
**United Nations conference to negotiate a
legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear
weapons, leading towards their total
elimination**

22 May 2017

Original: English

New York, 27-31 March 2017 and 15 June-7 July 2017

Draft Convention on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Submitted by the President of the Conference

REVISED PREAMBLE – 20 JUNE 2017

The States Parties to this Convention,

Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons and the consequent need to make every effort to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances,

Cognizant of the risks and the catastrophic consequences posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, which transcend national borders and cannot be adequately addressed by any single State, and which pose a threat to the survival of humanity as well as grave implications for the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and for the health of current and future generations, and of the disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on the health of women and girls,

Mindful of the suffering of and unacceptable harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons (Hibakusha) as well as of those affected by the testing of nuclear weapons, and recognizing the disproportionate impact of nuclear weapon activities on indigenous peoples,

Reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Basing themselves on the principles and rules of international humanitarian law, in particular the principle that the right of parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited, the rule of distinction, the prohibition against indiscriminate attacks, the rules on proportionality and precautions in attack, the prohibition on the use of weapons of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering and the rules for the protection of the natural environment,

Declaring that any threat or use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law,

Stressing that any use of nuclear weapons would also be abhorrent to the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience,

Determined to contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Concerned by the slow pace of nuclear disarmament, the continued reliance on nuclear weapons in military and security concepts, doctrines and policies, and the waste of economic and human resources on programmes for the production, maintenance and modernization of nuclear weapon systems,

Recognizing that a legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapons constitutes a step towards the achievement of the irreversible, verifiable and transparent elimination of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery, and *determined* to act towards that end,

Determined also to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Affirming that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Reaffirming the crucial importance of the core elements of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and of the achievement of the full and effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its three pillars as the cornerstone, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its verification regime, and the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Recognizing that the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security, and *committed* to support and strengthen effective participation of women in nuclear disarmament,

Stressing the role of public conscience in the furthering of the principles of humanity as evidenced by the call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and recognizing the efforts to that end undertaken by the United Nations, other international and regional organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, religious leaders, parliamentarians, academics, non-governmental organizations and the Hibakusha,

Have agreed as follows: