This year showed us why speaking up against nuclear weapons matters.

2022 reminded the world that nuclear weapons are still a terrifying reality. Russia’s threats to use nuclear weapons and increased alert status of their arsenal shocked the globe. At ICAN, we immediately shifted to get everyone, and world leaders in particular, to speak up against nuclear weapons and condemn any threats to use them.

We worked tirelessly to mobilise governments and international organisations alike to prevent nuclear war this year. And the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) proved itself as a powerful tool to drive that stigmatisation. Starting with the outcome of the first meeting of states parties to the treaty, the increasingly strong global condemnation helped push Russia back from the edge of the nuclear abyss.

We are by no means clear of the danger -- the risk continues to be very high and the situation can change very quickly, based on the whim of any of the leaders of the nuclear-armed states. But our strategy of banning and delegitimising nuclear weapons, and creating a strong norm against them is working. And together with our partners and supporters around the world, ICAN will keep pushing until we eliminate these weapons of mass destruction altogether.
I’d rather be active today than radioactive tomorrow.
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2022 was the year many people realised that the threat of nuclear weapons was back. For those of us working on this issue though, this was just what we have been warning about for many years.

With Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, under the threat of nuclear weapons use, people and leaders could no longer pretend that everything is fine.

Some responded to this by calling for more nuclear weapons. But most people were – rightly – horrified. And this is where we can create opportunities.

ICAN’s mission has always been clear, but in 2022, our work became more meaningful. Our work to focus political and public attention on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, our work to prohibit nuclear weapons has never resonated so much with the public as right now.

You’ll often hear ICAN talk about how stigmatising nuclear weapons is so important and how the TPNW is a gamechanger in making it clear that they are abhorrent, illegitimate and unacceptable weapons. This year we saw how much that message is resonating – and the real-life impact it is having in preventing nuclear war.

It’s easy to feel like international law and forums like the United Nations are unable to have an impact at times like this. But that is far from the truth.

In 2022, the treaty helped stop Russia from using nuclear weapons. The strong global condemnation of nuclear threats and use of nuclear weapons we saw this year is based on the new international legal norm we achieved through the TPNW, and ICAN’s tireless work to advocate, promote, and mobilize our network to enable this progress.

When the then 65 member states of the TPNW met in Vienna in June, they issued the strongest condemnation of threats to use nuclear weapons that a UN body has ever made, declaring that any use of nuclear weapons would be unacceptable, and setting the bar high for how governments must respond to Russia’s threats. That unequivocal language came up again in August, when 147 states declared at the United Nations in New York that the use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable “under any circumstances.”

In the months that followed, even the nuclear-armed states and their allies began to use this language, From the Secretary-General of NATO, to President Xi Jin Ping and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, to the G20. The strength and universality of this response took Russian leadership aback, and in late October, we saw Putin walk back his threats. Both the US State Department and Chancellor Scholtz that the strong international condemnations shifted Russia’s behaviour. You can read more about it on page 18 of this report.
We are by no means clear of the danger -- the risk continues to be very high and as we have experienced this year, the situation can change very quickly in any of the nuclear-armed states based on the whim of one of their leaders. We will not be safe until all nuclear weapons are eliminated, but for now, please do not forget that our work - and the support you have given us - has contributed to preventing nuclear weapons from being used this year.

Our strategy of banning and delegitimising nuclear weapons, and creating a strong norm against them to allow for their elimination is working.

And it's working because of you.

Thank you for your support.

Beatrice

Beatrice Fihn
Partners and Supporters
Around the World

Partner Organisations
In 2022, ICAN grew to 661 partners in 110 countries. We welcomed new organisations that work on human rights, environment, political and youth issues and more in Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Switzerland, Tunisia, USA, Vanuatu.

Financial Sector
In 2022, 47 financial institutions and institutional investors, representing $4.6 trillion assets under management, explicitly supported the TPNW through policies and statements, up from 8 investors citing the treaty in 2021.

661 partners worldwide
110 countries
Parliamentary Pledges

141 parliamentarians have joined the parliamentary pledge in 2022. These new supporters come from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden and the UK. However, as expected, some of our signatories are no longer in office. The total number of sitting members of parliament supporting the TPNW is currently 1059, and a total of 2156 pledge signatories overall.

Cities

108 cities and municipalities have adopted the ICAN Cities appeal in 2022, bringing the total to 632 cities. 3 from Argentina, 3 from Australia, 16 in Belgium, 3 from Canada including Ottawa, 1 in France, 56 Greece cities and 9 Norwegian, 2 Spanish, 3 in the UK plus the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, as well as 12 in the US including the state of Rhode Island.
A single nuclear warhead has the capacity to kill hundreds of thousands of people, with devastating humanitarian and environmental effects in the long run. China, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan and North Korea all quantitatively increased their nuclear arsenals in 2022, while all nuclear-armed states engaged in qualitative upgrades to their nuclear weapons. Sweden and Finland were added to this year’s list of nuclear-endorsing states because of their decisions to incorporate nuclear weapons into their security policies.

* Source: Federation of American Scientists, mid-2021 estimate
Universalising the TPNW

In the 50-point Vienna Action Plan adopted by TPNW States Parties in June 2022, member states resolved, as the very first action, “[t]o make universalization efforts a priority of States parties,” with efforts focused on increasing the number of signatures and ratifications.

Throughout 2022, steady progress was made toward further universalising the membership and the norms of the TPNW. Fifteen states took treaty actions, including nine new ratifications, from Cabo Verde, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Malawi, and Timor-Leste. Guatemala’s ratification established Central America as the first region where all countries have joined the TPNW. In addition, a further five countries signed the TPNW in 2022: Barbados, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, and Sierra Leone.

ICAN expects a number of new countries to sign and ratify the TPNW in 2023, in advance of the second Meeting of States Parties.

Beyond new signatures and ratifications, we saw governments and civil society use the TPNW to affect norms and behaviour even in states not party, for example, as a basis for condemning nuclear threats, hindering use, and stigmatising and delegitimising possession.

In 2022 the TPNW welcomed

- **Ratifications:** Cabo Verde, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Malawi, and Timor-Leste.
- **Signatories:** Barbados, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, and Sierra Leone.

**TPNW as of 31.12.2022**

- 68 states parties
- 91 signatories

Combined population of the states that have joined the Treaty

1.36 billion people (approx.)
By invading Ukraine on 24 February, Russia rejected its core commitment under the UN Charter not to use force and to respect state sovereignty, and it brandished its nuclear weapons to prevent any state from intervening. The invasion was immediately followed by the placement on high-alert status of Russian nuclear forces and a strategic nuclear weapons exercise where Russia practised dropping weapons of mass destruction on civilians.

Within days of the invasion, President Putin said: "No matter who tries to stand in our way... Russia will respond immediately, and the consequences will be such as you have never seen in your entire history," in a thinly-veiled threat to use nuclear weapons. In early March, Dmitry Medvedev reiterated that Moscow’s nuclear doctrine does not require an enemy state to use such weapons first. Shockwaves reverberated around the world and people immediately started to search how to make bomb shelters. Across Europe, iodine tablets flew off pharmacy shelves as people tried to prepare for the worst.

ICAN immediately and repeatedly condemned the invasion, and threats to use nuclear weapons. Mobilising our vast campaign network, we made sure resources were widely available about nuclear weapons effects, nuclear policies, and how to deal with the overwhelming anxiety caused by overt nuclear threats. ICAN translated parts of its website into Russian, to make sure that facts about nuclear weapons were available.

ICAN’s expertise on the humanitarian crisis that any use of nuclear weapons would
cause was widely sought after. ICAN was also widely present in the media, appearing on major television news and radio stations across the globe and in newspapers and magazines. A joint statement with 2021 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dmitry Muratov condemning the urgent threat created by Putin’s reckless nuclear actions and rhetoric and calling on Russia to join the TPNW on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), originally published in Novaya Gazeta, was picked up across Europe.

