

Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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Item 11 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Consideration of the status and operation of the Treaty and other matters important for achieving the objectives and purpose of the Treaty: universality (article 12)

Report of the Co-Chairs of the informal working group on universalization (South Africa and Uruguay)

I. Summary

1. In accordance with decision 1, subparagraph (a) (i), of the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the States parties to the Treaty extended the intersessional structure as contained in decision 4 of the first Meeting of States Parties to the intersessional period between the second and third Meetings of States Parties, with the informal working group on universalization to be co-chaired by South Africa and Uruguay.
2. The present report highlights the activities and efforts undertaken within the informal working group, including those of the Co-Chairs.
3. Those efforts and activities are consistent with the obligation of States parties, pursuant to article 12 of the Treaty, to encourage States not party to the Treaty to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty, with the goal of universal adherence of all States to the Treaty.
4. The efforts and activities are consistent with the actions agreed by States parties in the Vienna Action Plan, adopted by the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on 23 June 2022. Actions 1 to 14 cover, respectively, prioritization of universalization; signing and ratification of the Treaty; promotion of the universalization of the Treaty; filling gaps in information about accession; provision of support for ratification; establishment of contact points; awareness-raising; efforts to increase voting in favour of Treaty-related resolutions; highlighting the Treaty in statements and resolutions and in all relevant forums; highlighting the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons; cooperation with affected States; engagement on concerns and criticism; encouragement and support for involvement of partners on universalization and domestic ratification; and sharing of information on universalization activities.

* [TPNW/MSP/2025/1](#).



5. As part of their efforts to facilitate the fulfilment of article 12 by States parties to the Treaty, the Co-Chairs organized or contributed to the following initiatives:

(a) A meeting of the informal working group to launch its Programme of Action, held in an online format on 9 April 2024;

(b) Participation in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons informal retreat for the members of the Coordination Committee in Geneva on 11 and 12 June 2024, preceded by a briefing to States Members of the United Nations in Geneva;

(c) A working session of the African Group on universalization of the Treaty organized by South Africa and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in Geneva on 25 July 2024;

(d) An expert panel discussion, including members of the Scientific Advisory Group, on the Treaty, held in an online format on 13 August 2024;

(e) An African Conference on the Universalization and Implementation of the Treaty, organized by South Africa, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Addis Ababa on 6 September 2024;

(f) Signing and ratification ceremony for the Treaty under the treaty event of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat during the high-level week of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, on 24 September 2024, preceded by the issuance of a note verbale from the Co-Chairs and the President of the third Meeting of States Parties, in which they encouraged the signing of the Treaty;

(g) A working session of experts from the African Group on universalization of the Treaty organized by South Africa as Co-Chair of the informal working group in New York on 14 October 2024;

(h) Informal outreach to prospective signatories/States parties, over the course of the term of the Co-Chairs.

II. Efforts and activities in the context of the informal working group on universalization of the Treaty

6. The Co-Chairs held a meeting of the informal working group with States parties to the Treaty in an online format on 9 April 2024. At the meeting, the Co-Chairs presented a provisional programme of action for the work of the informal working group and encouraged States parties to conduct activities and efforts in line with the Vienna Action Plan.

7. On 24 May 2024, the Co-Chairs visited Princeton University, United States of America, to coordinate joint actions and exchange perspectives on the efforts towards universalization with the President of the Scientific Advisory Group.

8. On 13 August 2024, the Co-Chairs hosted their second meeting of the intersessional period between the second and third Meetings of States Parties in an online format. The meeting was organized in a panel discussion format with the participation of the following experts: Moritz Kütt, senior researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg, Germany, and Scientific Advisory Group member; Sébastien Philippe, research scholar with the Princeton University Programme on Science and Global Security and Scientific Advisory Group member; Astrid Kause, professor at the Institute of Sustainability Psychology at Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany; Tamara Patton, an

independent researcher focused on imagining security beyond deterrence and militarism; and Zia Mian, co-director of the Princeton University Programme on Science and Global Security and Scientific Advisory Group member. The panel discussion focused on key findings and recommendations from the report of the Scientific Advisory Group on the status and developments regarding nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon risks, the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament and related issues (TPNW/MSP/2023/8).

