

Nuclear weapons have always been immoral. Since January 22 2021, they are also illegal as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force:



This historical agreement, adopted by the United Nations in 2017 with the overwhelming support of the international community, is the first international treaty to strictly prohibit the most inhuman and destructive weapons ever created.



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In 2010, the 191 States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including the Nuclear-weapon States (France, United Kingdom, United States, China and Russia) recognized, despite their hesitations, their "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons".

This declaration laid the foundation for future statements and conferences on the subject.



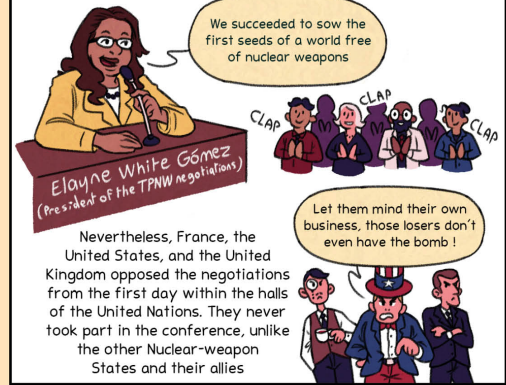
Indeed, nuclear weapons threaten the very survival of humankind and the planet. Their effects go beyond borders and are transmitted from one generation to the next.

In 1968, building nuclear weapons was already prohibited to non-nuclear weapon States under the NPT. However, the prohibition did not encompass the use or possession of these weapons by Nuclear Weapons States. In addition, the various nuclear-weapon-free zones treaties adopted since 1967, only ban nuclear weapons in certain specific regions.



The TPNW fills a legal gap in international law. Before its entry into force, nuclear weapons were the only weapon of mass destruction that were not subject to a prohibition treaty, despite the catastrophic and wide-spread damages they inflict.

On July, 7 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted by 122 States, after long negotiations at the United Nations headquarters in New York. A turning point in human history.

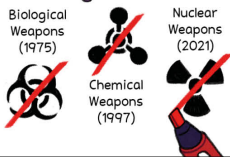


Nevertheless, France, the United States, and the United Kingdom opposed the negotiations from the first day within the halls of the United Nations. They never took part in the conference, unlike the other Nuclear-weapon States and their allies

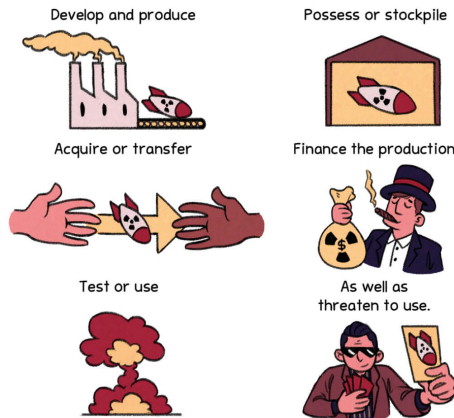
September, 20, 2017: Ceremony for the Opening for Signature of the TPNW at the UN. Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Ministers of Foreign Affairs from 50 states signed on the spot, expressing their full support for this new international norm.



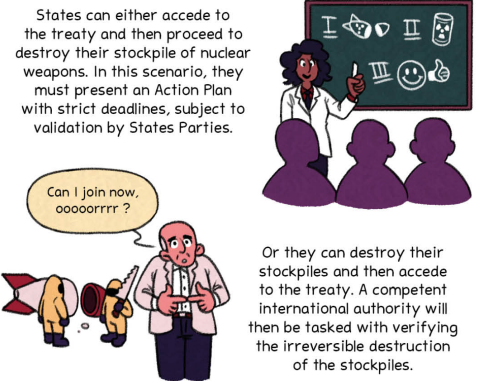
January, 22 2021: The treaty enters into force and is now a legally binding instrument. For the first time, nuclear weapons are completely banned.



TPNW, Article 1: "Prohibitions" ban States from carrying out a number of activities linked to nuclear weapons. It is now prohibited to:



According to Article 4: "Towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons", States possessing nuclear weapons have two ways to join the treaty.



The TPNW does not only apply to disarmament, but also to international humanitarian law. It recognizes the victims of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as those of the 2000 and more nuclear tests conducted, and acknowledges their health and environmental consequences.

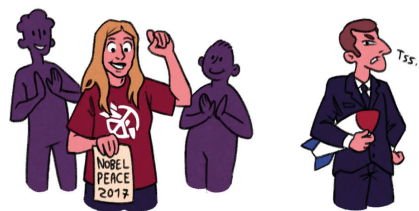
Article 6: "Victim assistance and environmental remediation"



Article 7: "International cooperation and assistance"

These obligations bind the States Parties to take actions towards the people and the places affected by the use of nuclear weapons.

If the TPNW came to life, it is thanks to the action of civil society fighting against the danger of nuclear weapons, such as ICAN, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its awareness-raising on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, as well as for its unprecedented efforts to prohibit these weapons through a treaty.



Civil society continues its efforts to achieve the universalisation of the TPNW. ICAN France advocates, urging the French government, which, for now, refuses to listen.

We are on our way to a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons! Let's eliminate these weapons before they eliminate us.

Don't you worry about all those atomic bombs that could destroy us at any moment?

Ohh, nonsense, and besides, we don't have a choice anyway

Of course we do! With certain actions and measures, especially the TPNW, we can completely eliminate this threat. Let's join ICAN. The international campaign to abolish nuclear weapons and ICAN France!

Take action :

- <http://icanfrance.org>
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