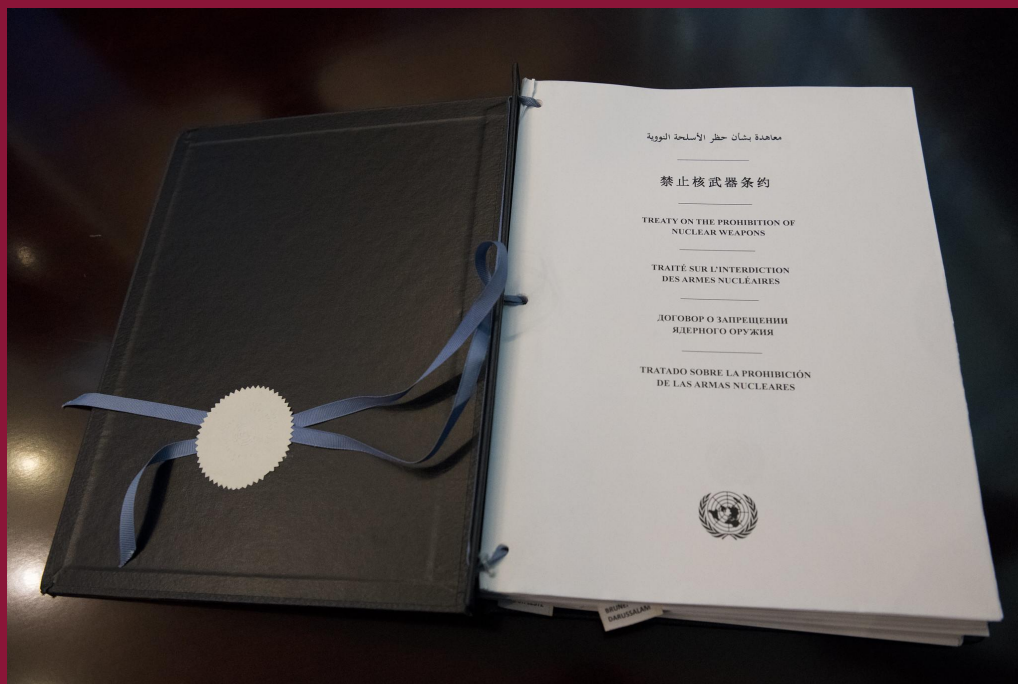


Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

The Support of Arab League States



May 2023

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Introduction

The **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** was negotiated at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and adopted with the support of 122 states, including 18 members of the League of Arab States: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. All Arab League states that are UN members voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution in 2016 that established the mandate to convene these historic negotiations.

The TPNW entered into force on 22 January 2021 following the deposit of the 50th ratification. In the words of the UN secretary-general, António Guterres, this was “an extraordinary achievement and a step towards the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons”. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the secretary-general of the League of Arab States, hailed the TPNW’s entry into force as an important addition to the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, while expressing hope that this development would “usher in a new phase and provide an incentive to intensify international efforts to achieve the ultimate goal of getting rid of nuclear weapons once and for all”. He added that “the time has come to intensify

“[I welcome] the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 22 January 2021 as an important addition to the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation system.”

– **AHMED ABOUL GHEIT,**
SECRETARY-GENERAL,
LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

international efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, which is fully compatible with the objectives of the [TPNW]”.

To date, 92 states have signed the TPNW and 68 have ratified or acceded to it, including the following Arab League members: **Algeria** (signatory), **Comoros** (state party), **Djibouti** (signatory), **Libya** (signatory), the **State of Palestine** (state party), and **Sudan** (signatory). Many other Arab League members have voiced their support for the TPNW in various international forums, and all have voted in favour of an annual resolution in the UN General Assembly calling on states to sign, ratify, or accede to the TPNW “at the earliest possible date”.

TPNW MEETINGS

In June 2022, nine Arab League states participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW in Vienna, either as parties or observers: Algeria, Comoros, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, the State of Palestine, and Yemen. The meeting adopted an ambitious 50-point action plan for the TPNW's implementation, with states parties agreeing to pursue universalisation as a priority.

The meeting also adopted a political declaration, which concluded with a pledge by states parties not to 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 second meeting of states parties is scheduled to take place in New York from 27 November to 1 December 2023. States that have not yet done so are being encouraged to sign and ratify, or accede to, the TPNW ahead of this meeting.

ILLEGAL WEAPONS

The TPNW codifies the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law. It also establishes, for the first time, a multilateral framework for the verifiable, time-bound elimination of nuclear-weapon programmes, as well as obligations to assist victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons and to remediate contaminated environments. Having entered into force, it is now a permanent component of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, and enjoys broad support from the international

community – support that will continue to grow over time.