ICAN also built on earlier outreach efforts in eastern Europe. High-level meetings, including with Belarusian human rights activist and opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya discussed the disturbing threats of nuclear weapons deployment in Belarus and the importance of the TPNW.

While nearly all countries speaking at the Emergency 11th Special Session of the UN General Assembly in New York condemned Russian aggression, states parties to the TPNW explicitly included the nuclear threats. A joint statement by thirteen signatory or states parties to the TPNW resolutely rejected the Russian orders to raise the readiness levels of its nuclear forces, highlighting the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the critical international treaties to constrain nuclear behaviour—the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the TPNW, the latter which “expressly prohibits any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.”
Centring those affected by nuclear weapons

With nuclear tensions at an all-time high, in 2022, at the centre of ICAN’s advocacy were the people most impacted by nuclear weapons - those who have personally experienced their catastrophic consequences.

New online resources on the global impact of nuclear weapons use and testing launched in 2022 help to further share the stories of survivors and highlight their calls for abolition and restitution to diplomats, students and the media.

ICAN’s map-based, interactive website provides information on every site where nuclear weapons were tested, coupled with scientific analysis of their humanitarian and environmental impacts and survivor stories and interviews, and was displayed at the United Nations in New York and Vienna.

The TPNW emerged from concerns for the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, so for the first Meeting of States Parties, ICAN’s delegation included many representatives from affected communities. Those with first-hand knowledge of nuclear weapons were at the forefront of events and discussions, from ICAN’s civil society forum to the governmental meetings.

Their powerful interventions led to the adoption of a ground-breaking action plan - with specific commitments from states to closely consult with affected communities and fourteen actions to take forward obligations to provide assistance to victims of nuclear weapons use and testing and begin to remediate contaminated environments.
This successful first meeting sets the stage for work in the years to come to provide tangible help for generations of people around the world, from Asia to the Pacific to Africa, harmed by nuclear weapons.

ICAN facilitated the presentation and participation of members of affected communities at the Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference - in the only panel at the elite policy conference to address the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

Throughout the year, ICAN lifted up the voices of Ukrainians and Eastern Europeans - those directly threatened by Putin’s nuclear weapons and escalated rhetoric - to highlight their experiences and views on nuclear disarmament.

We facilitated the participation of two young Ukrainian experts on nuclear policy to attend and speak to the 10th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and supported four researchers from Russia, Ukraine, Poland and the Czech Republic to produce fresh analysis on nuclear disarmament in their region. In response to Belarusian president Lukashenko’s move to erase Belarus’ nuclear-free-status from its constitution, we worked with opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya to educate and mobilise Belarusian people and international community about this undemocratic and worrying change.
Mobilising the resistance: Nuclear Ban Week Vienna

‘Nuclear war? Nuclear Ban! It’s your choice’ was the theme of the Nuclear Ban Week in Vienna. From 18-23 June 2022, ICAN brought together people from over 100 countries to mobilise against Russia’s nuclear threats and the increasing danger of nuclear war and to implement the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The new nuclear threats demonstrated that nuclear weapons do not create security, but rather serve as a tool of terror and blackmail. The world urgently needed a realistic plan for the abolition of nuclear weapons that includes governments, elected politicians, international organisations, financial institutions, civil society, and nuclear-weapons-impacted communities. In Vienna we developed one!

Young people, old and new campaigners, representatives from nuclear-impacted communities, civil society organisations, artists, scientists, academia, parliamentarians, representatives from financial institutions, state representatives, and members of the general public gathered in Vienna to work on a reality-based plan to get rid of nuclear weapons.

