as “a very important treaty” and noted the active participation of Arab states in the work leading to the treaty’s adoption in 2017.

In November 2022, Panama, in accordance with its Article 12 obligation to promote universal adherence to the TPNW, recommended that Tunisia become a state party to the TPNW as part of the UN Human Rights Council’s universal periodic review.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Tunisia participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Tunisia voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Tunisia was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Uganda

NON-SIGNATORY

STATUS

Uganda has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

NATIONAL POSITION

Uganda has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

In a statement to the UN General Assembly in 2021, Uganda welcomed the adoption of the “landmark” TPNW, which it said complements other instruments, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968.

In October 2021, a motion urging the government of Uganda to sign and ratify the TPNW was submitted to the national parliament and referred to the parliament’s foreign affairs committee for review.

In November 2021, the Uganda Human Rights Commission submitted a report to the parliament recommending that Uganda become a state party to the TPNW.

The chairperson of the foreign affairs committee, Norah Bigirwa, said in February 2022 that more time was needed to examine the treaty: “The most critical

ministries have not been dealt with and yet their input is very critical if we are to have a report on this matter.”



The foreign affairs committee of the Ugandan parliament discusses the TPNW in 2021. Photo: NEMA

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Uganda participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Uganda voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Uganda was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Zambia

SIGNATORY

Signed: 26 September 2019

STATUS

Zambia has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Joseph Malanji, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Zambia, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York on 26 September 2019.

In 2017, the Zambian parliament's committee on national security and foreign affairs reviewed the TPNW and issued a report on its merits.



Joseph Malanji, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Zambia, signs the TPNW in 2019. Photo: ICAN

UNIVERSALISATION

Zambia has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

At the United Nations in 2021, the president of Zambia, Hakainde Hichilema, noted with satisfaction the entry into force of the TPNW, describing it as “a tangible feat towards advancing the cause of nuclear disarmament on the international stage”.

He added: “Zambia encourages other states that are yet to ratify the TPNW to come on board so that we can continue making advances towards achieving our aspirations towards eradicating nuclear weapons.”

At the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in August 2022, Zambia and 64 other TPNW supporters urged “all states committed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons to join the TPNW without delay”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Zambia participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 but was absent for the vote on its adoption. In an address to the United Nations in September 2017, the then-president of Zambia, Edgar Chagwa Lungu, congratulated all those “who worked so hard” to achieve the treaty. He said that Zambia looked forward “to witnessing its coming into effect”.

In 2016, Zambia co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Zambia was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.

Zimbabwe

SIGNATORY

Signed: 4 December 2020

STATUS

Zimbabwe has signed but not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

SIGNATURE

Frederick Musiwa Makamure Shava, the then-permanent representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations, signed the TPNW in New York on 4 December 2020. In October 2021, Zimbabwe announced that “consultations, as well as administrative processes, for ratification [of the TPNW] are at an advanced stage”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

Marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, Zimbabwe said that it was encouraged by the TPNW’s recent entry into force. “Our view is that the [TPNW] complements the Non-Proliferation Treaty and is an important contribution to the disarmament agenda,” it said. “We regret that nuclear-weapon states have not embraced that treaty and hope that, in due course, they will reconsider their positions.”

UNIVERSALISATION

Zimbabwe has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by co-sponsoring and consistently voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the treaty “at the earliest possible date”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Zimbabwe participated in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption.

In 2016, Zimbabwe voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to begin negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

BEFORE THE NEGOTIATIONS

Zimbabwe was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”. The pledge was instrumental in building momentum and support for convening the TPNW negotiations.



South African Delegation at the First Meeting of States Parties on the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna, 2022. Photo: ICAN | Alex Papis (2022)

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