

Second 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 (Malaysia and South Africa)

I. Summary

1. In accordance with decision 4 (d) (i) of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the States parties to the Treaty decided to establish an informal working group on universalization, co-chaired by Malaysia and South Africa between the first and second Meetings of States Parties.
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.
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 African Group aimed at delegations of African States parties to the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the

* [TPNW/MSP/2023/1](#).



Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to promote the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, on 10 August 2022;

(b) Signing and ratification ceremony for the Treaty under the treaty event of the Office of Legal Affairs, during the high-level week of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, on 22 September 2022, preceded by a note verbale issued by the Co-Chairs and the Presidents of the first and second Meetings of States Parties, in which they encouraged the signing of the Treaty;

(c) Breakfast meeting on Treaty universalization with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and the International Committee of the Red Cross at the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York on 20 December 2022;

(d) Meeting of the informal working group at the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York on 26 January 2023;

(e) An African regional seminar on the universalization of the Treaty organized by South Africa, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and the International Committee of the Red Cross in Pretoria on 30 and 31 January 2023;

(f) 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 1 June 2023;

(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 22 June 2023;

(h) An online meeting of the informal working group on 13 July 2023;

(i) Outreach initiatives organized by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, in which the Co-Chairs participated;

(j) 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. On 10 August 2022, South Africa, in its capacity as Co-Chair of the informal working group, convened a meeting of the African Group aimed at delegations of African States parties to the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to promote the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

7. On 22 September 2022, on the margins of high-level week of the seventy-seventh 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, five countries, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti and Sierra Leone, signed the Treaty, while two countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Dominican Republic, deposited their instruments of ratification. Remarks were delivered by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Miguel de Serpa Soares; the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Mathu Joyini; the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu; the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer; and the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Beatrice Fihn. In July 2022, the Co-Chairs of the informal working group had circulated, with the

Presidents of the first and second 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.

8. The Co-Chairs held a meeting of the informal working group with States parties to the Treaty at the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York on 26 January 2023. 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. This was preceded by a breakfast meeting of the Co-Chairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons at the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations on 20 December 2022.

9. 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 the International Committee of the Red Cross, convened an African regional seminar on the universalisation of the Treaty in Pretoria on 30 and 31 January 2023. Participants included delegates from 37 member States of the African Union, as well as representatives of the African Union, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, civil society organizations and academia. In the context of taking stock of the Treaty from a regional perspective, sessions were held on the risks of the use of nuclear weapons and their catastrophic humanitarian consequences; the relationship between the Treaty and the global and African disarmament architecture; the scope of the Treaty and the process required for its signature, ratification and accession; and the role of African Governments in implementing and universalizing the Treaty, as well as the contributions of African States in the lead-up to and at the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty scheduled for the period from 27 November to 1 December 2023 in New York. As Co-Chairs of the informal working group, the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, Syed Mohamad Hasrin Aidid, and the Chief Director: UN Political, Peace and Security at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Zaheer Laher, shared the plans of the working group for 2023 in the lead-up to the second Meeting of States Parties. Participants discussed their expectations for this important meeting, expressed the resolve to increase the membership of the Treaty and shared views on how Africa could contribute to making the second Meeting of States Parties a success.

10. On 22 June 2023, South Africa, in its capacity as Co-Chair of the informal working group, in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, convened a working session of experts from the Africa Group to discuss recent developments and to promote the universalization of the Treaty ahead of the second 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.

11. The Co-Chairs held an online meeting of the informal working group on 13 July 2023 with States parties and signatories to provide feedback on Treaty universalization activities and to encourage States parties to undertake efforts in line with the Vienna Action Plan and report on them.

12. On 19 September 2023, the Bahamas signed the Treaty and Sri Lanka acceded to the treaty on the margins of high-level week at the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, in the presence of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu. In July 2023, the Co-Chairs of the informal working group had circulated, with the President of the second Meeting of States Parties, a note

verbale on the planned convening of the ceremony to permanent missions to the United Nations in New York.

13. Through the convening of its informal meetings with State parties to the Treaty and the issuing 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.

14. Throughout the period between the first and second Meetings of States Parties, the Co-Chairs organized or participated in a number of Treaty universalization initiatives in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. These included initiatives organized by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, a non-governmental organization, in which the Co-Chairs participated, including an online Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) youth dialogue on 17 March 2023, an event with students at Columbia University (New York) on 30 March 2023 and a session with interns at Reverse the Trend, a youth initiative of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, on 7 July 2023.

15. The Co-Chairs engaged informally with several prospective signatories/States parties and encouraged their continued efforts to join the Treaty, including through a breakfast meeting organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons on 20 October 2022, as well as bilateral outreach ahead of the Treaty signing ceremonies in 2022 and 2023.

III. Signatures and ratifications¹

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

Signings

Bahamas on 19 September 2023
Barbados on 22 September 2022
Burkina Faso on 22 September 2022
Djibouti on 9 January 2023
Equatorial Guinea on 22 September 2022
Haiti on 22 September 2022
Sierra Leone on 22 September 2022

Ratifications

Democratic Republic of the Congo on 22 September 2022
Dominican Republic on 22 September 2022
Malawi on 29 June 2023

Accession

Sri Lanka on 19 September 2023

17. These actions bring the total to 93 signatories and 69 States parties to the Treaty.

¹ Information is up to date as at 16 October 2023.

IV. Recommendations

18. The Co-Chairs of the informal working group recommend that at the second Meeting of States Parties, States parties to the Treaty:

(a) **Welcome the work conducted in the intersessional period** by States parties, signatories and other stakeholders, in accordance with article 12;

(b) **Encourage the continued implementation of actions 1–14 of the Vienna Action Plan**, including the reporting on and publication of activities by States parties in this regard;

(c) **Encourage collaboration with the Scientific Advisory Group** in accordance with action 7 of the Vienna Action Plan to raise awareness of the Treaty at international conferences and through the commissioning of studies and publications to promote the case for the Treaty;

(d) **Encourage continued cooperation** between the Co-Chairs of the informal working group, the informal facilitators and the gender focal point and the Co-Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Group;

(e) **Renew the mandate of the Co-Chairs of the informal working group on universalization of the Treaty** in order to continue the efforts to facilitate universalization of the Treaty through action-oriented initiatives.

Annex I

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

Guatemala

Agreed Actions ¹	Efforts Made in Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>E.g. In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Guatemala has participated in different spaces in which the prohibition of nuclear weapons is the main topic, demonstrating its compromise on the promotion of the total elimination and prohibition of this kind of weapons. Guatemala has reaffirmed and has reiterated, on several occasions, the importance of a transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons. Guatemala has fully adhered to the international instruments that make up the regional and international disarmament and nonproliferation architecture, such as the historic Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and of course the TPNW. Guatemala has adhered to several joint statements and declarations of the region and multilateral groups in condemning the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Guatemala has made statements in which it requires and demands the nuclear states to fully adhere to the responsibilities established in the different instruments and has asked repeatedly to eliminate any interpretative declarations that they may have. Guatemala has made evident the necessity of ratifying the instruments that have yet to be.
Agreed Actions	Planned Upcoming Initiatives for Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>E.g. In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Guatemala will continue to participate in spaces to raise the voice on the importance of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, with the highest level of participation possible. Guatemala will continue to promote the importance of a transparent, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons. Guatemala will continue supporting the joint statements and declarations that contain the spirit of the different instruments and which promote the condemnation of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. <p>Guatemala is still in conversations with ODA-UNLIREC for hosting the Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean for the universalization of this landmark treaty. The funding for this workshop is pending.</p>

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

¹ In accordance with actions agreed to under Universalization in the Vienna Action Plan adopted by the First Meeting of States Parties on 23 June 2022 ([TPNW/MSP/2022/6](#), annex II).

Ireland

Agreed Actions	Efforts Made in Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 35, 36, 37 and 38</i>	<p>1. In support of universalization during the reporting period, Ireland, in both our bilateral and multilateral engagements at ministerial and official level, encouraged States who had not yet done so to sign and ratify the TPNW.</p> <p>2. In support of complementarity, with a view to achieving universalization, Ireland, together with Thailand, are informal facilitators to further explore and articulate the possible areas of tangible cooperation between the TPNW and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and other relevant nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.</p> <p>In this capacity, the co-facilitators organised a number of activities and consultations during the reporting period, in collaboration with signatory States, academia and civil society. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An online panel discussion entitled “Advancing the Complementarity of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) with the Existing Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Regime” in June 2023, with participation from the Governments of Brazil, Thailand, Ireland, as well as the ICRC, CTBTO, Princeton University and ICAN; and • A side event entitled “Complementarity of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), with a specific focus on the role of the Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone Treaty” at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in August 2023, with the participation of the Governments of Thailand, Ireland, Kazakhstan and New Zealand as well as the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), the International Campaign to abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), CTBTO, Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and UNIDIR. <p>3. In the reporting period, Ireland consistently highlighted and explained complementarity between TPNW and the NPT in national statements and interventions across processes and fora, including NPT, TPNW, First Committee, UN Conference on Disarmament, UN Disarmament Commission and IAEA.</p>
Agreed Actions	Planned Upcoming Initiatives for Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 35, 36, 37 and 38</i>	Ireland will continue to engage in a similar manner to the above in pursuit of these priorities.