In a statement marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2022, the Arab Group welcomed the TPNW as “a very important treaty” and noted the active participation of Arab states in the work leading to its adoption. The following month, in the first committee of the UN General Assembly, the Arab Group affirmed that the TPNW “represents a new customary source of international law governing the field of disarmament” and closes a major legal gap. It added that the TPNW “does not contradict” the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, but rather “complements it and pushes the achievement of its objectives”.

“We have no illusions about the challenges and obstacles that lie before us in realising the aims of [the TPNW], but we move ahead with optimism and resolve. In the face of the catastrophic risks posed by nuclear weapons and in the interest of the very survival of humanity, we cannot do otherwise. We will take every path that is open to us and work persistently to open those that are still closed. 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.”

– TPNW DECLARATION, 2022

A HUMANITARIAN IMPERATIVE

Most experts agree that 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 money to the vicious spiral of a new global nuclear arms race.

Any use of nuclear weapons would undoubtedly have catastrophic consequences. As the preamble to the TPNW underscores, such consequences “cannot be adequately addressed, transcend national borders, pose grave implications for human survival, the environment, socio-economic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations, and have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionising radiation”. The preamble also expresses concern at “the slow pace of nuclear disarmament, the continued reliance on nuclear weapons in military and security concepts, doctrines and

policies, and the waste of economic and human resources on programmes for the production, maintenance and modernisation of nuclear weapons”.

JOINING THE TPNW

By adhering to the TPNW, states can help to strengthen the global norm against the use and threatened use of nuclear weapons, reinforce barriers against proliferation, and build much-needed pressure and momentum for disarmament. Each new signature and ratification is an important contribution to international peace and security. As the UN high representative for disarmament affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, remarked last September: “Joining the TPNW sends a powerful signal of a state’s commitment to achieving our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. But it is not merely a symbolic act. The decisions taken at the first meeting of states parties reflect a commitment to implementing the treaty comprehensively and thoughtfully.”

Algeria

SIGNATORY

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

SIGNATURE

Abdelkader Messahel, the then-minister of foreign affairs of Algeria, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017. Algeria's decision to become a signatory to the TPNW was informed by

its own experience of the “dire consequences”, both environmental and humanitarian, of French nuclear tests carried out on its territory in the 1960s.

In 2020, Algeria expressed its intention to ratify the TPNW “in the very short coming time”. However, its ratification process is still ongoing.



Abdelkader Messahel, the then-foreign minister 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 2022, Algeria’s foreign minister, Ramtane Lamamra, welcomed the TPNW’s entry into force and stressed “the necessity of all states’ adherence to the ban treaty” given the threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity.

MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES

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

At the United Nations in October 2022, it said that the declaration and action plan adopted at the meeting set out “ambitious steps towards facilitating an effective and timely implementation of the treaty”.

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”.

In 2021, the then-prime minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, signed a decree to establish a national authority to remediate former 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 not participated 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 mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

It was among 127 states that endorsed a “humanitarian pledge” in 2015–16 to cooperate “in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons”.



Sabri Boukadoum, then-ambassador to the UN, chairs the UN first committee in 2016, when the mandate for negotiations is secured. Photo: ICAN

Bahrain

NON-SIGNATORY

Bahrain has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

Bahrain 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”.

“Bahrain confirms the importance of achieving the universality of the TPNW, taking into account the rights of all peoples to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.”

– BAHRAIN, 2018

In 2018, Bahrain said that it “confirms the importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, taking into account the rights of all peoples to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Bahrain 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, Bahrain 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”.

Bahrain 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

Comoros has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

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 2020, the foreign ministry of Comoros and the Association SALAM, an ICAN partner organisation,

co-hosted a workshop in the country’s capital, Moroni, to brief members of parliament about the TPNW. The parliament subsequently approved ratification of the treaty.

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. It has been legally bound by the treaty since 20 May 2021.



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



Members of the parliament of Comoros, along with other stakeholders, attend a workshop to learn about the TPNW in 2020. Photo: ICAN



The parliament of Comoros approves ratification of the TPNW in 2020. Photo: Al-watwan

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”.

“Each new signature and ratification of [the TPNW] strengthens the global norm against the possession of nuclear weapons, and brings us closer to a world free from nuclear weapons.”

– COMOROS, 2021

NATIONAL POSITION

In 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”.

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”.

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

In 2021, Comoros said that “each new signature and ratification of this important legal instrument [the TPNW] 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”.

MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES

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

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.

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.



