

NUCLEARBAN **WEEK** VIENNA

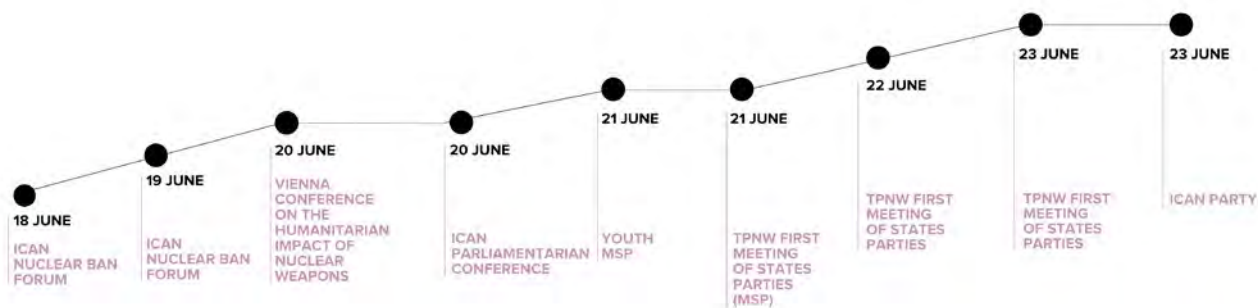
**A WEEK OF RESISTANCE,
CELEBRATION AND HOPE**

**18—23 JUNE 2022
VIENNA**



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A week to make the plan to end nuclear weapons

‘Nuclear war? Nuclear Ban! It’s your choice’ was the theme during Nuclear Ban Week In Vienna. From 18–23 June 2022, ICAN brought together people from over 100 countries: young people, old and new campaigners, representatives from nuclear-impacted communities, civil society organizations, artists, scientists, academia, parliamentarians, representatives from financial institutions, state representatives, and members of the general public to work on a reality-based plan to get rid of nuclear weapons.





As the civil society coordinator, ICAN together with ICAN Austria organised and participated in a week jam-packed with intriguing 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 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).



For those who couldn't make it to Vienna, we provided livestreams, opportunities for remote interaction and twice daily wrap-ups via MSP-TV.