Malta

Agreed Actions	Efforts Made in Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>In fulfillment of Vienna Action Plan</i> 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13	<p>Active and Vocal support to the TPNW and advocating for the universalization on the TPNW in national statements at EU, regional and international fora.</p> <p>Voluntary contribution of Euro 3000 towards the TPNW 2MSP Sponsorship Programme as operated by UNODA to specifically cover the costs borne by one delegate from Least Developed countries to participate at the 2MSP. This increases inclusivity in the process.</p> <p>Roll over of 1650Eur of unused funds from Malta's contribution to the sponsorship fund for the 1MSP.</p> <p>The Ministry for Foreign, European Affairs and Trade of Malta, participated in a series of lectures on Women Peace and Security at the University of Malta. During the lecture entitled 'Gender Dimension of Nuclear Politics', International Relations Students, were briefed about the TPNW and its goals. The TPNW was also cited as a prime example which incorporates a gender perspective in nuclear issues.</p>
Agreed Actions	Planned Upcoming Initiatives for Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
In fulfillment of Vienna Action Plan: Actions 7 and 10	<p>The Ministry intends to continue creating awareness and understanding of the TPNW, as a fundamental tool of nonproliferation and disarmament. Several outreach activities are being planned with together with the University of Malta.</p>

Thailand

Agreed Actions	Efforts Made in Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thailand, together with Ireland, has taken up a role as an informal facilitator to further explore and articulate the possible areas of tangible cooperation between the TPNW and the NPT, and other relevant nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, during the period between the first Meeting of States Parties and the second Meeting of States Parties. 2. Thailand has been working towards promoting universality of the TPNW in multilateral forums, including in Thailand's statements at 10th NPT Review Conference, the 2023 NPT Preparatory Committee, the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, and the IAEA General Conference. Thailand has also engaged bilaterally with other States in promoting the universality of the TPNW. 3. Thailand, together with Ireland, as informal facilitators, jointly organised events, which have contributed towards promoting universality of the TPNW, as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 On 12 June 2023, Thailand, together with Ireland, jointly hosted a panel discussion on "Advancing the complementarity of the TPNW with the existing disarmament and non-proliferation regime". The panellists include representatives from States Parties and Signatories, including H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to the UK and former Chair of the 2016 Open-ended Working Group on Taking

Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament, as well as the academia and ICAN.

3.2 On 2 August 2023, Thailand, together with Ireland, ICAN, and the AFCONE, hosted a side event on the “Complementarity of the TPNW with the NPT, with a specific focus on the role of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones” during the 2023 NPT Preparatory Committee in Vienna.

Panellists include representatives from States Parties, CTBTO, UNIDIR, AFCONE, OPANAL and ICAN. Participants included representatives from States Parties, non-States Parties and other stakeholders.

Agreed Actions	Planned Upcoming Initiatives for Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14</i>	Thailand and Ireland will submit the report of the informal facilitators to further explore and articulate the possible areas of tangible cooperation between the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and other relevant nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, and will present such report at the 2MSP.

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

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) – <i>ongoing</i>
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	2. Address to the OPANAL XXVII Special Session of the General Conference of States Parties in Mexico City to call on states that have not yet signed and ratified to do so (November 2022)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	3. Submission to the SADC Parliament (written and oral) to call on SADC (Southern African) states that have not yet signed and ratified to do so (November 2022)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	4. Co-organised the African Regional Seminar on the Universalisation of the TPNW , in cooperation with South Africa and the ICRC in Pretoria, South Africa (January 2023)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13</i>	5. Address on the TPNW to the Second Arab Forum on Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in Doha, Qatar , organised by the Arab League and Qatar's National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons (May 2023)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	6. Addressed the PARLACEN, PARLATINO, Andean Parliament and Mercosur Parliament to promote universalisation (May 2023)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	7. Co-hosted a high level AFCONE event celebrating the 14th anniversary of the Pelindaba Treaty in Nairobi in the margin of the AU mid-year summit (July 2023)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13</i>	8. Co-organized a Regional Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and the TPNW in Astana, Kazakhstan, co-organised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Center for International Security and Policy (CISP), Soka Gakkai International (SGI) (August 2023)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	9. Briefings on the TPNW to regional groups in New York and Geneva including the African group, Pacific Small Island Developing States, Francophones, etc (August 2022, June 2023, October 2023)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	10. High-level bilateral meetings with supportive states, signatory states and states parties

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<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	11. Organised workshops and stakeholders meetings in capitals in cooperation with governments (including but not exhaustively in Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	12. Signature of a Memorandum of Cooperation with the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) on the universalisation of the TPNW (October 2022) and engagement with the African Union Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department on the TPNW (September 2023)
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 5, 8, 9, 10</i>	13. Engagement with States Parties on promoting the universalisation of the TPNW – ongoing
Agreed Actions	Planned Upcoming Initiatives for Fulfilment of Agreed Actions
<i>In fulfillment of Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13</i>	1. Address to the XXVIII Session of the General Conference of States Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco , to be held in Guatemala in November 2023