

ICAN ACT ON IT FORUM PROGRAM WITH DESCRIPTION AND SPEAKERS

DAY 1 THURSDAY 9TH OF MARCH

Plenum

10:00-10:30 Welcome to ICAN Act On It Forum

Oslo stage

In March 2013 Norway hosted the first intergovernmental conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. It became obvious that these weapons should never again be used.

Ten years later the global movement against nuclear weapons is stronger than ever. States, cities, parliamentarians, civil society, survivors and people everywhere are being heard: nuclear weapons must be eliminated!

But some refuse to listen. Nuclear-weapon-implicit states are doing little to support the disarmament movement. This must change. At the ICAN Act On It Forum, we will focus on these states and how to get them to join the global movement to end nuclear weapons.

All states must join the majority and act on their responsibility to create a world without nuclear weapons. We are meeting in Oslo to apply the lessons of states, civil society, activists, survivors and others working to abolish nuclear weapons.

The rest of us should listen, and Act On It!

Speakers

- Daniel Högsta and Fjellvær Thompson
- Anja Lillegraven and Venessa Hanson
- Izumi Nakamitsu (video message)

Musicians

- Ingrid Matilde Mæland
- Ellen-Martine Gismervik

10:30-11:00 The Nuclear Taboo

Oslo stage

Nuclear weapons have not been used in war since the devastating bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Professor Nina Tannenwald argues, in her widely-known theory, that a nuclear taboo has been established: a taboo against the first use of nuclear weapons. This taboo has emerged over time as the result of both strategic interests and moral concerns.

The nuclear taboo is reinforced by international institutions and states' perception. In 2017, a majority of UN member states adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty codifies the nuclear taboo in international law – regardless of the persistent opposition by nuclear armed states and their complicit allies.

In other words, the TPNW reinforces the nuclear taboo. Professor Tannenwald will reflect on some lessons from the history of the taboo, challenges to the taboo today, and the role of the TPNW in strengthening the taboo going forward.

Speaker:

- Nina Tannenwald

11:00-12:00 Looking Back to Look Forward: the Impact of the Humanitarian Initiative

Oslo stage

The movement to end nuclear weapons has achieved a lot since the first intergovernmental conference on the humanitarian consequences of these weapons in 2013, the start of a series of similar conferences. We are looking back at the last 10 years, showing why this work matters and makes a difference.

The Humanitarian Initiative changed the international nuclear disarmament discourse profoundly. Moving away from state security and myths, the humanitarian argument rearranges the stage and puts the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons first, largely represented by affected communities, in particular Indigenous people.

The Humanitarian Initiative has magnified the movement to end nuclear weapons. How did the humanitarian initiative come into being? What did those involved in its formation intend to achieve? To what extent were their expectations fulfilled? How can we, ten years later, continue to build a humanitarian case for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons?

Come and listen to a variety of experts taking stock of the initiative's future.

Speakers

- Magnus Løvold
- Steffen Kongstad
- Patricia Lewis
- Peter Herby

12:30-13:15 Nuclear Weapons 101 (recommended for a refresher of the topic)

Vienna stage

What is the TPNW? How can a treaty ban nuclear weapons if the nuclear armed countries haven't joined? Why does everyone speak so much about the NPT? What kind of campaign is ICAN?

New to anti-nuclear weapons activism, or want to brush dust off some old knowledge? In this session during lunchtime, we give a lecture on the basics of nuclear weapons. In a sea of terms and abbreviations, you will learn those most important – and why they are so.

Speaker

- Nadja Schmidt

Parallel Sessions

13:30-14:45 Nuclear Sharing: Cold War Relic and European Insecurity

Oslo stage

NATO nuclear sharing arrangements are exceptional: the United States currently is the only country to station nuclear weapons outside its own territory and NATO is the only self-proclaimed nuclear alliance. While such hosting arrangements in general predate both the cold war and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, today's sharing arrangements and their incompatibility with treaties and norms are highly criticized.

Opinion polls in the respective five countries have consistently shown a majority in favor of withdrawal. Many other states have criticized the practice while others might use it as a template. Forward-deployed nuclear weapons in Europe make the continent vulnerable and serve no military purpose.

In this session, we will explore the concept and history of nuclear sharing, and how civil society works for the removal of U.S. weapons of mass destruction from their territories.

Speakers:

- Maren Vieluf
- Francesco Vignarca
- Alejandra Muñoz
- Emmelien Lievens

13:30-14:45 Workshop: Why Norms Matter

Nayarit stage

One frequently heard criticism of the TPNW is that it fails to account for the fact that some countries are more likely to give up nuclear weapons than others, and that this could lead to dangerous asymmetries in geopolitical power relations. More specifically, it is argued that liberal democracies will be more susceptible to pressure—from civil society, media, or other voices of reason—than autocratic regimes, which in turn could trigger a unilateral decision to step away from the brink and get rid of nuclear weapons. Great! Or maybe not?

