

TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS POSITION OF MEXICO (TPAN-TPNW)

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the first globally binding multilateral agreement that fully prohibits nuclear weapons in accordance with international humanitarian law. It was adopted by the United Nations Conference established through General Assembly Resolution 71/258, on July 7, 2017 in New York

TPAN prohibits both the threat and use of nuclear weapons, as well as their development, production, testing and storage.

Its content presents pathways for the elimination of nuclear weapons and, through prohibitions, will contribute to the irreversibility of nuclear disarmament once achieved. In this sense, this Treaty plays a fundamental role in achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, awarded for the impetus that this coalition of non-governmental organizations gave to the process for the adoption in 2017 of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The work of Mexican diplomacy was also recognized by the Arms Control Association, which awarded the members of the disarmament delegations from Mexico, Austria, Brazil, Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa with the award "Personality of the Year of Arms Control 2017", for having promoted the negotiation in the UN of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

GENERAL POSITION OF MEXICO REGARDING NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Mexico is a country committed to multilateralism and considers that only through multilateral approaches and solutions is it possible to reach agreements and develop strategies to address challenges in areas as diverse as international security, development policies, climate change or human rights.

Nuclear weapons are the most terrifying and destructive means of warfare ever invented. Given the evidence of its catastrophic effects, it is extremely doubtful that its use can comply with international humanitarian law.

Scientific evidence on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons demands that efforts be redoubled to achieve nuclear disarmament urgently. The detonation of this type of weapon would cause suffering and massive destruction over vast areas and on an unimaginable scale. Its effects could not be contained in space and time. Even limited use of nuclear weapons would have long-term and irreversible effects on human health, the environment, the climate, and food production.

At the International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna, in 2013 and 2014, it was highlighted that no national government or international organization has the capacity to respond to the humanitarian needs that the use of weapons would generate. nuclear.

The humanitarian consequences of these weapons of mass destruction led to the majority of the UN membership calling for and participating in the negotiation of a legally binding instrument banning nuclear weapons in 2017, in which the TPNW was negotiated and adopted. In addition to being established by a Resolution of the AGONU, the negotiation conference was open to the entire membership. Despite this, some States decided not to participate.

In the process of promoting the negotiation of a ban on nuclear weapons, Mexico highlighted that, on the way to eliminating other weapons of mass destruction, their prohibition came first. It is essential to have a legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapons, which highlights their abominable, unacceptable and illegitimate nature, as well as the risks of their use, regardless of the actor, intention, place and time in which they are used. The rejection of nuclear weapons for all these reasons is fully reflected in the Treaty.

In this sense, it should be noted the case of biological and chemical weapons, not all the possessors were parties to their prohibitions simultaneously, but the last to join these legal instruments did so due to the great international pressure before the norm established against of this.

Mexico is a promoter of the notion that the only real guarantee against the intentional use or accidental detonation of nuclear weapons is their total elimination, so it will continue to promote initiatives that allow for the advancement of multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, under the principles of verification, irreversibility, and transparency, to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons.

GENERAL POSITION OF MEXICO REGARDING THE TPAN

Mexico welcomes the adoption of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This Treaty is consistent with the recognized and extensive diplomatic tradition of our country in favour of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The Treaty reinforces the legal framework established through the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Tlatelolco Treaty, which established Latin America and the Caribbean in 1967 as the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area. Mexico deposited its instrument of ratification of the TPAN on January 16, 2018 and currently has [86] signatories and [51] States parties.

The Treaty clearly establishes a global standard rejecting nuclear weapons on the basis of international humanitarian law and the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of their use.

For Mexico, nuclear weapons are unacceptable from a moral, political and legal point of view, with the entry into force of the TPAN. Together with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the regional agreements on nuclear-weapon-free zones, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will contribute to efforts to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Mexico is convinced that, upon entry into force, the TPAN will complement and strengthen the existing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, the cornerstone of which is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

In addition to serving as a catalyst for the elimination of nuclear weapons, this prohibition will contribute to the understanding that their mere existence is unacceptable, by establishing a global norm that stigmatizes said category of weapons, discouraging their proliferation both horizontally and vertically. TPAN seeks to encourage, among nuclear-armed states and those under extended nuclear deterrence, to reduce, to the point of elimination, the role of this type of weapon in their military doctrines.

Mexico will make efforts so that more and more States adhere to this instrument in favour of international peace and security. Majority support for a ban on nuclear weapons will create a norm that will stigmatize them and thereby create incentives for their elimination.

The fewer nuclear weapons there are, the lower the risk that humanity will witness their detonation again, if a possessing State decides to join the prohibition and subsequently eliminate its nuclear weapons, it will be helping to reduce the risk that its population and that of the entire world witness the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the detonation of a nuclear weapon.

Mexico has reiterated in the various forums on the matter that it will continue to promote actions that contribute to achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons, in favour of humanity, its development and well-being.

For Mexico, the entry into force of the TPAN represents a clear and strong message for all humanity: "the use of nuclear weapons, under any circumstances is unacceptable, inhuman, immoral, illegitimate and illegal."

Mexico encourages all States to adhere to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to fully implement it. This Treaty is a milestone for international humanitarian law and provides a tool to protect present and future generations against these weapons of mass destruction.