



Frameworks for a nuclear weapon Free World

Report from the Abolition 2000 Nuclear Weapons Convention Reset Working Group

Five years after the end of the Cold War, there was no indication that the 1970 NPT Article VI disarmament obligation was being taken seriously, and NGOs attending the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference drafted the Abolition 2000 Founding Statement, calling upon all states, particularly the nuclear armed states, declared and de facto, to “Initiate immediately and conclude by the year 2000, negotiations on a nuclear weapons abolition convention that requires the phased elimination of all nuclear weapons within a timebound framework, with provisions for effective verification and enforcement.”

The Abolition 2000 Statement inspired the drafting of a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention by international lawyers, scientists, and activists. The Model Convention outlines a comprehensive framework of the legal, technical, and institutional measures to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. It was circulated to UN Member States in 1997 by the UN Secretary-General, updated in 2007, and again circulated as an official UN document.

As the year 2000 approached, with no convention on the horizon, Abolition 2000 enrolled more than 2000 organizations in some 90 countries and continued its advocacy. Indeed, the Abolition 2000 Founding Statement and the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention laid the groundwork for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

At the close of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, the nuclear-armed states committed to an “unequivocal undertaking... to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals,” dropping qualifiers like “ultimate goal,” and agreeing to “a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies....”

The Model Nuclear Weapons Convention was submitted to the 8th Review Conference of the NPT in 2010 by Costa Rica. The agreed final outcome document declared: “All States need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. The Conference notes the Five-Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which proposes *inter alia* the

consideration of negotiations on a **nuclear weapons convention** or a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments backed by a strong system of verification.”

While many nuclear-weapon-free states have demonstrated their commitment to Article VI of the NPT by negotiating and joining the TPNW, the same cannot be said of the five original nuclear-armed states, who in a 2018 joint statement declared: “[W]e reiterate our opposition to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons....”

The 1995, 2000, and 2010 NPT commitments must be reaffirmed and implemented in good faith by *all* states. It’s time to refocus on the nuclear-armed states. In this regard, reconsideration of the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention is in order. In 2022 we formed a new Abolition 2000 working group to do just that.

In our working paper, “[Abolition 2000 NWC Reset: Frameworks for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#),” prepared for the 10th NPT Review Conference in August 2022, we suggest a range of modalities and approaches to achieve and maintain a nuclear-weapon-free world. These include: negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention or package of agreements; negotiation of a framework agreement which includes the legal commitment to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, identifies the measures and pathways required in general terms, and provides a process for agreeing on details over time; and negotiation of protocols to the TPNW or related instruments which nuclear armed and allied states would sign as part of a process for them to join the TPNW and build the nuclear weapons destruction, elimination, verification and compliance process through the TPNW, particularly its Article 4.

We also call on the nuclear-armed and nuclear sharing states to commit to a timeframe of no later than 2030 for the adoption of a framework, package of agreements or comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, and no later than 2045 for full implementation, in order to fulfil the NPT Article VI obligation to achieve the global elimination of nuclear weapons no later than the 100th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons, the 75th anniversary of the NPT and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. During the 10th Review Conference of the NPT in [August 2022](#) in New York, and the first PrepCom for the 11th Review Conference of the NPT in [August 2023](#) in Vienna, our working group made presentations introducing the working paper to the official government delegations. [Read our updated 2023 working paper here](#). The working group plans to continue its exploration and advocacy.

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