

Complementarity of the TPNW with the NPT, with a specific focus on the role of NWFZs

NPT PrepCom 2023

More than fifty years after the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) entered into force, the full implementation of the disarmament pillar of the treaty is still severely lacking.

Article VI of the NPT requires all NPT States Parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on “effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament”. Yet, there are still nearly 13,000 nuclear weapons in the world, many ready to be used within minutes. While the majority of the NPT States Parties demand concrete action on nuclear disarmament, the nuclear-weapon-States continue to maintain that nuclear weapons are essential for their security and have not concretely demonstrated their willingness to fully implement the commitments they have undertaken at past NPT Review Conferences,

States Parties have built a variety of supporting instruments, at the international and regional levels, around the NPT to reinforce and assist its disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. At the international level, the adoption and entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) stands as a legally binding instrument designed to facilitate and hasten the pace of the implementation of nuclear disarmament. The provisions of the TPNW contain a set of comprehensive measures for nuclear disarmament that complements the existing disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including under Article VI of NPT.

At the regional level, States have explored security assurance from nuclear-weapon-States to not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons in different regions through the Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ) Treaties in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, South Pacific, and Central Asia. Like the TPNW, NWFZ treaties should be considered as an effective measure under Article VI of the NPT and form an integral part of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture.

TPNW States parties, at their First Meeting of States Parties in Vienna, Austria, from 21 – 23 June 2022, appointed Ireland and Thailand as informal co-facilitators on Complementarity “to further explore and articulate the possible areas of tangible cooperation” between the TPNW and the NPT, as well as with other relevant nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

This side event will highlight the synergies between the TPNW and the NWFZ treaties, and their contribution to the NPT as “effective measures” to advance the full and effective implementation of Article VI of the NPT. It will feature speakers from regional bodies of NWFZ Treaties, such as AFCONE and OPANAL, and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

Opening remarks by:

Mr. Patrick Duffy, Deputy Director of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ireland

Panellists:

Ms. Katy Donnelly, Manager of the Disarmament Unit, International Security and Disarmament Division, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand

Mr. Nurmukhamed Zhangarayev, Head of Division on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kazakhstan

Mr. Enobot Agboraw, Executive Secretary, AFCONE

Ambassador Flávio Roberto Bonzanini, Secretary, OPANAL

Dr. Chen Zak Kane, Project Head, Middle East WMD Free Zone Project, UNIDIR

Mr. Charles Oko, Senior External Relations Officer, CTBTO

Ms. Alicia Sanders-Zakre, Policy and Research Coordinator, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Moderator

Ms. Athikarn Dilogwathana, Counsellor (Disarmament), Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Venue

M5

Date and time

2 August 2023 from 13.15 -14.30 hrs

For more information, please contact Celine Nahory, ICAN Advocacy Coordinator:

celine@icanw.org +41 79 560 8443