In this session, we aim to unpack some of these arguments, with a view to crafting better and more convincing responses. We'll put our heads together and dive into the underlying concepts and perceptions, and with YOUR help, we might just come up with something useful. Great!

Speaker

- Torbjørn Graff Hugo

13:30-14:45 Understanding the Nuclear Legacy: Nuclear Tests and its Continued Effects

Vienna stage

Did you know that for every two men who develop cancer through exposure to ionizing radiation, three women will get the disease?

Did you know that nuclear weapons have been tested more than 2200 times?

Did you know that Kazakh land was designated a nuclear test site by Soviet leaders?

The results of the nuclear use and testing are devastating and long lasting, with thousands of lives affected and large areas contaminated. For many, in particular Indigenous Peoples, their way of life has been changed forever. Until this day, no adequate reparations have been made. Affected people and their lands have been victims of great power privilege for too long.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a valuable tool to change this. With its unique provisions on victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation, the TPNW seeks nuclear justice. Affected communities need to be recognized as a global concern prompting global response.

In this session you will learn about how nuclear tests impact communities all over the world, where the tests have been conducted and how the TPNW is a tool for nuclear justice.

Speakers:

- Alicia Sanders-Zakre
- Alimzhan Akhmetov
- Mary Olson
- Saima Naz Akhtar

Plenum

15:15-16:15 Today's Nuclear Discourse and Unclear Politics

Oslo stage

In 2022, amidst a tense public debate, nuclear threats, heightened tensions and an increased risk of nuclear conflict, the TPNW shaped and guided a global and unequivocal no to nuclear weapons.

After Russia's illegal invasion and horrific actions, and Putin's reckless nuclear threats, it is no longer possible to hide the existential danger nuclear weapons pose to our societies. Against this dark backdrop, civil society, states and people everywhere have worked to delegitimize and stigmatize nuclear threats. In this session, we will learn about the terrible consequences of nuclear threats and nuclear deterrence, experienced most significantly by Ukrainians during the past year.

We will explore how civil society and academia act within the public debate altered by growing nuclear tensions, and look at how the TPNW work to delegitimize and stigmatize nuclear weapons.

Speakers

- Gabriella Irsten
- Yelyzaveta Khodorovska
- Franziska Stärk
- Florian Eblenkamp

16:15-17:00 Why Now is a Good Time For Disarmament

Oslo stage

The nuclear-weapon-licit states present nuclear weapons as a necessary evil, which they, but not others, should be protected by.

In this session, Daniel Högsta will tackle the narrative and arguments used to uphold the idea of deterrence and the status quo in today's nuclear policies.

Join this session to learn why these arguments do not stand. In spite of what is often heard in abstract war theories, *now* is a good time for nuclear disarmament.

Speakers

- Daniel Högsta

DAY 2 FRIDAY 10TH OF MARCH

Plenum

10:00-10:10 Remarks by Norwegian minister of Climate and Environment

Oslo stage

Speaker

- Espen Barth Eide

10:10- 11:00 Across Borders: Youth Parties and Nuclear Weapons Policy

Oslo stage

Around the world, youth parties are stepping up to hold their mother parties responsible. Youth play a crucial role in the work to change nuclear policy, through creating new narratives and challenging the status quo of nuclear weapons.

Together with some of the most prominent European youth politicians, we will explore how youth parties work to influence policy and how this work differs and unites across borders. How can we support youth parties in their efforts to change nuclear policy?

Speakers:

- Tuva Krogh Widskjold
- Astrid Willa Eide Hoem
- Rachid Khenissi
- Siebe Jonckheere

Parallel sessions

11:30-12:30 Faith in the Ban Treaty? Multi-religious Responses to the Rising Nuclear Threat **Oslo stage**

Religious leaders and organizations have been key actors in the nuclear disarmament movement since its inception, emphasizing the moral and existential nature of the issue and offering the legitimacy of the numbers their faith communities represent. To many religious people, the threat and use of nuclear weapons is a violation of their core religious and ethical values, such as the sanctity of life, human dignity, and respect for nature.

Faced with a growing threat of nuclear war, what place does nuclear disarmament have on religious communities' agendas, and how do they respond? Looking into the future, how will religious communities use their resources to stop the nuclear threat? How strong is the voice of religious leaders, and what power do they really have to make a difference?

Speakers

- Olav Fykse Tveit
- Senaid Kobilica
- Martin Lerstang Mikkelsen
- Yuhashinee Shankkar
- Chair: Sigrid Rege Gårdsvoll

11:30-12:30 Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor 2022 **Nayarit Stage**

In this session, Grethe Lauglo Østern will present the findings in the soon-to-be published 2022 Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor. This will include the most recent research on the world's nuclear arsenals, and on which states act in accordance with the TPNW and not.

The Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor tracks progress towards a world without nuclear weapons, highlights activities that prevent the international community from making the necessary progress towards nuclear disarmament, and analyzes the key challenges. It is a useful tool for campaigners that want to investigate if the state they live in needs to make any changes to its existing policies and practices in order to comply with the TPNW.

You can access the online version of the Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor [here](#).

