

# An introduction to terms and abbreviations

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## **Abolition of nuclear weapons:**

The total elimination of nuclear weapons.

## **IAEA:**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an autonomous intergovernmental agency within the United Nations set to promote and monitor the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The IAEA has a specific verification role as the international safeguards inspectorate, namely to verify the fulfillment of obligations assumed under the NPT by non-nuclear-weapon States parties, to only use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.<sup>1</sup>

## **ICAN:**

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of 650 non-governmental organizations in 110 countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. By engaging a diverse range of groups and working alongside the Red Cross and like-minded governments, ICAN has helped reshape the debate on nuclear weapons and generate momentum towards elimination.<sup>2</sup>

## **ICAN Norway:**

ICAN Norway is the Norwegian branch of ICAN and coordinates about 60 Norwegian partner organizations. ICAN Norway advocates for the stigmatization and elimination of nuclear weapons, for Norway to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and for the recognition that any use of nuclear weapons have disastrous humanitarian consequences.

## **MSP:**

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) specifies that states parties shall meet regularly in order to implement the Treaty and its goals. These meetings are called “Meeting of States Parties”.

Austria held the presidency of the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP), which took place June 21 to 23 2022 in Vienna, Austria, with the aim of examining the Treaty’s status and implementation, and of measuring progress towards its goals. The meeting successfully adopted the Vienna Declaration and the 50-point Vienna Action Plan.

The second meeting (2MSP) will take place in New York at the United Nations’ Headquarters at the end of November 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.learnaboutnukes.com/policy/npt/iaea/](http://www.learnaboutnukes.com/policy/npt/iaea/)

<sup>2</sup> [www.icanw.org/the\\_campaign](http://www.icanw.org/the_campaign)

**NPT:**

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which entered into force in March 1970, seeks to inhibit the spread of nuclear weapons. Its 190 (191 with North Korea\*) states parties are classified into two categories: nuclear-weapon states (NWS) — consisting of the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom — and non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS).

Under the treaty, the five NWS commit to pursuing general and complete disarmament, while the NNWS agree to forgo developing or acquiring nuclear weapons. All states parties commit to promote international cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

\*There is not yet a definitive legal opinion as to whether North Korea is still a party to the NPT.<sup>3</sup>

**Nonproliferation:**

The prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons technology.

**Nuclear arms control:**

Bilateral and multilateral agreements which regulate nuclear weapons and aim to limit the number of nuclear warheads or their delivery systems.

**Nuclear deterrence:**

The idea that nuclear weapons deter or stop others from attacking, due to the risk of retaliation. This can also be applied to allies of nuclear armed states, through extended nuclear deterrence. Nuclear deterrence assumes a rational decision-making procedure.

Nuclear deterrence is not a specific act or behaviour, but a psychological state that may or may not exist inside an adversary's head.<sup>4</sup>

**Nuclear disarmament:**

The process of reducing the number of nuclear weapons, or completely eliminating a country's arsenal.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nptfact>

<sup>4</sup> Norwegian People's Aid (2021) *Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor*

### **Nuclear sharing:**

Nuclear weapons of a nuclear-armed state are located on the territory of non-nuclear weapon states. It is estimated (2021) that around 100 American nuclear weapons are located in Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Turkey. These weapons are under American control, but would be delivered by pilots from the air force of the respective host country. Nuclear sharing also includes non-nuclear weapons states having nuclear-capable delivery systems.<sup>5</sup>

### **Nuclear-weapon-licit state:**

States which do not have their own nuclear weapons, but are enablers of the status quo by pretending to be in favor of nuclear disarmament, while also actively supporting nuclear weapons through their national security policies. They bear a considerable degree of responsibility for the nuclear risks that the entire international community is forced to endure.<sup>6</sup>

Nuclear-weapon-licit states are sometimes referred to as “umbrella states”.

### **Nuclear weapon states (NWS):**

A state that possesses nuclear weapons. The nine nuclear weapon states today are the United States, Russia, China, France, United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea.

### **The Humanitarian Initiative:**

The shift in narrative around nuclear weapons towards a focus on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons (HINW).

*At the 2010 NPT Review Conference state parties agreed by consensus to express their “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons”. In the following years, non-nuclear-weapon states and civil society representatives focused increasingly on the humanitarian impact and the risks associated with nuclear weapons. This focus of activities—later referred to as the Humanitarian Initiative—was done primarily through several international conferences where new research on the humanitarian consequences and nuclear risks aspects was presented as well as joint cross-regional statements highlighting the concern about these aspects.<sup>7</sup>*

The first intergovernmental conference was hosted by Norway in Oslo, March 2013. A second conference was held in Nayarit, Mexico in February 2014, and a third in Vienna in December 2014. During the three HINW-conferences, governments, international organizations, and civil society addressed the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Evidence was presented on the immediate impact of a nuclear weapon detonation and

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<sup>5</sup> ICAN Briefing Paper (2023) *It's a new nuclear weapon: The B61-12 bombs are coming to Europe.*

<sup>6</sup> Norwegian People's Aid (2021) *Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor*

<sup>7</sup> Alexander Kmentt (2021) *The Humanitarian Initiative and the TPNW.* Toda Peace Institute.

governments and relief agencies alike concluded that no adequate humanitarian response would be possible.<sup>8</sup>

### **TPNW:**

On 7 July 2017, an overwhelming majority of the UN member states adopted a global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The treaty entered into force on 22 January 2021, making all activities related to nuclear weapons illegal under international law.

The TPNW prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits states parties from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities. It is the first Treaty to put in place a framework for verifiably and irreversibly eliminating nuclear weapons, and for assisting the victims of their use and testing.

### **TPNW and NPT:**

The TPNW complements the NPT. The TPNW creates a legal framework in which nuclear armed countries may fulfill their obligations set in Article 6 of the NPT, namely ending the nuclear arms race and pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

### **Verification:**

In the nuclear weapons field, there are two main types of verification: verification of non-proliferation and verification of disarmament.<sup>9</sup>

**Verification of non-proliferation** means verifying that countries without nuclear weapons refrain from using civil nuclear technology or nuclear material to make such weapons. Verification of non-proliferation is about verifying the absence of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons production.

**Verification of disarmament** means verifying that countries that possess nuclear weapons reduce and completely eliminate their nuclear weapons.

Disarmament and arms control agreements oblige parties to show the other party and/or outside world that they are in compliance with the agreement. This is done through systems for verification, for example auditing and on-site inspections by the IAEA.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/hinw](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/hinw)

<sup>9</sup> Folkerettsinstituttet (2020). *Verifikasjon av kjernefysisk nedrustning og ikke-spredning*.

## **Victim assistance and environmental remediation, and International cooperation and assistance (Article 6 & 7 of the TPNW)**

In addition to its comprehensive prohibitions, the TPNW obligates its states parties to take a number of positive measures to implement the Treaty. Among these are article 6 and 7, which oblige states to provide victim assistance and environmental remediation to people and areas affected by the use and testing of nuclear weapons.<sup>10</sup>

**Victim assistance** is crucial to address the unnecessary suffering experienced by populations affected by the use and testing of nuclear weapons and to help safeguard their rights.

**Environmental remediation** is crucial to address the environmental contamination from the use and testing of nuclear weapons.

International cooperation and assistance is important to facilitate the implementation of the TPNW, including seeking and receiving assistance from other states parties to provide victim assistance and secure environmental remediation.

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<sup>10</sup> Norwegian People's Aid (2021) *Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor*