

International Peace Symposium: 'The Road to Nuclear Abolition'



Colleagues, friends, Mayor Taue, City of Nagasaki, Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace, and The Asahi Shimbun, thank you very much for the invitation. It's a great pleasure to be in the lovely city of Nagasaki, hopefully the last a-bombed city on earth.

We know from data analysis, from the stories of the hibakusha, or from visiting this museum what happens when nuclear weapons are used.

Nuclear weapons are designed to destroy cities. They are designed to kill civilians, not just soldiers.

This is why the international community has worked for the "*elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction*" since the beginning of the atomic age.

In 1972 we collectively outlawed Biological Weapons. 1996 was the beginning of the end of Chemical Weapons.

No country today insists on their right to unleash the plague- even in extreme circumstances.

No country brags about their ability to use chlorine gas- and even when it is used- it's blamed on someone else.

No one wants to be responsible or accountable or associated with the use of weapons of mass destruction.

No one should.



UNITED NATIONS United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination | 16 February, 27 - 31 March, 15 June - 7 July 2017

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Treaty adopted on 7 July 2017

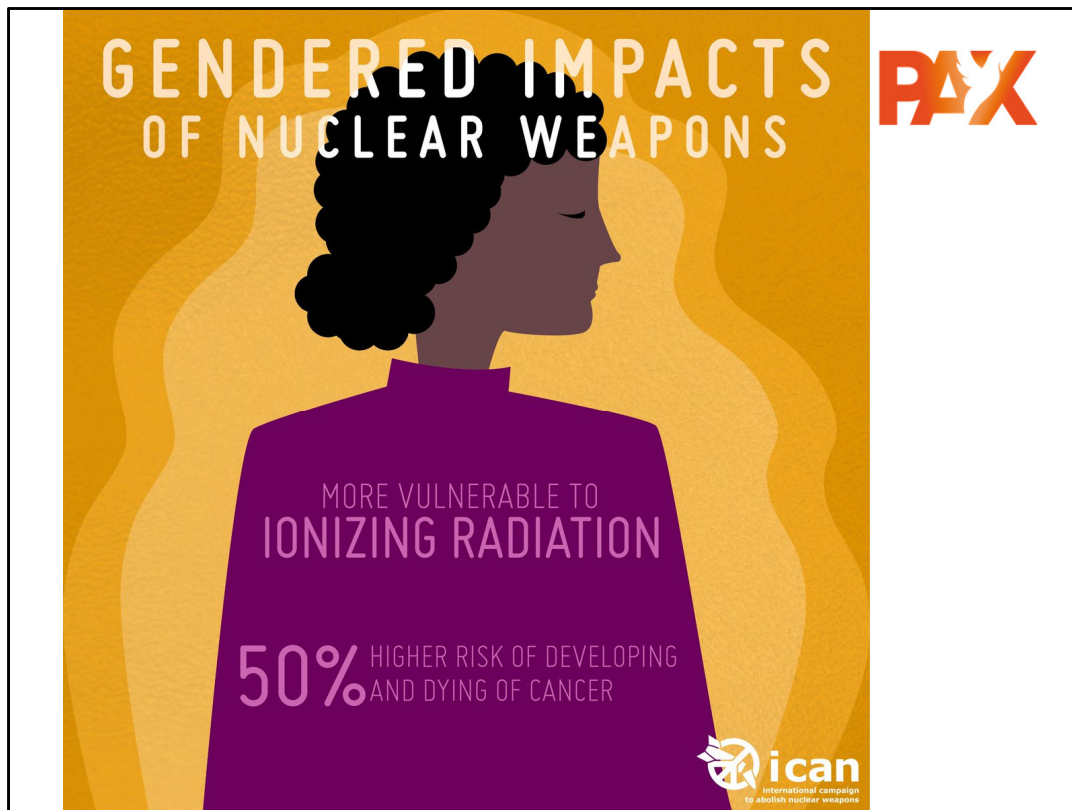
United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination

Last year, most of the world's nations took a significant step closer to ending nuclear weapons. The adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons inspires hope that Nagasaki will indeed be the last city to feel the fire and fury of the atomic bomb.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons or the Ban Treaty is the way to ensure that nuclear weapons will not be used again; each state that joins the treaty will contribute to a safer world and move the world closer to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

But what's actually in the treaty?

Like any treaty, the pre-amble sets out the vision. This preamble talks about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. It reaffirms that this treaty is an urgent necessity. It reaffirms that any use of nuclear weapons would be abhorrent to the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience.



The treaty goes on to reflect, for the first time ever in a nuclear weapons related instrument, a recognition of gender. The treaty recognizes both the disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women and girls & how gendered constructs have impacted nuclear disarmament discussions.

It says that the “full and effective participation of both women and men is an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security”.

The treaty is based on the rule of law, and like the last time NPT parties agreed on an outcome document- reinforces the applicability of international humanitarian law at all times and in all circumstances.

It is important to remember that the idea behind international humanitarian law is that even those engaged in conflict can't just do anything they want. Sure, sometimes they will, but the global community recognises there needs to be limits.

And, the treaty reinforces the importance of NPT & other multilateral treaties leading towards nuclear disarmament. It reaffirms the NPT as the *cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime*, and that the ban treaty is one of the needed building blocks in the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to:



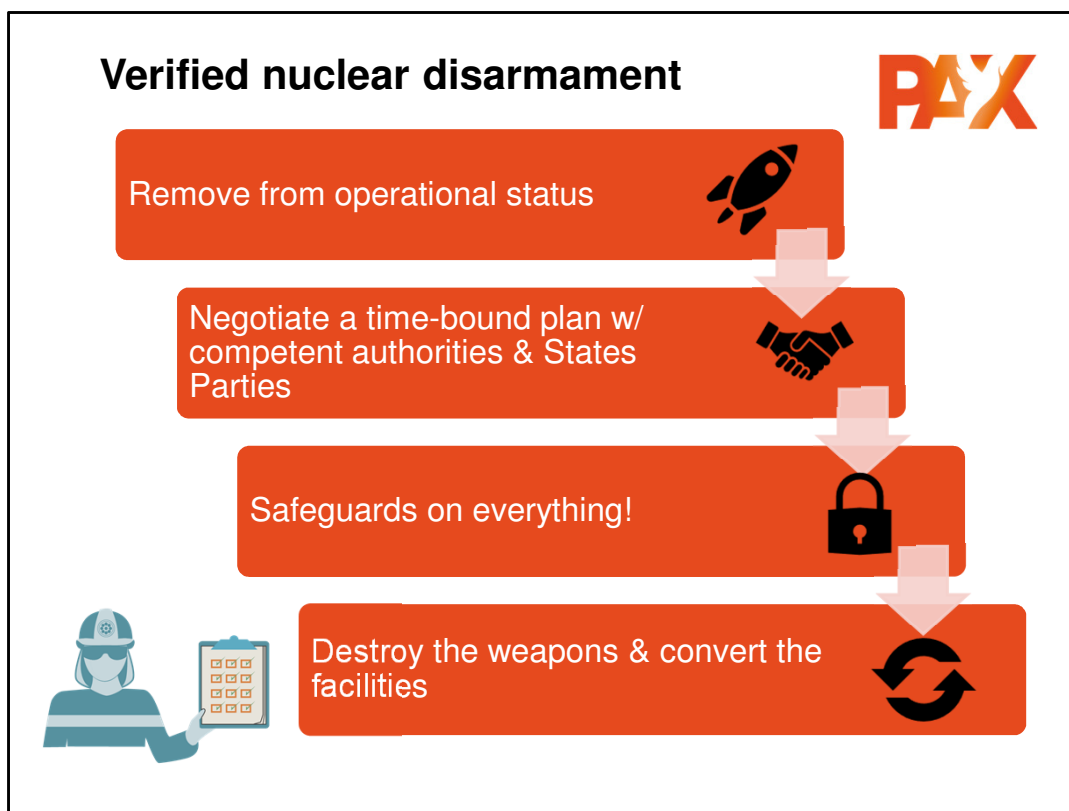
- Develop
- test
- produce
- manufacture
- otherwise acquire
- possess or stockpile

nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

It is a prohibition treaty, so of course the first operative article includes the core prohibitions. I like to summarize them as “Making, using or having” nuclear weapons.

It also prohibits anyone from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of those activities, and makes it clear that that states must not allow nuclear weapons to be stationed or deployed on their territory.

That’s why the Dutch government voted against it- as one official said to me at the time “its kind of hard to vote for something that you’re already violating”.



The treaty also includes negotiated language on verification. Since the adoption last year, I've seen a great deal of debate about verification and safeguards and the role of the TPNW, and a lot of misperceptions are out there. So let me take a moment to clarify.

First, the treaty negotiators specifically chose not to set up a "*competent international authorityto negotiate and verify the irreversible elimination of nuclear-weapons programmes,*".

This was partly in response to the decision by the nuclear armed states not to participate. Nuclear armed countries have made it abundantly clear that their national verification expertise must be part of any of discussions on how to verify nuclear disarmament. So there's space for that, for the learning that's taking place right now in the Group of Governmental Experts on nuclear disarmament verification to find a home.

Just because U2 said the way to dismantle an atomic bomb is through love, doesn't mean we don't need significant technical training, facilities that can deal with the incredibly toxic nuclear components and a way to do this without accidentally revealing bomb designs (the ones that aren't already in the dark web at least).

So, instead of detailing everything, the TPNW establishes a framework for verified time-bound elimination of nuclear weapons. It builds on the language already present in the NPT, and then gets a bit stronger. It demands immediate steps to reduce nuclear dangers- the removal from operational status of the weapons of any state that joins, and the goes on to lay out a plan that includes safeguarding everything, negotiating details

(some verification tactics will be the same for all arsenals, and some won't), and making sure that all the facilities used to produce nuclear weapons can never be used for those reasons again.

In conjunction with the NPT, and the progress in that forum focused specifically on non-proliferation, this is a significant achievement. It reinforces non-proliferation goals, and also sets a clear path to nuclear weapon elimination.

Victim assistance & Environmental remediation



The victim assistance and environmental remediation language in this treaty is another new thing in nuclear weapons agreements. It reinforces the humanitarian disarmament effort behind this treaty, because instead of predicating action on assumptions about geo politics or strategic stability, it puts the focus on the effects of the weapon and doing whatever possible to prevent use.

The Treaty also requires that all parties share responsible for helping victims and affected environments another should such a catastrophe take place again.

If I were to be held responsible for helping the victims, I'd do everything in my to prevent any more victims from being created. I'd use every tool at my disposal to prevent the use of nuclear weapons- because – as the International Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross reported last year- victims of nuclear weapons require support, caretaking, and help for decades, and possibly for many generations.

But of purely selfish reasons, I'd do everything I possibly could to prevent having that responsibility, wouldn't you? .

But enough about what's in the Treaty- what impact can it actually have?



Since its adoption last year we are already seeing some results. Not only has it been ratified by 13 States, but now that the prohibition is in place we are seeing money move away from the bombs.

Specifically citing the TPNW, financial institutions are moving away from investments in companies producing nuclear weapons and their key components. For example, the 5th largest pension fund in the world, the Dutch firm ABP with about US\$ 400 billion in assets announced it would divest from nuclear weapon producing companies. That's about a billion dollars they're going to shift into other investments, naming the TPNW as the reason.

KBC, a banking group with about 11 million clients also cited the TPNW when it announced it would end all financial relationships with nuclear weapon producers. KBC also has their headquarters in another NATO country that hosts nuclear weapons- our neighbour Belgium.

In other countries that are connected to the possible use of nuclear weapons there are similar movements. Deutsche Bank, the premier financial institution in Germany is changing it's policy because of the Treaty, and there are others.

Our Don't Bank on the Bomb project tracks the private sector relationships with the production of nuclear weapons. We examine who builds the key components for nuclear bombs, and who profits from them- the investors in Armageddon. We do this work because people overwhelmingly don't want to be associated in any way with nuclear

weapons.