Speakers

- Grethe Lauglo Østern

11:30-12:30 Building a Grassroots Campaign: How, Why, and Where to Start

Vienna stage

This panel event with audience Q&A will host grassroots campaigners, including youth leaders, across the wider peace, security, climate, and justice nexus to explore what good grassroots campaigning looks like, what it can achieve, and why we need it in the disarmament movement.

Building on the Youth Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which saw a huge number of young advocates and other professionals come together, this event will debate strategic approaches to grassroots campaigning and how young people and other grassroots campaigners can build power in their local and community contexts, and use it to hold political leaders accountable.

We encourage all Forum attendees of all backgrounds to join in.

Speakers:

- Lucy Tiller
- Ellie Kinney
- Bill Kidd
- Uzo Ohanyere
- Yelyzaveta Khodorovska

Parallel sessions

13:45-14:45 The Money Behind Nuclear Ideas

Oslo stage

The nine nuclear weapon states spend enormous resources on nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapon producers and governments that support deterrence, spend millions on think tanks that cultivate analysis and research on nuclear policies. What is this money really buying? What are the mechanisms behind nuclear policies?

In this session we will learn more about the money behind nuclear weapons, research on funding think tanks, and the implications it has for honest conversations about weapons of mass destruction.

Speakers

- Susi Snyder
- Kjølsv Egeland

13:45-14:45 The Roadmap to 2MSP

Nayarit stage

In June 2022, states parties, observers and civil society gathered in Vienna for the first meeting of states parties (1MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Article 8 (2) of the Treaty obligates states parties to convene meetings on a biennial basis. On the week of 27 November 2023, the second meeting (2MSP) will take place in New York at the United Nations' Headquarters.

On the final day of the first MSP, an Action Plan was agreed upon by states parties. The action plan called upon the establishment of working groups to oversee and implement the actions before the second meeting. This includes art. 4 and verification matters; art. 6 & 7 on provisions on victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation; and art. 12 on universalising the Treaty.

In “The roadmap to 2MSP”, experts will tell you about the trajectory from the first to the second meeting. They will provide special insight about the intersessional period, where to push your governments and what to expect in New York in November–December 2023.

You will also get the opportunity to ask questions. This is the place to be to prepare yourself for the 2MSP.

Speakers

- Alicia Sanders-Zakre
- Ernesto Malda
- Gem Romuld

13:45-14:45 Connecting the Dots From Climate Justice to Nuclear Justice

Vienna stage

Climate change and nuclear weapons are the two existential threats we are currently facing. Their interconnectedness also means that they have shared solutions. This makes anti-nuclear activists and climate-change activists natural allies in the fight to protect our planet, and both causes would benefit from a stronger alliance.

In this workshop, nuclear disarmament activists and climate-change activists will share more about how these two issues intersect, the advocacy lessons and strategies they have used that you can replicate and finally how the two movements can and should join forces.

Speakers:

- Brigitta Appiah Darko
- Georgina Margaret Bell
- Diana Duah Asamoah
- Samuel Olamide

Plenum

15:00-15:30 Preparing for Action

Oslo stage

The global movement against nuclear weapons is stronger than ever. States, cities, parliamentarians, civil society, survivors and people everywhere are being heard: nuclear weapons must be eliminated!

At the ICAN Act On It forum, we are focusing on nuclear-weapon-implicated states and how to get them to join the global movement to end nuclear weapons. After two days of workshops, panels and discussions, how can we use new knowledge and ideas in the work moving forward?

At the end of this session we will prepare to move to the Parliament to celebrate the TPNW and show the Norwegian government that we are many working to end nuclear weapons!

Speakers:

- Anja Lillegraven
- Venessa Hanson
- Tuva Krogh Widskjold
- Maja Fjellvær Thompson

16:15-17:00 Gathering Outside the Parliament

Eidsvollss plass, Norwegian parliament

We end the program of the ICAN Act On It Forum with a gathering in front of the Norwegian parliament to celebrate the movement working to abolish nuclear weapons!

The gathering will be at Eidsvollss plass in front of the Parliament at 4:15 PM. Join us to show that we are many opposing the unacceptable and illegal threat nuclear weapons pose!

Agenda:

- Welcome by Tuva Widskjold, coordinator ICAN Norway
- Parliamentary statement by Ingrid Fiskaa, member of The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence
- Statement from Civil Society by Lars Egeland, leader of No to Nuclear Weapons Norway
- Statement from African Youth for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by Uzo Ohanyere, co-founder of Nyuklia Eureka
- Statement by Kjersti Barsok, leader of The Norwegian Civil Service Union (NTL)
- Song by Amanda Murano and Espen Rogne

19:30-23:00 Act On It Party

Oslo stage

Only for those over 18 years of age.

After a busy two days, we will all meet at the Oslo stage to let loose.

Amish Plow will end the party with a full-on rock concert!

Join us, party and celebrate!

Agenda:

- 19:30 Doors open
- 20:00 Welcome and thank you.
- 22.00 Amish Plow
- 23:00 Party finishes, continue on for those who want.