

VIRTUAL POLICY BRIEFING • INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS • MARCH 4, 2021 • 11 AM EST

ENDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS BEFORE THEY END US

Opportunities Under the Biden Administration to Take Action

Workshop:

Nuclear Weapons are Illegal. What Does the Entry into Force of the TPNW Mean in the United States?

Part A: What does the TPNW ban and what does it mean for the United States?

4 March 2021



About the TPNW

- The **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** was negotiated and adopted in 2017.
- It will enter into force on 22 January 2021.
- It establishes a comprehensive, global treaty-based ban on nuclear weapons for the first time.
- It also establishes a legal framework for eliminating nuclear-weapon programmes and assisting victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons.



Article 1: Prohibitions

- States parties must “never under any circumstances”:
 - Develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess, stockpile, transfer, receive, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons;
 - Allow any stationing, installation or deployment of another state’s nuclear weapons in their territory.
- In addition, states parties must never assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited under the TPNW.



Normative impact of Article 1

- International treaties only legally bind states parties, but can have global normative influence
- Normative pressure of past weapons prohibitions on companies, financial institutions and governmental policies in countries not party to comply (see: https://www.icanw.org/entry_into_force_briefing_paper)



U.S.-based companies producing nuclear weapons

- Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, Inc
- Betchel Group
- Boeing
- BWX Technologies
- General Dynamics
- Honeywell International
- Source: Don't Bank on the Bomb
- Huntington Ingalls Industries
- Jacobs Engineering Group
- Leidos
- Lockheed Martin
- Northrop Grumman
- Raytheon
- Textron



U.S. financial institutions investing in nuclear weapons producing companies

- Allstate
- Bank of America
- Capital Group
- Capital One Financial
- Citigroup
- Fidelity Investments
- Goldman Sachs
- Source: Don't Bank on the Bomb
- JP Morgan Chase
- Liberty Mutual Insurance
- New York State Common Retirement Fund
- State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
- TIAA
- Wells Fargo
- Vanguard

These are the 50 US universities involved in nuclear weapons production



Source: *Schools of Mass Destruction*, ICAN



Articles 4: Framework for Elimination

- This article establishes a legal framework for the verified, irreversible elimination of nuclear-weapon programmes and for the removal of foreign-owned nuclear weapons from the territory of a state party.
- U.S. academia contributed during the negotiations to research to verifying nuclear disarmament and the absence of nuclear weapons and can continue to do so to advance the treaty's goals



Articles 6 & 7: Victim Assistance, Environmental Remediation and International Cooperation

- States parties must assist individuals under their jurisdiction who are affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons.
- They must also take necessary/appropriate measures towards the environmental remediation of areas contaminated as a result of activities related to testing/use.
- States parties have the right to seek and receive assistance, where feasible, from other states parties in fulfilling their obligations under the TPNW.
- States parties that have used/tested nuclear weapons have a responsibility to assist affected states parties. Others states in a position to do so should also assist.



Articles 12: Universality

- States parties must encourage states that have not yet joined the TPNW to do so, with the goal of achieving “universal adherence”.
- This could be done through national statements, regional forums and bilateral meetings, for example.



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Questions