Together with ICAN Austria, ICAN organised a week of events including: the Nuclear Ban Forum, the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, the Parliamentary Forum, the Youth Forum, and the first ever Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the TPNW.
For those who couldn't make it to Vienna, we provided livestreams, opportunities for meaningful remote participation and twice daily wrap-ups via MSP-TV.

The first Meeting of States Parties to the UN TPNW was also the first time governments came together in a nuclear weapons focused conversation since Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine. ICAN brought together all parts of society to say a loud, unequivocal "no" to these weapons of mass destruction. We were determined to make sure that the TPNW set off on the right foot on the road to stigmatising, delegitimising and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide.

In the Vienna Declaration, states parties expressed their alarm and dismay at threats to use nuclear weapons, and condemned “any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances”. The Vienna Action Plan contains 50 specific actions for taking forward the mission of the treaty and realising the commitments made in the Vienna Declaration. These documents represent the strongest international framework to provide assistance to victims of nuclear weapons use and testing and remediate contaminated environments and the most inclusive effort for nuclear disarmament in history.

From Latin America to the Pacific to the north Atlantic, ICAN mobilised states, civil society and impacted communities to stand with TPNW states parties and declare “We will not rest until the last state has joined the Treaty, the last warhead has been dismantled and destroyed and nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated from the Earth.”
Preventing nuclear war

As the world was faced with the increased risk of nuclear war, ICAN worked hard to prevent this from happening. We continuously stigmatised nuclear weapons and brought the TPNW and the Vienna Declaration forward as effective tools.

Stigmatising is not just empty rhetoric. It has been shown to influence the behaviour of nuclear-armed states. Initiated by the TPNW states parties and ICAN’s work, the world followed and set out a strong stigmatising process during the year.

In June 2022, the then 65 states parties to the TPNW condemned any and all nuclear threats through the Vienna Declaration - thus far the strongest condemnation of nuclear weapons of any UN forum. The declaration emphasised that any use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable under any circumstances and thereby raised the bar for other governments to appropriately respond to Russia’s threats.

This effort was continued at the Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in August 2022, where 147 states, TPNW members and others, declared that the use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable “under any circumstances”.
This language introduced by the TPNW then shaped the rhetoric of leaders from nuclear armed states and their allies. Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary-General of NATO said in September 2022 that “any use of nuclear weapons is absolutely unacceptable”. This is the first time that a NATO Secretary General has condemned the threats to use nuclear weapons in such clear language.

The TPNW’s condemnation of nuclear threats was echoed in a speech by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in October 2022: “We need to give a clear answer to nuclear threats: They are dangerous for the world, and the use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable”. Scholz condemned the use and threat to use nuclear weapons as the first head of government of a country that has nuclear weapons stationed on its territory, showcasing that the TPNW’s norms reach countries that have not yet adhered to the treaty.

The stigmatising power of the TPNW impacts even nuclear armed states’ behaviour. In October 2022, China’s President Xi Jinping called on the world to “jointly oppose the use of, or threats to use, nuclear weapons”, echoing the TPNW’s provisions. Further, Indian Prime Minister Modi reportedly cancelled a meeting with Russian President Putin over objections to Russian threats to use nuclear weapons to shield its invasion of Ukraine in November 2022.

In Indonesia in November 2022, the G20, which includes many nuclear-armed and nuclear-endorsing states, asserted that threats and use of nuclear weapons is “inadmissible”, a clear paraphrasing of the language set in Vienna by the TPNW states parties.
This demonstrates how the TPNW shapes global nuclear weapons policies for the good. A similar meeting of the G7 taking place in May 2022, hence before the Meeting of State Parties of the TPNW, failed to adopt such a condemnation. It was only after the TPNW set the new stigmatising norm, that even the nuclear weapons states and their closest allies were pressured to agree on clear language regarding the condemnation of nuclear weapons threats.

Governmental and public pressure on Russia achieved significant progress in getting Russian President Putin to walk back some of the threats to use nuclear weapons by December 2022, stating that Russia would not be using nuclear weapons. While the risk of nuclear war continues to be high, this example shows how the TPNW and the process of stigmatising nuclear threats can help prevent nuclear war.
ICAN was able to use the media – TV, radio, print and online – extensively to get its message out about the need for any and all nuclear threats to be condemned as unacceptable and the TPNW, being the best route to nuclear disarmament, as well as the devastating impact on people and the environment of nuclear weapons use, testing and production.

Ukraine invasion – condemning nuclear threats
Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine under cover of the blatant threat to use nuclear weapons against any country trying to intervene meant the condemnation of any and all nuclear threats, which are explicitly banned by the TPNW, became a key message to the media. In response to the invasion, ICAN intensified its media outreach and the significant increase in global anxiety about nuclear war saw the media from all around the world seeking ICAN’s perspective on the nuclear threat.

Beatrice Fihn co-authored an opinion article with our fellow Nobel Laureate, Dmitry Muratov, Editor of Novaya Gazeta in his newspaper calling on Russia to rescind its nuclear alert order, withdraw from Ukraine, commit never to deploy nuclear weapons in Europe and eliminate its nuclear weapons.

The ongoing war in Ukraine and further Russian threats meant ICAN’s views remained relevant to media coverage and top tier outlets carried interviews and quotes from our spokespeople both in response to developments and as a result of our media outreach. We also placed a number of comment articles by ICAN spokespeople.
Sought after expertise
The media also sought out ICAN’s expertise on a number of its core issues, including how much is spent on nuclear weapons, which countries have what weapons, how the TPNW works and the humanitarian and environmental impact of nuclear weapons testing and use.

Growing campaign
The prominence of voices calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons led to renewed media interest in the anti-nuclear movement and in understanding how it has changed since the 1980s that resulted in some very positive reporting on ICAN in influential media outlets.
In 2022, ICAN became a go-to place to look for information about the risk of nuclear war following the Ukraine invasion and the threats to use nuclear weapons, and what people can do about it. On all our social media channels we responded to concerns from all over the world through explainers, interactive infographics, action pictures of campaigners and videos which made the issue of nuclear weapons accessible, and helped us reach new audiences. We responded to nuclear threats with the message that they are unacceptable, provided key facts about nuclear arsenals and the impact of any nuclear weapons use, countered the nuclear deterrence narrative, and of course, we leveraged this moment to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences and the need for the TPNW and highlight opportunities to take action.

Ukraine Invasion and Nuclear Threats

The Ukraine issue and Putin’s nuclear threats raised a lot of questions around what was happening. To answer some of these pressing issues we shared explainers about the nuclear threats, Russia’s nuclear arsenals, what tactical nuclear weapons are, campaigners’ action on the topic and more. A major issue was misinformation around the use of nuclear weapons, specifically how their use wouldn’t be “that bad”, we pushed back by sharing our major healthcare report (see next section) illustrating what would happen in the event of a nuclear attack on major cities like Moscow.
We used our rapidly growing TikTok account to expose thousands of young people to sophisticated, convincing arguments for nuclear disarmament and to diverse voices in the debate, such as the energetic young group of Marshallese advocates from Reverse the Trend.

Nuclear Anxiety

With the constant exposure to news about nuclear weapons and the escalating nuclear threat, a lot of people developed feelings of anxiety and fear. That is why, with the help of a psychologist we put together a brief guide on how to handle the news on nuclear weapons and how to deal with worries of nuclear war.
**Affected communities**

With nuclear weapons and nuclear war being at the centre of conversation, so was the misinformed perception that nuclear weapons do not have a direct impact on people today. To counter that, we widely shared the powerful stories of affected communities and their activism for justice around the world. On all social media platforms we highlighted survivor participation during key moments, and featured their stories through photo and video, as well as tools like ICAN’s interactive map website and storytelling page: Nucleartestimpacts.org, icanw.org/survivingnucleartesting