NUCLEAR BAN WEEK VIENNA

#NUCLEARBAN

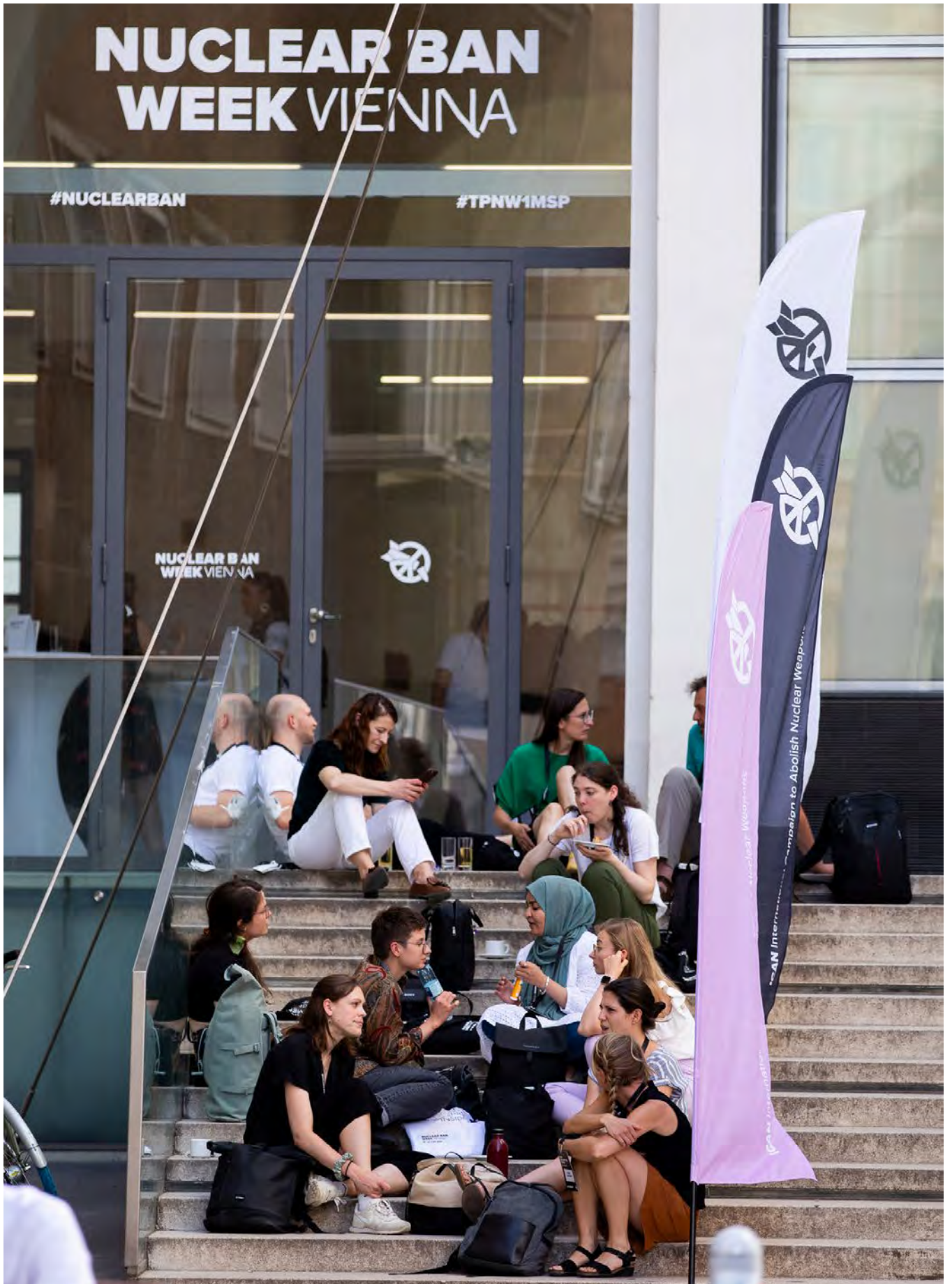
#TPNW1MSP

NUCLEAR BAN
WEEK VIENNA



AN International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

NUCLEAR BAN WEEK VIENNA



“The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is an important step towards the common aspiration of a world without nuclear weapons.

Your gathering this week brings together governments, but also civil society groups and other observers.

This wide participation reflects a central truth –

Disarmament is everybody’s business, because life itself is everybody’s business.”


UN Secretary-General António Guterres in his video message to the 1MSP



A leap forward for the norm against nuclear weapons

As governments gathered for the First Meeting of States Parties of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in Vienna, we brought together all parts of society, both in Vienna and around the world, to make our voices heard in 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 stigmatizing, delegitimizing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide, so we assembled in Vienna all the extraordinary talent, knowledge, energy and commitment of those working around the world to make this happen.



AGAINST
NUCLEAR WEAPONS!



Making the case, building the pressure

Civil society has always been instrumental in pushing governments to act on nuclear weapons, and the TPNW could not have been achieved without the global contributions of ICAN and its partners. So ICAN and ICAN Austria were determined to make sure that civil society gave the biggest possible boost to the first ever meeting of states parties of the treaty, and to help set the treaty on the right path to achieving its goals!

The ICAN Nuclear Ban Forum brought together more than 600 people, young and old, experienced campaigners and new enthusiasts, civil society organizations, representatives from impacted communities, academia, parliamentarians, government representatives and the general public, with a single aim: making real progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

After several years of online organising, the halls were packed with people keen to learn, strategize and connect with one another and bring about this shared vision. We shared information on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use and testing, including the ongoing impacts for communities, international law and human rights. We strategized and collaborated for future action on ways and means to permanently eliminate the nuclear weapons threat. We discussed new intersectional approaches to the abolition of nuclear weapons across different contexts, cultures and generations. We explored connections with other issues and movements—including climate change, racial justice, and anti-colonialist efforts. We shared analysis and insights on the treaty's unique features, such as victim assistance, gender, and environmental remediation.

