

## **Statement of Parliamentarians to 1MSP**

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*As parliamentarians*, determined to rid the world of the scourge of nuclear weapons, we are honoured to address this first Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW, which marks an historic waypoint in our journey towards a world free of these weapons. We are pleased to speak alongside the governments, organizations and civil society representatives who have worked with such determination and persistence to get to this moment, and with whom we have been privileged to collaborate.

*As legislators*, we express our profound satisfaction that with the entry into force of the Treaty in January 2021, nuclear weapons are now comprehensively prohibited under international law. The TPNW completes the international legal regime prohibiting weapons of mass destruction, opening the way to the total elimination of these weapons worldwide. We are proud of the role we have played in helping to bring this urgently needed Treaty into force, working to persuade governments of its importance and supporting the processes of ratification.

*As people's representatives*, we reiterate our determination to ensure that our nations' citizens – and every nation's citizens – never experience the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. We remain painfully aware that there can be no adequate response to the detonation of a nuclear weapon. As long as these weapons exist, we all live with an intolerable and horrific risk. We support a renewed focus on the gendered and racialised impacts of nuclear weapons. Along with climate change, nuclear weapons pose an existential threat to humanity, threatening to wreak destruction on the social fabric of our societies.

Despite the repeated commitments and promises from nuclear-armed states to disarm, more than 12,000 nuclear weapons remain. Immense sums are being spent to modernize and upgrade them. And the risks are growing: Russia's recent threats to use nuclear weapons have heightened tensions, reduced the threshold for use of nuclear weapons, and greatly increased the risk of nuclear conflict and global catastrophe. We express serious concern about the increased push for legitimising deterrence and nuclear sharing as security measures.

We therefore resolve to redouble our efforts to increase the membership of this Treaty and to support its implementation. In recognition of the efforts of colleagues who have been instrumental in convincing their governments to observe this first Meeting of States Parties, We will work to build support among parliamentarians for the Treaty, to persuade our governments to join, to create conducive conditions for disarmament and to speed the processes of ratification.

We will emphasize the role of the TPNW in complementing and reinforcing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and we will continue to support all measures that contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and reduce nuclear risks. We will engage constructively with policy makers in nuclear-armed states and their allies, in the interest of enhancing international security and making progress towards our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

We will work to allocate the resources needed to ensure that the provisions of this Treaty are fully implemented. We will make full use of the knowledge, skills, expertise and energy assembled at this Meeting of States Parties, and we invite states parties, signatories, international organizations and civil society to work closely with us. We call on our parliamentary colleagues around the world to sign the ICAN Parliamentary Pledge and to join us in our vital mission.

Many challenges lie before us, but we are confident: we have banned nuclear weapons, and we **will** eliminate them.