

KEY FINDINGS

CONTEXT



In 2022, fear of nuclear war surged to the highest levels since the Cold War.

The Ukraine crisis highlighted the limits of what nuclear weapons can do: they did not deter Russian aggression; they cannot win the war for Russia; and they are only potentially useful for preventing a nuclear war while incentivising risk-taking that could lead to that very outcome.



The 9 nuclear-armed states continued to refuse to adhere to, or engage constructively with, the TPNW.

32 umbrella states continued to play an important role in perpetuating the idea that nuclear weapons are both legitimate and necessary, making nuclear disarmament more difficult.



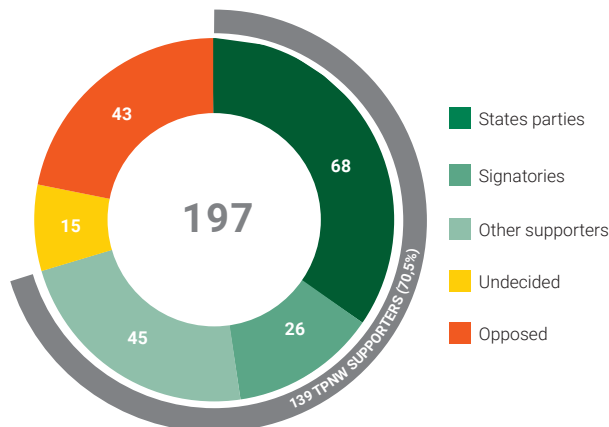
4/5

156 states—four-fifths of the world's total of 197—maintained defence postures that were based exclusively on non-nuclear means.

The First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW was held in Vienna, 21–23 June 2022. This meeting, which adopted the Treaty's first Action Plan and Declaration, represented a major step forward in increasing the authority of the Treaty as an institution in world politics and in setting in motion processes to further stigmatise and delegitimise nuclear weapons.



STATUS



Despite resistance from the nuclear-armed states, and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the TPNW's speed of ratification and accession increased in 2022, and was not far behind the speed of adherence to some of the other key treaties on weapons of mass destruction.

Support for the TPNW is generally high in every region apart from Europe. In Africa, 100% of the states are now either states parties or signatories to the TPNW or other supporters of the Treaty. Most of the resistance is centered in Europe, where 70% of the states were opposed to the Treaty in 2022.



Sweden and Finland's decisions in 2022 to subscribe to NATO's nuclear doctrine and join nuclear-armed states and umbrella states in voting against the TPNW in the UN, highlights how some non-nuclear-armed states are leaning towards the security logic of nuclear deterrence rather than disarmament.

Australia, however, became the first of the 30 states under the US 'nuclear umbrella' that did not vote against the annual UN General Assembly resolution on the TPNW. Instead it abstained on the vote.

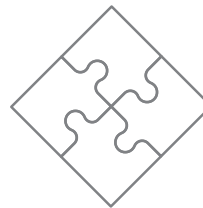


Five states under the US 'nuclear umbrella' observed the TPNW's First Meeting of States Parties, showing early signs of willingness to engage constructively with the Treaty.

In several opposed states, political debate about whether or not to join the TPNW was ongoing in 2022.

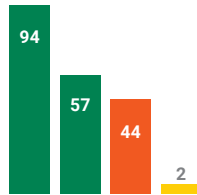


The TPNW is the youngest treaty in the broader legal architecture for disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The objective must be universal adherence to all of the components in this architecture. Only four states have not yet adhered to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has five outliers, the Biological Weapons Convention had four signatories and 9 outliers at the end of 2022, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty 11 signatories and 11 outliers.



PROHIBITIONS

All 94 states that were either states parties or signatories to the TPNW in 2022 were compliant with all of its prohibitions. 57 states that were not yet parties to the Treaty had policies and practices that were fully compliant with all of the prohibitions. A total of 44 states not party, however, engaged in conduct that was not compatible with one or more of the prohibitions. The conduct of two states was of concern.



All of the nine nuclear-armed states engaged in conduct in 2022 that was not compatible with the TPNW's prohibition on developing and producing nuclear weapons. The conduct of a further two states, Iran and Saudi Arabia, was of concern in relation to this prohibition.

At the beginning of 2023, the nine nuclear-armed states had a combined inventory of approximately 12,512 nuclear warheads, which is evidently not compatible with the TPNW's prohibition on possession and stockpiling of nuclear weapons.



The estimated collective yield of the stockpiled warheads that are available for use by the military is equal to more than **135,000** Hiroshima bombs.

The total inventory of warheads worldwide decreased by approximately 193 from 12,705 warheads in early 2022 to 12,512 in early 2023. This reduction is, however, only due to Russia and the United States dismantling a small number of previously retired nuclear weapons during the course of 2022.



China, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and Russia continued to expand their nuclear arsenals in 2022. The global stockpile of nuclear weapons available for use by the military has been steadily increasing since 2017.



The TPNW's prohibition on threatening to use nuclear weapons was contravened in 2022 by Russia, North Korea, and France.



The prohibition on assistance, encouragement, or inducement of prohibited activities is the provision of the TPNW that is contravened by the greatest number of states. A total of 38 states aided and abetted other states' nuclear-weapons programmes in 2022.

POSITIVE OBLIGATIONS



In the course of 2022, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Palestine brought into force a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, in accordance with their 18-month deadlines under Article 3(2). This reduced the global number of non-nuclear-armed states that do not have a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement to six.

Once again, the conduct in 2022 of all the nuclear-armed states was manifestly incompatible with the TPNW's obligation to eliminate nuclear weapons. There was no evidence that any of the nuclear-armed states have the will purposefully to pursue nuclear disarmament. China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States therefore also continued to fail to comply with their existing obligation under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to 'pursue negotiations in good faith' on nuclear disarmament.



The TPNW's First Meeting of States Parties in 2022 adopted a deadline of a maximum of 90 days for removal of foreign nuclear weapons. Thus, if Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Türkiye adhere to the TPNW, they would be obliged to ensure the removal of the US nuclear weapons that they currently host on their territory within this deadline.



The year 2022 saw unprecedented international attention to the rights of people affected by nuclear weapons and the need for victim assistance. States parties took steps to initiate implementation of the TPNW's obligation to assist victims, which in turn influenced priorities and discussions in forums beyond the Treaty itself.

Also with respect to environmental remediation after nuclear-weapons testing, positive progress was made in 2022 at the international level. States parties to the TPNW agreed to steps to begin implementation and voiced support for the process. There were minimal developments at the national level, however.



The states parties to the TPNW also adopted commitments to establish mechanisms for international cooperation and assistance. This was an important step, which must be followed by more tangible progress in order to advance implementation of victim assistance and environmental remediation under the Treaty.



States parties and signatories to the TPNW took a broad range of actions in 2022 to implement the TPNW's obligation to encourage further states to sign and ratify, with the goal of universal adherence. At the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW, states parties vowed not to rest 'until the last state has joined the Treaty' and 'nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated'.