Participants could choose from over 50 sessions with over 100 speakers including young people, social media influencers, survivors of nuclear weapons, climate activists, artists, academia, bankers, scientists, legal experts, economists, politicians, and state representatives and more. There were films, music, and virtual connections with hubs in Australia and Japan. The Nuclear Ban Forum informed and empowered, inspired and equipped, and forged a cohesive, capable, energized community ready to confront these challenging times of nuclear threats and to push ahead with implementing the TPNW and eliminating nuclear weapons once and for all.







Centering the humanitarian impact

The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons motivated and inspired the creation of the TPNW – and now must drive and guide its implementation. So it was only fitting that Austria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the 2022 Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons the day before the 1MSP. Building on the ground-breaking international conferences in Norway, Mexico and Austria in 2013 and 2014, the conference explored and further developed the evidence-based understanding of the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons.

People from impacted communities were front and centre. Kido Sueichi, a nuclear bombing survivor from Japan, Danity Laukon, an impacted representative from the Marshall Islands, and Karipbek Kuyukov, born without arms as a result of nuclear radiation exposure from Soviet nuclear testing in Kazakhstan, shared their lived experiences to open the conference.

Their testimonies put a human face on the facts and data, helping us all to better understand the true humanitarian and environmental costs of nuclear weapons.

The Humanitarian Impact conference brought together over 800 representatives from 80 countries. It recognised that there is still ongoing community harm as a result of nuclear testing, concluded decades ago. The conference also noted there are still gaps in global understanding about the compound harms of nuclear weapons, and that more research is needed on the interplay between short-, mid- and long-term effects of nuclear use and testing. It emphasized that the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons highlight the urgency and significance of the nuclear threat, which has recently been exacerbated by Russia's actions. The risk underscores the fragility of a security paradigm based on the theory of nuclear deterrence; Russia's invasion of Ukraine shows that nuclear weapons do not prevent wars, but rather embolden nuclear-armed states to start them – with the potential for global catastrophe.







“Communities downwind like me, my family, my friends, my neighbours have had our lives shattered by nuclear weapons. It is so incredibly important that we as survivors be included in these conversations because we know what these weapons did. I think our stories are so incredibly important. I really do believe that by including us and letting us share our stories and what happened to us, and how we’ve lost so many people...without that we will not see the end of nuclear weapons.”

Mary Dickson, Downinder and nuclear testing survivor advocate



Building the treaty membership

As the membership of the TPNW increases, the norm it embodies—stigmatizing and delegitimizing nuclear weapons—grows stronger. Universalization of the treaty is therefore a priority for states parties and ICAN alike. Three states, Timor-Leste, Grenada, and Cabo Verde, deposited their instruments of ratification on the eve of the 1MSP. Several governments who attended the 1MSP as observers expressed their intention to join the treaty.

Universalisation was a focus of activity before and during the 1MSP. To seize the momentum of the MSP and support new parties joining the treaty, South Africa and Malaysia were appointed to lead work on treaty universalisation. ICAN is working closely with these co-facilitators to bring more states on board. A first effort since the 1MSP was cooperation on a signing ceremony on the margins of the UN General Assembly, in which five states signed the treaty and two others deposited their instruments of ratification.

“The world must heed the message at the heart of the treaty. There is no such thing as a nuclear peace. The solution must move from mutually assured destruction to mutually assured disarmament. The 89 countries that have signed or ratified [the TPNW] have answered this call to action and I urge all states to do the same, and to engage with the treaty in pursuit of our shared goal of world without nuclear weapons.”

Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand in a video message to the Nuclear Ban Forum

Parliamentarians speak out for the TPNW

Parliamentarians around the world played a vital role in creating the TPNW and bringing it into force. Now they play an equally important role in implementing the treaty and building its membership. So ICAN convened the first ever Parliamentarians for the TPNW conference on the eve of the 1MSP.

A total of 30 parliamentarians from 16 countries, including 9 NATO countries, discussed common challenges for nuclear disarmament under the TPNW in their countries, and exchanged views on strategies and actions to overcome those. They agreed to work to build support among colleagues for the TPNW, to persuade their governments to join, and to speed the processes of ratification. They adopted a Parliamentarians' Action Plan, and Merle Spellerberg, Member of the German Bundestag (Parliament), delivered a joint statement to the MSP on behalf of the group.

“We will work to build support among parliamentarians for the Treaty, to persuade our governments to join, to create conducive conditions for disarmament and to speed the processes of ratification. We will emphasise the role of the TPNW in complementing and reinforcing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and we will continue to support all measures that contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and reduce nuclear risks. We will engage constructively with policy makers in nuclear-armed states and their allies, in the interest of enhancing international security and making progress towards our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.”

The Parliamentarians' Action Plan outlines actions to advance nuclear disarmament and to make the TPNW more prominent in their countries, including parliamentary work, such as motions or resolutions, but also advocacy through media engagement, networking with other parliamentarians and stakeholders, and joining the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge.





The MSP: Building an ambitious Action Plan

The First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW was a landmark event in the history of the treaty, and in the broader global effort to eliminate nuclear weapons. The 1MSP embodied the underlying philosophy of the treaty: nuclear disarmament is not something that can be left to the nuclear-armed states; it is the responsibility of all countries and all people. The 1MSP was the most inclusive international treaty meeting on nuclear weapons ever, and a powerful demonstration of the benefits of true collaboration between governments and civil society.

ICAN Executive Director Beatrice Fihn delivered a high level opening address, and during the general debate representatives from communities impacted by nuclear weapons use and testing spoke in several of the civil society interventions, including nuclear weapon survivors from Japan and youth from the Marshall Islands. The involvement of the impacted community at the 1MSP and their advocacy shifted the conversation and led to the development and adoption of the strongest international framework to provide assistance to victims of nuclear weapons use and testing and remediate contaminated environments in history.

“What we have prohibited, we must now work to eliminate. As we cooperated to make the treaty, we must now work together to implement it. With determination and energy, during this meeting, and in the months and years ahead.”

Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN addressing the 1MSP.



Breaking through the opposition by bringing in observer states

From the outset, the TPNW has faced strong and active opposition from nuclear-armed states and their allies which depend on nuclear weapons. ICAN works hard to confront and disarm this opposition, and the fact that the TPNW is in force with 68 states parties and 92 signatories is testament to the dedication and persistence of our campaigners. ICAN campaigners in states that are not yet parties to the treaty lobbied their governments to encourage them to attend the 1MSP as observers, in order to demonstrate political support for the TPNW. In spite of pressure from behind the scenes not to observe, the presence of NATO states and those states that have strong ties to the nuclear powers was particularly significant. Due to public pressure, some observer states decided to join at the last minute.

The 1MSP was attended by 49 States Parties. Additionally, 34 observer states participated, namely: Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Libya, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Qatar, Senegal, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Tanzania and Yemen. Also present were UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations funds and programmes and civil society organisations (including representatives from impacted communities, the financial sector, young people, parliamentarians, academia, and scientific community).

The Financial sector adds its voice

Financial institutions and investors took up a role as stakeholders in the TPNW and sent a strong message of support and solidarity to the 1MSP. They highlighted divestment as a way to implement the TPNW's prohibition on assistance with the production, development and manufacture of nuclear weapons, stating that:

“The human rights risks associated with nuclear weapons are severe and irremediable, and the companies producing key components for nuclear arsenals are contributing to these human rights risks. It would be illogical to prohibit the production of nuclear weapons without prohibiting the financing that enables the production to proceed.”