Comoros addresses a regional seminar on the universalisation of the TPNW in South Africa in 2023. Photo: ICAN

Djibouti

SIGNATORY

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

SIGNATURE

Mohamed Siad Doualeh, the permanent representative of Djibouti to the United Nations, signed the TPNW in New York on 9 January 2023.

In 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 the treaty to do so.



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

UNIVERSALISATION

Djibouti has generally 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”. (In 2021, it abstained from voting on the resolution, possibly in error.)

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 formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

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

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

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 2017, following the TPNW’s opening for signature, 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”.

In 2018, Egypt hailed the TPNW as “a very important addition to the nuclear disarmament regime”.

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”.

“We welcome once again the historic decision to adopt a legally binding treaty banning nuclear weapons. It is a very important addition to the nuclear disarmament regime.”

– EGYPT, 2018

In 2016, Egypt 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”. 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.

Iraq

NON-SIGNATORY

Iraq has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

Iraq 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”.

“To achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, we have taken several measures, including supporting the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

– IRAQ, 2020

In 2022, Iraq said that “strengthening the universality of international agreements and instruments on disarmament, especially those on comprehensive nuclear disarmament, is the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of these weapons”.

MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES

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

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Iraq 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, Iraq 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”.

Iraq 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.

Jordan

NON-SIGNATORY

Jordan has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

Jordan 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

Jordan 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, Jordan 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”.

Jordan 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.

Kuwait

NON-SIGNATORY

Kuwait has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

Kuwait 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”.

Kuwait welcomed the entry into force of the TPNW in 2021 and the convening of its first meeting of states parties in Vienna in 2022. It has said that the TPNW, rather than contradicting the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, helps to fulfil that treaty’s goals.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Kuwait 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, Kuwait 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”.

Kuwait 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.

Lebanon

NON-SIGNATORY

Lebanon has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

Lebanon 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 2022, the permanent mission of Lebanon to the United Nations said that “the matter of accession [to the TPNW] is being discussed among ministries concerned in the capital”.

Lebanon has described the TPNW’s entry into force in 2021 as “a sign of hope in otherwise dark times” and an example of members of the UN General Assembly showing “commitment and courage in leading the way toward achieving the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Lebanon 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, which it hailed as “an important step”.

In 2016, Lebanon 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”.

Lebanon 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

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

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 United Nations 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”.

“The international community has moved in the right direction by agreeing on a legally binding treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons.”

– LIBYA, 2017



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”.

In 2022, Libya 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 [the TPNW] without delay in order to achieve its universality”.

MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES

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”.

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”.

Reflecting on the treaty-making process, Libya said in 2022 that it had participated due to its concern about the ongoing nuclear arms race and its “uncontrollable risks”.

In 2016, Libya 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”.

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.

Mauritania

NON-SIGNATORY

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

NATIONAL POSITION

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”.

“[The TPNW] constitutes an important and outstanding collective contribution to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.”

– MAURITANIA, 2022

In 2022, Mauritania hailed the TPNW as “an important and outstanding collective contribution to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons”. In 2020, it described it as “undeniably an historical step”.

MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES

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

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 mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

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.

Morocco

NON-SIGNATORY

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

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”.

It has described the TPNW’s adoption in 2017 as “a major step in the evolution of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime” and its “historic entry into force” in 2021 as a sign of progress towards a world without nuclear weapons.



Morocco addresses a regional seminar on the universalisation of the TPNW in South Africa in 2023. Photo: ICAN

MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

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. Reflecting on the meeting, Morocco said that it had “breathe[d] new life into dialogue”. It urged all states to “undertake further efforts to ensure the prohibition of [nuclear] arms”.

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”.

“The adoption of the TPNW in 2017 was a major step in the evolution of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.”

– MOROCCO, 2021

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”.

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”.

Oman

NON-SIGNATORY

Oman has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

Oman 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, as part of the universal periodic review conducted by the UN Human Rights Council, Oman said that it would consider acceding to the TPNW.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Oman 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, Oman 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”.

Oman 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.

State of Palestine

STATE PARTY

The State of Palestine has signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION

Riad Al-Malki, the then-minister of foreign affairs of the State of Palestine, signed the TPNW at a high-level ceremony in New York when it opened for signature on 20 September 2017.

The State of Palestine deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN secretary-general on 22 March

2018. It was the sixth state to ratify the TPNW, and it was among the original 50 states parties to the treaty when it entered into force in January 2021.

In 2020, the State of Palestine said that it was “proud to have participated in the elaboration of the historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to have been among the first to ratify it”.



