

African Support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

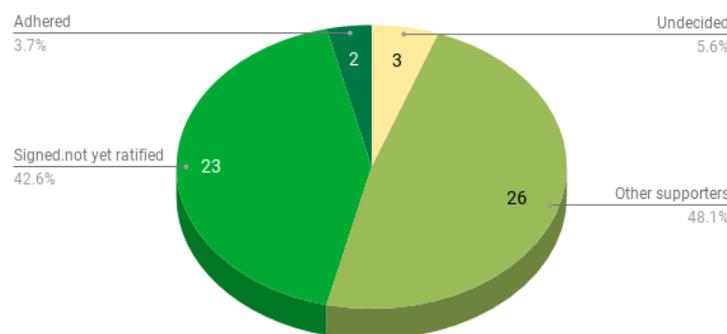
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"We commend states that have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and urge those who have not done so to join in this vital action."

Tijjane Muhammad-Bande, President of the UN General Assembly, 26 September 2019

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities.

Twenty-five African countries have signed the TPNW, two of which have also ratified it. Over 94% of African countries support the TPNW by signing it, ratifying or having voted in favour for the treaty's adoption.¹



Source: Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor, October 2019

Treaty of Pelindaba and TPNW

The prohibitions in the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and the TPNW are consistent with each other, meaning that a state party to the Treaty of Pelindaba can adhere to the TPNW without taking on any substantive additional obligations. If a state party to the Treaty of Pelindaba has adopted implementing national legislation, this is likely to suffice for the obligations it would take on by acceding to or ratifying the TPNW.

There are currently 40 states parties and 51 signatories to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba).²

The fourth ordinary session of the Conference of States Parties to the African Nuclear-Free-Weapon-Free Zone "called on upon AU Member States to speedily sign and ratify the treaty, emphasizing that it advances international law in nuclear disarmament and is consistent with the goals of the Treaty of Pelindaba."³

¹ Norwegian People's Aid, "Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor," October 2019.

² UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, "African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)," date accessed: 8 October 2019.

³ Conclusions of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Conference of States Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-

Category	States
Adhered (32 states)	Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gambia, Guyana, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam.
Signed, but not yet ratified (48 states)	Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Zambia.

Source: Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor, October 2019

African Union Support for the TPNW

The African Union Peace and Security Council adopted a communique on 4 April 2019 which states “Reaffirming the adoption of the TPNW, recalling the strong support of Member States to the process leading to its development, and recalling that the 4th Conference of States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba, held on 14-15 March 2018 in Addis Ababa, called upon AU Member States to speedily sign and ratify the TPNW, emphasizing that it advances international law on nuclear disarmament and that it is consistent with the goals of the Treaty of Pelindaba, as well as the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.”⁴

The strategic priority point 4.3 from the African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap for 2016-2020, issued by the African Union Peace and Security Council, is to “effectively implement instruments and policies to address WMD disarmament and non-proliferation.”⁵

The African Group statement at the 2014 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons expressed deep concern at the lack of meaningful progress towards a nuclear weapons-free world and the waste of resources, which could be better used towards the Millennium Development Goals.⁶

At the United Nations, the African Group regularly reiterates its support for TPNW and calls on all member states to sign and ratify it at the earliest.

Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), 14-15 March 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

⁴ African Union, Peace and Security Council, “Communique,” 4 April 2019 <https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/5961>

⁵ « APSA Roadmap, » African Peace and Security Council, 2015.

⁶ African Union, “Draft Statement of the African Group on the occasion of the Third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons,” 8-9 December 2014.

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