The Responsible Investors Statement was supported by 37 signatories including asset owners, asset managers and investor alliances representing approximately EUR 230 Billion assets under management (AUM). Institutions from Australia, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the US signed onto the statement. While financial sector actors have played a valuable role in other efforts for sustainability and human rights, this is the first time investors have come to a weapons-related treaty and stood alongside impacted communities and concerned governments to condemn nuclear threats and commit to action. We are excited about the potential for future action!

Etica Funds – Responsible Investments

Signed by 37 investors representing circa EUR 230 Billion in assets under management

A	Alternative Bank Switzerland (ABS)	Folksam		
	Australian Ethical Investment	Fondazione Finanza Etica	S	(Rail & OV)
	Azzard Asset Management	Fondo Pensione Pegaso		Seva Foundation
B	Bank für Kirche und Caritas eG	Forma Futura Invest AG		Seventh Generation
C	Change Finance, PBC	Friends Fiduciary Corporation		Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment
	Cruelty Free Super Cultura Bank	Future Super		SfC – Shareholders for Change
D	Domini Impact Investments	G		Sisters of Bon Secours USA
	Dominican Sisters~	Green Future Wealth Management		Sisters of Mary Reparatrix
	Grand Rapids	H		Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
E	Ethius Inverst Switzerland	Impact Investors, Inc.		Socially Responsible Investment Coalition
F	Fair-finance Vorsorgekasse AG	I		Swedbank Robur Fonder AB
		Investor Advocates for Social Justice		U
		K		U Ethical
		KLP		V
		KPA Pension		Verve Super
		N		Z
		Niederösterreichische Vorsorgekasse AG		Zevin Asset Management
		P		
		Pensioenfonds Rail & Openbaar Vervoer		



Mapping the way forward

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Action Plan. Both reflect the involvement and advocacy of the impacted community at the 1MSP.

In the Vienna Declaration, states parties expressed their alarm and dismay at threats to use nuclear weapons, and condemned unequivocally “any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances.” Affirming that the TPNW is needed more than ever in these circumstances, the states parties resolved to “move forward with its implementation, with the aim of further stigmatizing and de-legitimizing nuclear weapons and steadily building a robust global peremptory norm against them.” The Declaration concluded that “In the face of the catastrophic risks posed by nuclear weapons and in the interest of the very survival of humanity ... 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.”

The Vienna action Plan contains 50 specific actions for taking forward the mission of the treaty. The Action Plan includes actions on Universalisation; victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance; scientific and technical advice in support of implementation; supporting the wider nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime; inclusion; and implementation of the treaty’s gender provisions.

The meeting also established a Scientific Advisory Group, to advance research on nuclear weapon risks, their humanitarian consequences and nuclear disarmament, and a program of intersessional work on Universalisation, victim assistance, environmental remediation, and international cooperation and assistance, and nuclear disarmament verification.

Highlights from the Vienna Declaration

- States parties expressed their alarm and dismay at threats to use nuclear weapons, and condemned unequivocally “any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances.”
- The Declaration concluded that “In the face of the catastrophic risks posed by nuclear weapons and in the interest of the very survival of humanity ... 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.”

Highlights from the Vienna Action Plan

Getting more countries to join the TPNW

- States commit to making universalisation a priority, including by conducting diplomatic outreach visits with other countries that haven’t joined yet, highlighting the importance of the TPNW in statements at the UN and getting more countries to join UN General Assembly resolutions supporting the Treaty, and coordinating with all relevant partners including ICAN.

Eliminating nuclear weapons

- States agreed to set a deadline of 10 years for the elimination of nuclear weapons when nuclear-armed states join the TPNW and 90 days for the removal of weapons from host states when they join the Treaty. A Scientific Advisory Group will advise states parties on nuclear disarmament verification and other key issues.