9. In its capacity as Co-Chair of the informal working group, and with the support of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Uruguay organized a series of informational meetings at the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations. These meetings were held with States interested in signing or ratifying the Treaty, as well as with representatives from the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

10. On 24 September 2024, on the margins of the high-level week of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Co-Chairs and the Office of Legal Affairs organized a signing ceremony for the Treaty. During the signing ceremony, Indonesia and Sierra Leone deposited their instrument of ratification, while Solomon Islands both signed and ratified the treaty. Remarks were delivered by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, Akan Rakhmetullin, as President of the third Meeting of States Parties; the Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Martín Vidal, as Co-Chair of the informal working group on universalization of the Treaty; the Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Marthinus CJ Van Schalkwyk, as Co-Chair of the informal working group on universalization of the Treaty; the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu; the President of ICRC, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger; and the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Melissa Parke. In July 2024, the Co-Chairs of the informal working group circulated, with the Presidents of the second and third Meetings of States Parties, a note verbale on the planned convening of the ceremony to the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York.

11. South Africa, in its capacity as Co-Chair of the informal working group and in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and ICRC, convened an African Conference on the Universalization and Implementation of the Treaty for African Union member States in Addis Ababa on 6 September 2024. The Conference focused on Africa's security concerns, related risks of nuclear weapons use and their catastrophic humanitarian consequences, the relationship between the Treaty and the African peace, security and disarmament architectures, and the promotion of the Treaty by African States through universalization efforts and in the implementation of the Treaty. Remarks were delivered by Xolisa Makaya, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the African Union; Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union; and Bruce Mokaya Orina, Head of the ICRC delegation to the African Union in Addis Ababa. Panellists at the Conference included Alexander Kmentt, Director of the Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria, as facilitator of the Treaty's consultative process on security concerns; Jocelyn Nahimana, Head of Division of the African Union Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration/Security Sector Reform Unit; and Céline Nahory, Advocacy Coordinator at the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

12. On 25 July 2024, South Africa, in its capacity as Co-Chair of the informal working group and in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, convened a working session of experts from the African Group in Geneva on the sidelines of the Preparatory Committee of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to discuss recent developments and to promote the

universalization of the Treaty ahead of the third Meeting of States Parties. At the working session, delegations were encouraged to share updates concerning the status of their procedure with regard to joining the Treaty.

13. The Co-Chairs participated in a workshop on the theme “Fostering cooperation and enhancing consultation: mechanisms among existing nuclear-weapon-free zones” and the retreat of the Coordination Committee for the intersessional programme of work on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, held in Astana from 27 to 29 August 2024. During this event, the Co-Chairs engaged in discussions with representatives from various nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as with experts on disarmament and non-proliferation, exchanging perspectives on relevant issues related to universalization.

14. On 29 August 2024, Uruguay, in its capacity as Co-Chair of the informal working group, was invited to participate in a joint panel with civil society at a youth forum on the theme “From the Pacific to the steppes: addressing the nuclear sins of the past and advancing justice”. This forum provided a platform for the exchange of diverse views on the universalization of the Treaty and the work of the Coordination Committee in its entirety.

15. On 14 October 2024, South Africa, in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, convened a meeting with the African Group on the margins of meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

16. Through the convening of its informal meetings with States parties to the Treaty and the issuance of a template for voluntary reporting (see annex I, on voluntary reporting on actions taken by States parties related to the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons), the Co-Chairs encouraged reporting by States parties in accordance with article 12 of the Treaty and the Vienna Action Plan.

17. The Co-Chairs engaged informally with several prospective signatories/States parties and encouraged their continued efforts to join the Treaty.