		
		¥ 940,800,293,733
		¥ 471,695,343,197
		¥ 574,511,419,666

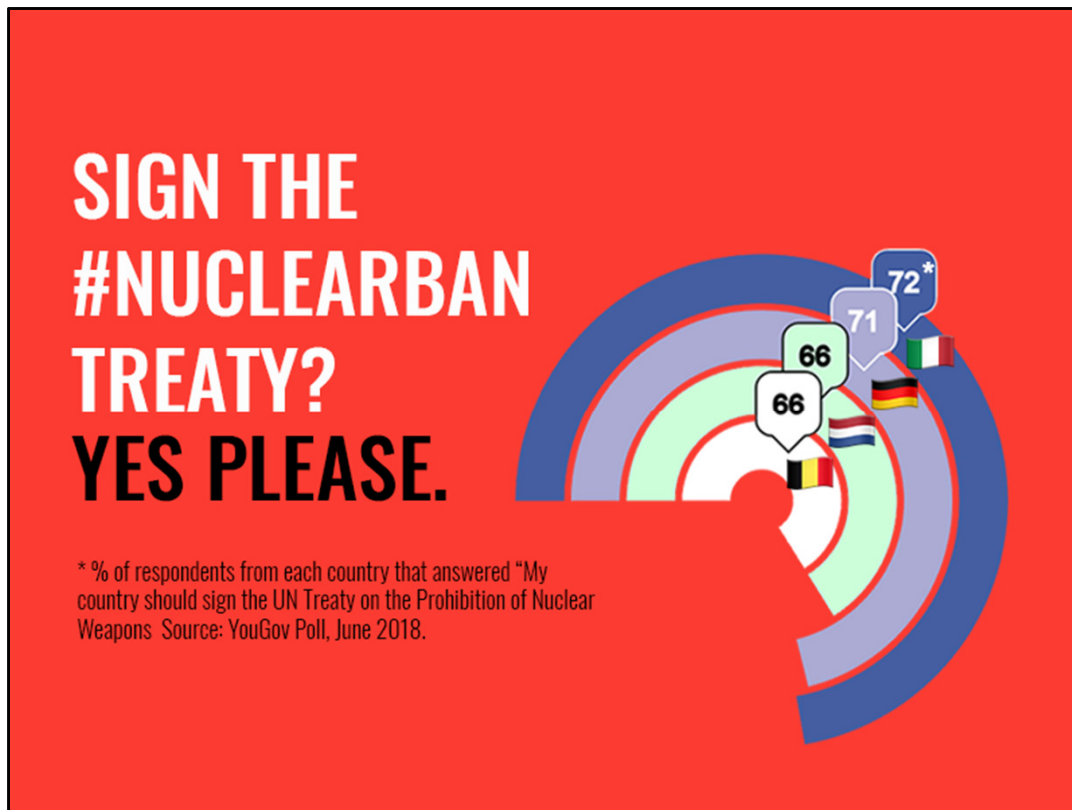
Here in Japan we found seven financial institutions with significant investments in nuclear weapon producing companies, the top three- Mitsubishi UFJ Financial, Mizuho Financial, and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial together have more than 1 trillion yen invested in the 20 nuclear weapon producing companies we've identified.

But- Mizuho Financial is ending investment in cluster munitions because they are inhumane, why not nuclear?

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial has a policy against investing in companies that go against public order or morality- what about nuclear weapons?

And Sumitomo Mitsui Financial wont finance the production of weapons for murder- but nuclear weapons are designed to vaporize cities. By design they will kill innocent children and anything in their path. Seems like a murderous weapon to me!

These financial institutions can and should change their policies and stop investing their clients money, maybe its actually your money, in nuclear weapon producing companies.



Now, of course the international security situation is deteriorating. People are worried, and for some, nuclear weapons were considered a good way to stay safe. So, how do we know that people don't want to invest, or that the Treaty is a good way forward? We asked.

In fact, we commissioned a YouGov public opinion poll last month in four European countries- Belgium, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. We chose these four because the US deploys nuclear weapons there, and their air forces train to drop US bombs. So, we asked the public what they think about the treaty, and here's what we found:

71% of Germans polled want the government to sign the TPNW and in Italy 72 % of the population is in favour of the TPNW. In Belgium & the Netherlands 2/3 of those asked (66 %) want the government to sign.

We went on to ask them about the financial sector-

BANKS INVESTING IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS? THAT'S NOT OKAY.

* Percentage of respondents from each country that agreed with the statement "I think it is not okay when financial institutions in my country invest in companies engaged in nuclear weapons activities."