Helping people and places harmed by nuclear weapons

- All states agreed to steps to create a framework for implementation, including closely consult with affected communities at all stages and examining how to establish an international trust fund to fund this work. States that consider themselves affected by nuclear weapons use and testing agreed to start reviewing the impacts of nuclear weapons use in their country by the second meeting and developing a national plan to address them.

Inclusion of civil society, particularly affected communities

- In addition to the references to inclusion throughout the outcome documents, there is a specific section of actions to ensure that all this work is inclusive and transparent, including working with ICAN and facilitating the active participation of relevant stakeholders, taking into account the different needs of people in affected communities and Indigenous peoples.

Progressive approach to gender and disarmament

- The Vienna Action Plan commits states to turn their commitment to gender equity to action, including by appointing a Gender Focal Point to coordinate the implementation of gender provisions.

The most diverse UN nuclear weapons meeting ever

For decades, the subject of nuclear weapons has been jealously guarded by governments, determined to frame nuclear weapons as a “serious” security issue, to be discussed only by “experts” in geopolitics and military strategy. The discussion has been dominated by Western countries and white male voices. Women, people of colour, people in developing countries, and people impacted by nuclear weapons use or testing have been largely excluded.

The TPNW has changed this forever. And the 1MSP was the embodiment of the principle that nuclear weapons affect everyone, so everyone’s voice counts and must be included. ICAN worked with partners around the world to make this happen; to bring the world to Nuclear Ban Week, and to make the 1MSP the most diverse UN nuclear weapons meeting ever. The result? Energy, solidarity, determination and confidence. The hallways were buzzing!





Amplifying the voices of impacted communities

For decades, those most affected by nuclear weapons have too often been sidelined from some international discourse on nuclear disarmament. This has skewed many discussions and outcomes in favour of states claiming a need for nuclear weapons for security. When the silence is broken and better representation is achieved, the true picture of nuclear weapons emerges. This in turn opens the way to real action: to outlaw nuclear weapons, to take forward nuclear disarmament, and to help those that nuclear weapons have harmed. The TPNW has been unique in its deliberate inclusion of communities impacted by nuclear weapons use and testing throughout the entire process, from concept, to adoption, and now implementation.

As TPNW States Parties discussed a process for implementing their victim assistance and environmental remediation obligations, it was critical that they heard directly from those who had been impacted by these horrific weapons. ICAN brought representatives from affected communities to Nuclear Ban Week to enable their participation in multiple panels and events throughout the week,

to educate decision makers and the public about the human impact of nuclear weapon use and testing, and the legacy still contaminating communities today. During the 1MSP, ICAN launched www.nucleartestimpacts.org, an interactive map website showing the humanitarian and environmental impact at the different nuclear test sites around the world, and highlighting the community activism demanding assistance and remediation.

The 1MSP was groundbreaking in the way it provided a platform for affected community members to participate on an equal footing with other stakeholders. This resulted in a remarkably inclusive conference taking well-informed decisions on assistance and environmental remediation efforts in communities impacted by nuclear weapons use and testing, and resolving to continue close consultation with survivors as treaty implementation moves forward.

Bringing in the next generation

Nuclear weapons affect everyone, but it is young people who will bear the greatest cost if nuclear weapons are used. Young people around the world are rightly worried about the potential use of nuclear weapons, and unwilling to sit on the sidelines as others decide their future. So it was vital for ICAN to include young people in the Nuclear Ban Week so they could share their own perspectives, learn more about nuclear weapons issues from those who have been at the forefront of the struggle for nuclear disarmament, and meet and influence the decision-makers.

ICAN supported Youth for TPNW in organising a youth conference alongside the 1MSP. This brought together around 130 young people with a passion for nuclear disarmament from all over the world. Youth for TPNW is a global youth movement that works for the full implementation of the TPNW. It was founded with the objective of providing a platform for the voices of future leaders in the domains of peace activism, international relations, and nuclear disarmament.

