



NUCLEAR BAN DAILY



Reaching Critical Will

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WE'RE OFF! TO BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

It's game on for round two of the nuclear ban negotiations! Delegations from governments, civil society, and international organisations are rallying in New York City at the United Nations to start deliberating over the President's draft treaty text—and to start crafting one of the most ambitious piece of international law ever attempted. People from around the world are also preparing to rally outside of the UN building, and in their home cities, in two days in support of these talks. The Women's March to Ban the Bomb will see actions in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and the United States! The world is watching: it's time to ban the bomb.

Inside the conference room this week and next, states and others will review the draft treaty text released by Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez, the President of the conference, on 22 May. This text is a good basis for negotiations, which we hope will be constructive and ambitious over the next few weeks.

From Reaching Critical Will's perspective, the text could be improved with the addition of core prohibitions on **planning and preparations to use nuclear weapons**, and on **transit of nuclear weapons**. These prohibitions would cover some of the most vital

activities necessary to sustain nuclear "deterrence" practices. In October, the US government very clearly spelled out how prohibiting these activities would affect its ability to move its weapons around the world or prepare to use them. Prohibiting "assistance" in the treaty is key, but prohibiting these two things explicitly may be one of the few ways in which non-nuclear-armed states can most effectively impact operational practice related to the unfettered global exercise of "extended nuclear deterrence".

An explicit prohibition on **financing** would also help provide clarity and guidance towards treaty implementation, which could include national prohibitions on financial or material support to public and private enterprises involved in any of the activities prohibited by the treaty. This could reduce the incentives for private companies to accept any work related to nuclear weapons. In this regard, this treaty could raise the political and economic costs of maintaining nuclear weapons. It could also help remove the influence of private interests from any decision-making processes related to nuclear weapons production and disarmament. It could also increase the societal stigmatisation of nuclear weapons, including through public divestment programmes.

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Nuclear Ban Daily is produced by Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) during meetings related to the UN conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading to their elimination, taking place 15 June-7 July 2017. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of WILPF.

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**WOMEN'S MARCH
TO BAN THE BOMB**
JUNE 17 NEW YORK

Editorial, continued

In **articles 2–5**, the draft treaty grapples with the various ways that nuclear-armed states could work with states parties to eliminate their nuclear weapons or pursue other “effective measures” for nuclear disarmament, and what kinds of safeguards, verification, and declaratory arrangements would be necessary for this. Consideration of these articles should be taken together. Overall it will be necessary to clearly establish that the treaty is open to all states on an equal basis and that there is an obligation to destroy stockpiles, as this treaty is intended to lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Adjustments will also be need to strengthen the provisions on **victim assistance, environmental remediation, and international cooperation and assistance**—though the text as written is a good starting point for this work. Issues related to **meeting of states parties, institutional support, withdrawal, and the ban treaty’s relationship with other instruments** will also need to be solved over the next three weeks, though a lot of common ground was expressed in March and is reflected in the draft.

To help the overall framing of this treaty, the preamble should improve its language on **gender**—recognizing a broader range of impacts than just ionizing radiation on maternal health—and adding a recognition of the disproportionate impact of nuclear weapons on **indigenous communities** around the world. It should also add or adjust its language on human rights, environment, socioeconomic development, and the immorality of nuclear weapons to help strengthen the stigmatisation of these weapons of mass destruction.

We have explored these issues in greater depth in our response to the draft treaty text, and will be working with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and other partners to help promote the strongest possible treaty over the next few weeks.

We have the chance to change the world with this instrument. The ban will not magically eliminate these weapons, but it will be a chink in the nuclear armour of those who continue to claim some “security benefit” from these indiscriminate, immoral, genocidal weapons. Nuclear weapons do not provide security. The majority of the world does not have them or need them. It’s time to codify this in international law and set the stage for total elimination.

The world is watching. It’s time to ban the bomb. •

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: THURSDAY, 15 JUNE 2017

When	What	Where	Who
08:00	Morning Inter-Faith Vigil	Isaiah Wall	Humanitarian Disarmament Interfaith Working Group
09:00-09:50	ICAN campaigners meeting	CR B	WILPF
10:00-13:00	Plenary	CR 1	
13:15-14:30	Verification of the Ban Treaty: Articles 3, 4 and 5 and Beyond	CR B	Program on Science and Global Security, Princeton University
15:00-18:00	Plenary	CR 1	



TOWARD A TREATY PROHIBITING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Daryl G. Kimball | Arms Control Association

Nearly five decades ago, the 1968 nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) established the requirement that states-parties pursue “effective measures” to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve nuclear disarmament.

The United States and Russia have reduced their Cold War stockpiles and verifiably banned nuclear explosive testing. But some 15,000 weapons remain, additional nuclear-armed states have emerged, and the risk of nuclear weapons use is rising.

Key NPT disarmament commitments made in 2010 are unfulfilled. The future of key nuclear arms control treaties, including the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, are in doubt. The 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) has not formally entered into force. Global fissile material stocks remain very substantial. Worse still, the world’s nine nuclear-armed states are replacing, upgrading, or in some cases expanding their arsenals.