#DONTBANKONTHEBOMB

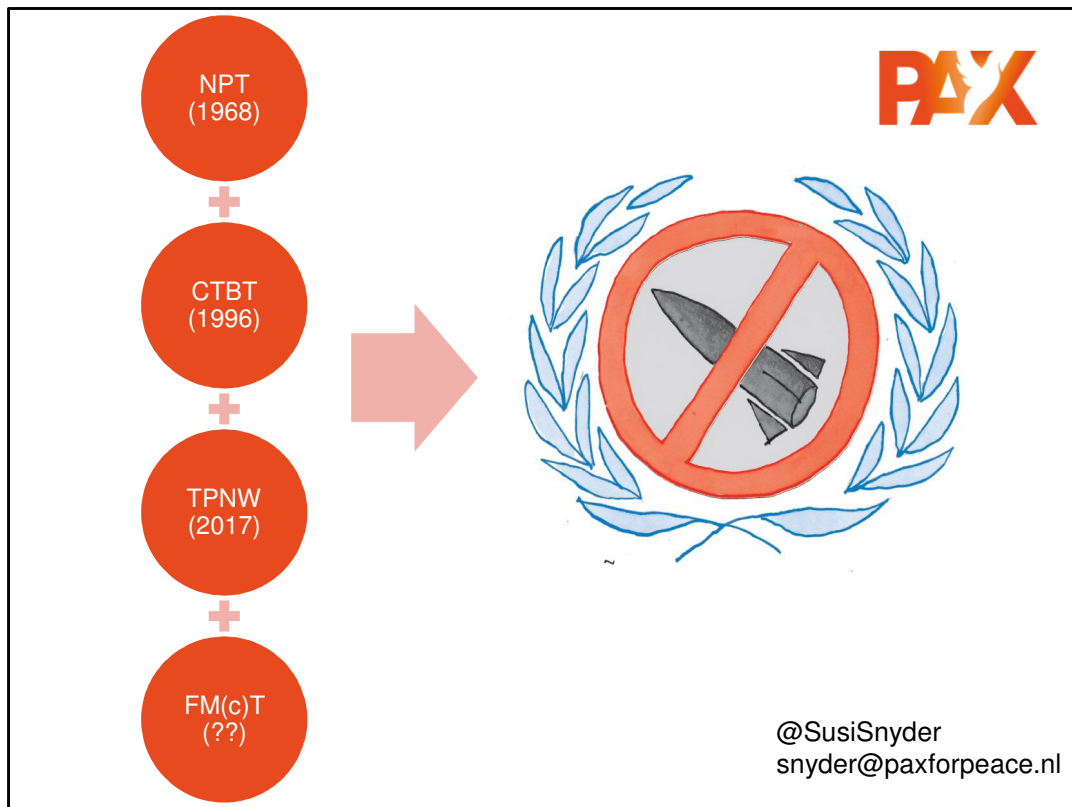
Source: "One Year On: European Attitudes toward the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, A YouGov poll of four NATO states." July 2018.

Country	Percentage
Belgium	68%*
Netherlands	71%
Germany	72%
Italy	78%

In all four countries public opinion strongly rejects the idea that financial institutions should invest in companies associated with nuclear weapons.

In Belgium 68 % of the population does not want financial institutions to invest in nuclear weapons, while in the Netherlands, 71 % of public opinion is against the idea that financial institutions invest in nuclear weapons. In Germany and Italy respectively 72 and 78 % of respondents think it is not okay to invest in nuclear weapons.

Of course, not everyone likes the TPNW. Part of the reason we're here today is to discuss how to reconcile the opinions of those countries that find the use of nuclear weapons acceptable and those that do not.



One thing that we can and should all be able to agree on is that we need find ways to reduce the risk- accidental or intentional- of any use of nuclear weapons.

The President of the ICRC, Peter Maurer, has proposed that risk reduction efforts could provide a common ground for dialogue between the States that adopted the TPNW, and those not yet ready to join it.

Regardless of their views on the ban treaty, all States should acknowledge that any risk of the use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable.

Preventing the use of nuclear weapons is of vital interest to all States and is indeed a humanitarian imperative.

This should be one of the normative starting points when we talk about what's next for nuclear abolition.

Risk reduction measures can and should include joining up to various international agreements - the NPT, the CTBT, the TPNW, an eventual Fissile Materials Treaty. These will form the legal architecture of a nuclear weapons free world.

The other steps- the ongoing stigmatization of nuclear weapons. The elimination of nuclear weapons from national, bilateral and alliance security strategies, ending investments- these steps are part of the overall picture as well, and not to be underestimated.

After all these create the conditions for nuclear disarmament, they delegitimize nuclear weapons, and only when nuclear weapons lose their perceived power will states be ready to move beyond them and dismantle the arsenals.

Two, three decades ago, there were a tiny handful of those who were proud of being chemical weapons states, but the dictates of public conscience drove change. Two decades from now, I'd be surprised if any responsible state still claimed great value or prestige from possessing nuclear weapons. The norm of non proliferation remains strong, and its up to us to shift our collective focus to the norms of fundamental humanitarian principles that make any use of nuclear weapon illegitimate and unthinkable.

Through the Don't Bank on the Bomb project we will keep up our efforts to make nuclear weapons unprofitable. And as ICAN said in our Nobel Lecture- we have a choice- the end of nuclear weapons or the end of us.

I look forward to making the right choice with all of you.