The Youth for TPNW conference featured workshops, panel events, policy talks, and opportunities for intergenerational engagement, as well as advocacy initiatives articulating the needs of young people for the TPNW. The Youth for TPNW delegation also delivered a powerful speech to the 1MSP, urging governments to take real action for a world free of nuclear weapons, and to make sure they involve young people as they do so.

“It is vital for youth to be present at negotiating tables to contribute to the decision-making and policy-making processes. Our future is not guaranteed until all nuclear-armed states are held accountable. We, the leaders of today, are committed in the work towards establishing a world free of nuclear weapons.”

Youth Statement to 1MSP



Ensuring greater regional representation

Multilateral disarmament meetings are often dominated by wealthy countries which can afford to send large delegations. Since the TPNW was built on the principle that nuclear weapons affect all states and are therefore the responsibility of all states, ensuring wide and equitable representation at TPNW meetings is of fundamental importance to the successful implementation of the treaty. Similarly, civil society representation must reflect the geographically diverse membership of the treaty. ICAN, with the generous help from its donors was able to offer sponsorship to participants from around the world, including from impacted communities.





Leveraging new technologies to bring in voices from around the world

Nuclear Ban Week may have been held in Vienna, but the whole world could take part! ICAN provided content streaming for those who could not attend the events in Vienna. This enabled real-time, inclusive and interactive participation in the week's events for a wide range of organizations, affected communities, and individuals around the world.

MSP-TV, a twice-daily online report from the government meetings, provided key information and analysis for viewers at home. During the Nuclear Ban Forum, ICAN supported remote-led panels and interactive hubs in Japan and Australia, where survivors from impacted communities were able to share their stories with participants in Vienna, and with each other. Each event also used online tools to allow remote participants to ask questions in real time and to participate in polls. We maximized viewership by simultaneously using Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. ICAN also collaborated with the creators of the immersive virtual reality documentary "On the Morning you Wake," which followed the 2018 ballistic missile alert in Hawaii, to bring this unique storytelling experience to in-person attendees throughout the week.



“Our stories and hopes are stronger than your weapons and fears.”

“It’s crucial for us to continue on sharing those stories, it’s important to educate the broader community.”

Mia Haseldine, Kokatha woman, Aunty Sue Coleman-Haseldine, Kokatha elder, and Karina Lester, Yankunytjatjara-Anangu woman shared their personal and community stories of the intergenerational impacts of nuclear weapons testing from the Port Augusta Hub in Australia to the Vienna Nuclear Ban Forum and to Hibakusha gathered in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Building a bigger movement

With the risk of nuclear war at its highest, people everywhere are worried and scared. But they decided to act: they came to Vienna, whether in person or virtually, and they added their voices, talents and energy to our global movement to eliminate nuclear weapons. In huge numbers, we came together to make the plan. This is the biggest we've been and this shows how we are going to move ahead!



NUCLEAR
DISARMAMENT
BLUEPRINT
INSIDE.

**NUCLEAR BAN
WEEK VIENNA**
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Lefax



Amplifying our voices, old and new

Social media connects our movement together and brings new voices into our midst. For Nuclear Ban Week, we included a diverse group of young people from around the world in our content creation, to show what the week of events looked like from their perspective, and to emphasise the importance of youth involvement in this movement. We received over a million impressions on Twitter, over 100,000 unique audiences on Facebook, and over 35,000 on Instagram.

Nuclear Ban Week provided journalists with the most significant opportunity since the outbreak of the Ukrainian war to cover nuclear weapons issues from a variety of perspectives and to present their readers with action and hope, not just fear. The participation of survivors of nuclear weapons use and testing gave journalists direct access to first-hand experiences of the terrible consequences of nuclear weapons. Despite fierce opposition from the world's most powerful countries, journalists witnessed a daring and ambitious new treaty being brought to life. ICAN provided briefings and opportunities for journalists to cover the event, and facilitated interviews with ministers and senior officials from countries leading the effort to implement the TPNW.