III. Signatures and ratifications

18. In the period between the second and third Meetings of States Parties, the following countries signed and/or ratified the Treaty:

Signings

Solomon Islands on 24 September 2024

Ratifications

Indonesia on 24 September 2024

Sao Tome and Principe on 15 January 2024

Sierra Leone on 24 September 2024

Solomon Islands on 24 September 2024

19. These actions bring the total to 94 signatories and 73 States parties to the Treaty.

Annex I

Voluntary reporting on actions taken by States parties related to the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*

Thailand

Agreed Actions	Efforts Made in Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14</i>	<p>1. At the Second Meeting of States Parties Thailand, together with Ireland, as informal facilitators to further explore and deliberate possible areas of tangible cooperation between the TPNW and NPT, and other relevant nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation instruments (“complementarity”), has presented a report, encapsulating progress, activities and their findings on such issues during the intersessional period between the First Meeting of States Parties and the Second Meeting of States Parties.</p> <p>2. As adopted at the Second Meeting of States Parties, Thailand, together with Ireland, has continued to take up the role as an informal facilitator on “complementarity” during the period between the Second Meeting of States Parties and the Third Meeting of States Parties. Activities held during this period are parts of the efforts made in fulfilment of agreed actions in the Vienna Action Plan. These activities included:</p> <p>2.1 A virtual online briefing entitled “TPNW Complementarity: reinforcing and strengthening international law” on 8 May 2024; and,</p> <p>2.2 A side event at the 2nd NPT PrepCom in Geneva, entitled “Advancing complementarity of the TPNW with other disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, focusing on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons” on 22 July 2024, moderated by H.E. Ms. Usana Berananda, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva</p> <p>These events aimed to further promote the universality of the TPNW through the complementarity of the TPNW and NPT, and other relevant nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. Representatives from international organizations and civil society organizations, including the ICRC and ICAN, and notably, a TPNW non-State Party (Norway) also joined as panellists. They were well-attended by representatives from both TPNW States Parties and non-States Parties.</p>

* Circulated in the language of submission only and without formal editing.

3. At the Second Meeting of State Parties, Thailand, co-hosted activities which aimed to promote the universality of the TPNW, including:

3.1 A side event entitled “ASEAN Regional Perspectives on the TPNW”, together with the Reverse The Trend (RTT) and Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF), to discuss the progress of ASEAN’s commitment to maintaining our region as a nuclear weapon free zone, whereby a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand also joined as a panellist. The event was well-attended by delegates and youth participants; and,

3.2 An exhibition entitled “Mayors for Peace: Atomic Bomb Exhibition”, together with the Mayors for Peace, to promote awareness of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

4. At the 2nd NPT PrepCom in Geneva, Thailand co-hosted a side event entitled “Breakfast to Promote the Universalization of TPNW in Asia-Pacific”, together with New Zealand, ICAN and the ICRC, to raise awareness of the importance of such efforts with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

5. Thailand has been working towards promoting universality of the TPNW in multilateral forums, including in Thailand’s statements at the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the IAEA General Conference (including the IAEA GC67 in 2023, over which Thailand presided). Thailand has also co-sponsored several UNGA resolutions which help promote the TPNW, including the newly introduced “Nuclear War Effects and Scientific Research”, tabled by Ireland and New Zealand. Thailand has also engaged bilaterally with other States in promoting the universality of the TPNW.

Agreed Actions	Planned Upcoming Initiatives for Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14</i>	<p>1. Thailand and Ireland, as informal facilitators to further explore and deliberate possible areas of tangible cooperation between the TPNW and NPT, and other relevant nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, have elaborated a plan to present a report on such issues, encapsulating the activities and their findings during the intersessional period, at the Third Meeting of States Parties in New York in March 2025.</p> <p>2. At the Third Meeting of States Parties, Thailand will co-host exhibitions, with the Mayors for Peace, with an aim to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. These exhibitions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) “Mayors for Peace: Atomic Bomb Exhibition”; (2) “Children Arts Competition “Peaceful Towns” Exhibition”; (3) “VR Experience: Damages of Hiroshima Atomic Bombing”.

Annex II

Voluntary reporting on actions taken by relevant partners related to the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) (civil society organisation)

Agreed Actions	Efforts Made in Fulfillment of Agreed Actions
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	1. Outreach and support to supportive states to advance their process of signature and ratification (through missions, ministries and parliaments in capitals) – ongoing
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 7, 10</i>	2. ICAN Submission to Summit for the Future (February 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12</i>	3. Letters to UN Security Council delegations ahead of the briefing on nuclear disarmament (New York, March 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13</i>	4. ICAN Submission to OHCHR report mandated by the Human Rights Council Resolution 51/35 – Technical assistance and capacity-building to address the human rights implications of the nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands (March 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 12</i>	5. Letters to all supportive Foreign Ministers to encourage them to sign/ratify (February and November 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13</i>	6. Meetings with parliamentarians of inter alia Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Mozambique, Norway, Switzerland, and United States to sensitize them to the TPNW and urgent need to ratify the treaty (throughout 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13</i>	7. Organised a ratification workshop with key stakeholders in Zambia in cooperation with the Zambian Ministry of Defense (May 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	8. Briefings on the TPNW to regional groups in New York and Geneva including for Central Asia, Asia/Pacific and Africa (Geneva/New York, July and October 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13</i>	9. Organised event on the role NWFZ can play in universalising the TPNW in partnership with AFCONE and OPANAL (Astana, August 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13</i>	10. ICAN organised an African conference on the universalisation and implementation of the TPNW in Addis Ababa , in partnership with South Africa and the ICRC, funded by Austria, as a follow up to the African Regional Seminar on the Universalisation of the TPNW, held in Pretoria in 2023. (Addis Ababa, September 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13</i>	11. Address to the XXVIII Special Session of the OPANAL General Conference (Mexico City, 28 November 2024)

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<i>In fulfillment of Actions</i> <i>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13</i>	12. Address to the SADC Parliamentary Forum to call on SADC (Southern African) states that have not yet signed and ratified to do so (December 2024)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions</i> <i>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13</i>	13. ICAN submissions for the 47th, 48th and 49th session of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council
<i>In fulfillment of Actions</i> <i>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13</i>	14. High-level bilateral meetings with supportive states, signatory states and states parties
<i>In fulfillment of Actions</i> <i>1, 2, 14</i>	15. Engagement with States Parties on promoting the universalisation of the TPNW - ongoing
<i>In fulfillment of Actions</i> <i>1, 7, 10, 12, 13</i>	16. ICAN media outreach, analysis and coverage of humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the TPNW (ongoing).

Agreed Actions Planned Upcoming Initiatives for Fulfilment of Agreed Actions

International Committee of the Red Cross

Agreed Actions Efforts Made in Fulfillment of Agreed Actions

<i>In fulfillment of Actions</i> <i>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Co-organized the Science Expo on Nuclear Weapons, Risks and Humanitarian Impacts (Nuke EXPO) in collaboration with Norwegian People's Aid, Belgian Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross, held in Brussels, Belgium, and Oslo, Norway, in April 2024. 2. Published ICRC factsheets on the complementarity between the TPNW and NWFZ treaties. 3. Provided briefings in Geneva and New York on the TPNW and its relationship with treaties establishing Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) to regional groups, including the Central Asian States and the African Group (e.g., July and October 2024). 4. Co-hosted a dinner on the TPNW and the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons with Central Asian States, in collaboration with Kazakhstan, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the Center for International Security and Policy (CISP), and Soka Gakkai International (SGI), held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in August 2024. 5. Co-organized the African Conference on the Universalisation and Implementation of the TPNW in collaboration with South Africa (Co-Chair of the Working Group on TPNW Universalisation) and ICAN, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in September 2024. 6. Engaged with other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in national and international activities to promote adherence to the TPNW and raise awareness of the humanitarian impact and risks of nuclear weapon use, in line with the 2022–2027 Action Plan on the Non-Use, Prohibition, and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. For details, see CoD24_17-Progress-report-nuclear-weapons-EN.pdf.
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7. Delivered **statements calling on States that have not yet signed or ratified the TPNW to do so at various international fora**, including the workshop on fostering cooperation and enhancing consultation mechanisms among NWFZ (August 2024), the TPNW Signing Ceremony (September 2024), and the UNGA First Committee General Debate on Disarmament and International Security (October 2024).

8. Provided **support to States to advance their process of signature, ratification, or accession to the TPNW** (through the ICRC’s Advisory Service, regional delegations, delegations, and the NY mission) – *ongoing*.

Agreed Actions

Planned Upcoming Initiatives for Fulfilment of Agreed Actions

In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13

1. Co-organize a **side event on the role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement** in raising awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons at the TPNW Third Meeting of States Parties in March 2025.