**Climate and COP 27**

The UN climate conference, COP27 also provided an opportunity to create content highlighting the connections between climate change and nuclear weapons and the opportunities for the two movements to work together. We shared a diverse range of materials including explainers and videos as well as sharing the on-the-ground actions by young #nuclearban activists from the most affected areas and hosted a series of Instagram lives and Twitter spaces to reach broader audiences. icanw.org/survivingnucleartesting
At the end of day 2 of the #TPNW1MSP your MSP-TV host @leo_axt checks in with Australia and showcases ICAN's new map revealing the impacts of nuclear weapons testing with @azakre. #nuclearban
ICAN produced timely research resources to inform and influence media and policy discussions, as well as a significant new initiative to engage and support disarmament academics to challenge the nuclear status quo.

No Place to Hide: Nuclear Weapons and the Collapse of Healthcare Systems

Our February 2022 report, No Place to Hide: Nuclear Weapons and the Collapse of Healthcare Systems, revealed that the healthcare systems in ten major cities around the world would be desperately overwhelmed by the immediate impact of the detonation of just one nuclear weapon. ICAN’s international report inspired companion reports in Sweden and Canada and was featured in an article in the leading medical journal, The Lancet, about Ukraine’s healthcare system inability to respond to a nuclear attack.
Squandered: 2021 Global Nuclear Weapons Spending

ICAN’s third annual global nuclear weapons spending report showed significant increases in nuclear weapons spending around the world, and how the companies profiting invest in lobbying and think tanks to maintain support for exorbitant weapons spending. The report has become a reliable resource for media, and its launch was covered by major outlets including Al Jazeera and Newsweek, as well as in an op-ed by the co-authors in the South China Morning Post.

Capital condemnation of nuclear weapons

Two reports, co-produced with ICAN partner PAX, illustrated exactly how the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is shifting norms and forcing the financial sector to reexamine their priorities. Analysis of financial investment policies showed significant increases in institutional exclusions of controversial nuclear weapons producers, while an assessment of investments demonstrated a move away from long-term loans to the industry. Despite increases in nuclear weapons spending by governments, those contractors carrying out the work are increasingly stigmatised.

Critical Nuclear Weapons Scholarship

In 2022, ICAN launched the Critical Nuclear Weapons Scholarship program, awarding seven academic research grants to conduct and disperse original research to challenge the nuclear status quo. Projects range from a study of how racial bias impacts public opinion on nuclear weapons use to decolonial audio-documentary retelling of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement to an analysis of international media coverage of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In November, two of the inaugural ICAN scholars organised a Nuclear Connections Across Oceania conference at the University of Otago, bringing together academics and activists to discuss and address nuclear colonialism and nuclear imperialism in the Pacific.
Structure and Finances

ICAN is a broad, inclusive campaign, focused on mobilising civil society around the world to support the specific objective of prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons.


The funds ICAN receives in terms of donations and grants are used to support the organisation’s mission and are used in line with ICAN’s ethical investment policy and ICAN’s risk management policy. In addition, ICAN has developed a series of policies and codes of conduct to govern our work, such as ICAN’s Code of Conduct, ICAN’s Privacy Policy, ICAN’s Child Protection Policy, and ICAN’s Safeguarding Policy. We are grateful for the continued support of our generous partners and donors.

Grants and donations:
Canton de Geneve
Etica Bank
Heinrich Böll Stiftung
The Holy See
Ploughshares Fund

The Simons Foundation Canada
Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
Cynthia Arsenault

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Literary and Benevolent Institution
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Walden Foundation
6 Individual Donors

We also thank our generous individual and online donors.
Finances

Below is a preliminary report of our 2022 vs 2021 revenues and expenses. Our auditors examine the financial statements (balance sheet, statement of receipts and expenses and notes) annually to ensure that the accounts conform to the legal and statutory requirements. Our current auditors are RSM Audit Switzerland SA and ICAN’s 2022 audited Financial Statement will be available in April 2023.

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