Shifting the narrative with new perspectives

The ICAN Nuclear Ban Forum tackled nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament from an extraordinary range of angles and perspectives. Over two days, 40 speakers on four stages and 600 participants engaged in a kaleidoscopic exchange of knowledge, ideas, creativity and innovation. Speakers included renowned authors, physicists, legal experts, political scientists, sociologists, economists, diplomats, campaigners and survivors.

Presentations, workshops and town hall discussions examined themes such as the vulnerabilities exacerbated by the rising threat of the use of nuclear weapons, the illusion of nuclear deterrence, the power of international law, ways and means that make movements matter, and the implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its threats to use nuclear weapons. Participants left empowered, equipped, engaged and enthusiastic, ready to change the global narrative on nuclear weapons.

The ban is the plan!

Message from the Executive Director Beatrice Fihn

Good health, a safe place to rest, the sound of children laughing and playing – these are shared hopes for all of humanity. No matter where you are, these are what you want to protect. These are the very things that nuclear weapons put at risk.

In February 2022, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and threats to use nuclear weapons revived fears of a nuclear war and brought the horrific humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapon use to the forefront of the minds of the public. The illusion that nuclear weapons could ever keep peace or foster security was shattered overnight. The world watched in horror as Russia used its nuclear weapons to coerce and intimidate: to propagate aggression and provide cover for war crimes and human rights violations, leaving the international community powerless to intervene.

But in Vienna in 2022 we saw that the international community is not powerless. Governments gathered for the first time since the war in a dedicated meeting to talk about nuclear threats, nuclear weapons, and a path to their ultimate abolition. States parties and signatories to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and many others gathered in Vienna for the first time since the treaty entered into force in January 2021. ICAN was honoured to coordinate the Nuclear Ban Week Vienna, a week that showed the true potential of collective global action to eliminate nuclear weapons.



The results brought a ray of hope to otherwise dark times, as states and other key actors committed to a concrete action plan to implement obligations under the treaty, and designed a blueprint for nuclear disarmament. They agreed the first action plan on nuclear disarmament in over a decade and adopted the strongest multilateral condemnation of nuclear weapons threats to date, thus setting the tone and pace for global nuclear disarmament efforts. The unique focus of the treaty on victim assistance and environmental remediation – on the people and places still suffering from the effects of nuclear weapon tests – made the Nuclear Ban Week the epicentre of international action to rid the world 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 organizations, financial institutions, civil society, and nuclear-weapons-impacted communities. Now we have one. ICAN works with these stakeholders and many others to carry out this plan, to delegitimize nuclear weapons and achieve their total elimination. Together, ICAN and its partners, supporters and allies are pushing back against nuclear threats and planning the end of nuclear weapons. Thank you for being part of the movement.

Beatrice Fihn
Executive Director







About ICAN and ICAN Austria

The ICAN NuclearBan Forum was co-hosted by International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and ICAN Austria. ICAN is a coalition of over 650 non-governmental organizations from 110 countries that promotes adherence to and implementation of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for “drawing attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and “groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons – the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW),” ICAN has been instrumental in building strong political pressure and achieving a nuclear-free world.

ICAN Austria has been an ICAN partner since 2013, working with the global campaign to achieve and later promote the TPNW, and was instrumental to the organisation of events in Vienna, including the 2022 Nuclear Ban Week.

About the TPNW

On January 22, 2021, history was made when the TPNW entered into force rendering nuclear weapons illegal under international law. This was a victory for all people, made possible by decades of campaigning by civil society and the international community.

The TPNW includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities. These include undertakings not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. The Treaty also prohibits the deployment of nuclear weapons on national territory and the provision of assistance to any State in the conduct of prohibited activities. This is one of the most significant disarmament treaties to be negotiated and adopted at the UN, and its impact is progressing at a quick pace.





Imprint

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