In response, non-nuclear-weapon states have justifiably argued that the grave risks posed by nuclear weapons demand more urgent action. Last fall at the United Nations, 123 states voted to launch negotiations on a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.

The conclusion of such a treaty is now within sight. From June 15 to July 7, representatives from some 130 states and civil society groups will try to finalize a draft treaty text issued May 22 by the president of the negotiating conference, Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez of Costa Rica.

The emerging treaty has the potential to further delegitimize nuclear weapons as instruments of national power and to strengthen the legal and political norms against their possession and use. At a time when the nuclear danger is growing, these contributions are especially useful.

The nuclear-weapon states have dismissed the initiative as irrelevant and said it may undermine support for the NPT. In reality, efforts to reduce the salience of nuclear weapons are fundamentally consistent with NPT objectives and the common pursuit of a world without nuclear weapons.

It is also a healthy challenge to nuclear deterrence orthodoxy, which incorrectly and dangerously assumes that military postures threatening large-scale use of nuclear weapons are sustainable and will not fail. It is a reminder that, for a majority of the world’s states, these weapons of mass destruction are a security liability, not an asset.

The text provides a solid basis for a final agreement, although, like any first draft, it will under go refinements.

As negotiators make adjustments, they should ensure the treaty allows for the establishment of effective means for disarmament verification on a case-by-case basis, including special anytime, anywhere access by the International Atomic Energy Agency as may be required to verify that a nuclear-armed state has completely eliminated its arsenal and related facilities and inventory of materials. Negotiators also should make clear that the prohibition on nuclear explosive testing in the new convention does not detract from or offer an alternative to states’ obligations under the CTBT, including its nuclear test explosion monitoring and inspections regime.

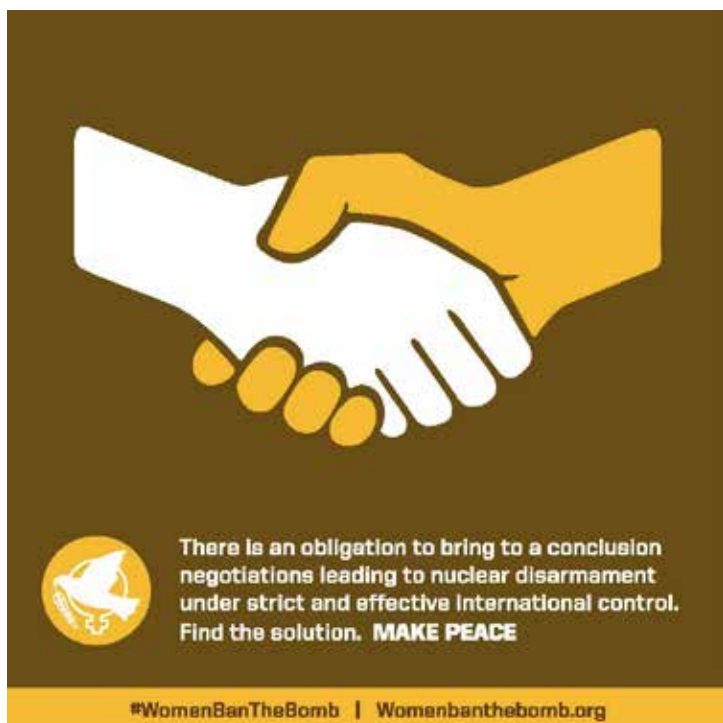
Although the emerging prohibition convention can help encourage further action on disarmament, additional and difficult work lies ahead. Prohibition treaty supporters, skeptics, and opponents must find new and creative ways to come together to strengthen the NPT regime, in part by advancing new and effective disarmament measures, while easing the growing tensions between nuclear-armed states that make progress difficult and increase the danger of nuclear use.

Leaders from the nuclear-armed states who say nuclear disarmament can be achieved only in a progressive, step-by-step fashion must be willing and able to walk the talk. Such measures include securing the ratifications needed to bring the CTBT into force; reviving the moribund U.S.-Russian arms control dialogue; bringing China, India, and Pakistan further into the nuclear risk reduction and disarmament process; avoiding the introduction of new and destabilizing strategic weapons systems and technologies; concluding legally binding negative nuclear security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon states; and conducting smart and sustained diplomacy to halt and reverse North Korea’s dangerous nuclear pursuits.

The coming nuclear weapons prohibition treaty is not an all-in-one solution, but it promises to be a historic and valuable leap forward. •



NUCLEAR BAN DAILY



WOMEN'S MARCH TO BAN THE BOMB

Saturday, 17 June 2017

12:00: Rally at 41st Street between Sixth Avenue and Broadway (near Bryant Park)

12:30: March from Bryant Park to Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza

13:15: Rally in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (47th Street between First and Second Avenues)

All delegates welcome! More info at www.womenbanthebomb.org!