Riad Al-Malki, the then-minister of foreign affairs of the State of Palestine, signs the TPNW in 2017. Photo: ICAN

NATIONAL POSITION

In 2022, the State of Palestine described the TPNW as “long overdue”, arguing that “there can be no rational justification for the privileged status granted, de facto, to nuclear weapons over other weapons of mass destruction”. It views the TPNW as a “just treaty” that complements the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968 and helps advance its goals.

“The State of Palestine is proud to have been among the states that elaborated the [TPNW] and among the first countries to ratify it, contributing to its early entry into force.”

– STATE OF PALESTINE, 2021

IMPLEMENTATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the TPNW, the State of Palestine 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.

It noted, however, that the State of Palestine remains a state under occupation, and “the occupying power [Israel] bears full and sole responsibility for any actions in relation to its unlawful nuclear programme undertaken in the Occupied Palestinian Territory ...”.

MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES

The State of Palestine participated in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. It hailed the TPNW’s entry into force and the convening of the first meeting of states parties as a “victory” for multilateralism, the United Nations charter, and international law.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

The State of Palestine 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, the State of Palestine observed: “We are the first species to ever develop the instruments of its own extinction. But doomsday is not inevitable and the power of collective will should never be underestimated.”

In its closing statement, it described the new treaty as “an expression of the power of collective will” and “an essential contribution to international peace and security”.

The State of Palestine 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.

Qatar

NON-SIGNATORY

Qatar has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

Qatar 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”.

It has described the TPNW’s adoption in 2017 and its entry into force in 2021 as a reflection of the support of the international community for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

In 2022, it stressed “the importance of adhering to all agreements and treaties related to the disarmament of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction”, adding that the “disastrous consequences of the use of nuclear weapons on humanity and all life on our planet can only be avoided by completely and definitively banning their use”.

MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES

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



Members of the Qatari delegation to the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW in 2022.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Qatar 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, Qatar 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”.

Qatar 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.

Saudi Arabia

NON-SIGNATORY

Saudi Arabia has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

Since 2021, Saudi Arabia has abstained from voting on an annual UN General Assembly resolution that calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to the TPNW “at the earliest possible date”. (From 2018 to 2020, it voted in favour of the resolution.)

“We welcome the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We hope that this treaty will promote international peace and security and rid the world of all weapons of mass destruction, without exception.”

– SAUDI ARABIA, 2018

In 2018, Saudi Arabia welcomed the adoption of the TPNW and expressed its hope “that this treaty will promote international peace and security and rid the world of all weapons of mass destruction”.

In 2022, it said that it “gives special attention to acceding to all the treaties and agreements that would help to eliminate all forms of nuclear weapons, achieve peace and stability,

and reduce the risks of wars where internationally forbidden weapons are used”.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Saudi Arabia 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, Saudi Arabia stressed that “the establishment of security and stability in any region cannot be achieved through possession of weapons of mass destruction”.

In 2016, Saudi Arabia 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”.

Saudi Arabia 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.

Somalia

NON-SIGNATORY

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

NATIONAL POSITION

Somalia has promoted universal adherence to the TPNW, including by voting in favour of an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 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 established the formal mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

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.

Sudan

SIGNATORY

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

SIGNATURE

Omer Mohamed Ahmed Siddig, the then-permanent representative of Sudan to the United Nations, 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 also to become parties.



Sudan addresses a regional seminar on the universalisation of the TPNW in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2023. Photo: ICAN

NATIONAL POSITION

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”.

It has said that the TPNW “has a significant complementary role in reinforcing the spirit and objectives of the [Non-Proliferation Treaty].”

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 mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

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.

Tunisia

NON-SIGNATORY

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

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, noting that it strengthens the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968.

“Tunisia supported the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as it strengthens the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and welcomes its entry into force.”

– TUNISIA, 2021

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 mandate for states to commence negotiations on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

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.

United Arab Emirates

NON-SIGNATORY

The United Arab Emirates has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

The United Arab Emirates 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

The United Arab Emirates 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 United Arab Emirates 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”.

The United Arab Emirates 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.

Yemen

NON-SIGNATORY

Yemen has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

NATIONAL POSITION

Yemen 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”.

It welcomed the TPNW’s adoption in 2017, describing it as “an important step towards freeing our world from nuclear weapons”, as well as its entry into force in 2021.

“Yemen, once again, welcomes the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July 2017, which is an important step towards freeing our world from nuclear weapons.”

– YEMEN, 2019

MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES

Yemen attended as an observer the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW, held in Vienna in June 2022. It described the meeting as a step towards the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

TPNW NEGOTIATIONS

Yemen 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, Yemen 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”.

Yemen 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.

