

CHECKLIST

Implementing Article 12 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Article 12

“Each State Party shall encourage States not party to this Treaty to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty, with the goal of universal adherence of all States to the Treaty.”

Under Article 12 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), states parties are required to take steps to encourage other states to join the treaty – with the ultimate goal of bringing every state on board.

As the membership of the TPNW grows over time, the treaty’s norms will become more deeply entrenched and more widely accepted, and the pressure on hold-out states to end their support for nuclear weapons will intensify.

It is up to each state party to decide how it goes about fulfilling its obligations under Article 12. This checklist suggests a number of actions that a state party might take at the United Nations, at meetings of states parties, in regional forums, in bilateral dealings, and in its national context.

At the United Nations

- ✓ Co-sponsor and vote in favour of the annual **UN General Assembly resolution** on the TPNW, and encourage other states to do the same.
- ✓ Refer positively to the TPNW and include a call for all states to join it in **national statements** to relevant international forums, such as:
 - The First Committee of the UN General Assembly
 - Non-Proliferation Treaty review conferences
 - Nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty meetings
 - The UN Security Council
 - The UN Disarmament Commission
 - The Conference on Disarmament
 - The general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- ✓ Advocate for the inclusion of a call for states to join the TPNW in all relevant **group statements** and United Nations **resolutions**.
- ✓ Support the work of the United Nations, in particular the **UN Office for Disarmament Affairs** and its regional centres, to universalise the TPNW.
- ✓ Encourage candidates for non-permanent **UN Security Council** seats to join the TPNW – and vote only for those that have joined it or pledged to do so.
- ✓ Use the **Universal Periodic Review** process of the Human Rights Council to call on individual UN member states to join the TPNW in light of the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to the right to life.
- ✓ Seek regular **updates** from other UN member states, especially those in your region, on their progress towards becoming TPNW states parties.

At meetings of states parties

- ✓ Report on and welcome **actions towards universalising** the TPNW, and encourage ongoing concerted efforts in this area.
- ✓ Participate in and support any **working groups** or **activities** to promote the implementation of Article 12 in a coordinated manner.

In bilateral dealings

- ✓ Include the TPNW as an agenda item for meetings between your **leader / foreign minister** and their counterparts from states that have not yet joined it.
- ✓ Seek meetings with **ambassadors** from states that have not yet joined the TPNW to discuss the importance of the treaty.
- ✓ Provide briefing materials to your **embassies abroad** and ask your ambassadors to raise it with the relevant authorities.

In regional forums

- ✓ Host or sponsor a **workshop** or **side event** on the TPNW with other states from your region to promote adherence to the treaty.
- ✓ Advocate for the inclusion of a call for states to join the TPNW in **resolutions** and **communiqués** issued by regional and subregional organisations.

In the national context

- ✓ Appoint a **national coordinator** in your government who is responsible for facilitating and overseeing implementation of Article 12.
- ✓ Hold events with the **diplomatic community** in your capital to raise awareness of the TPNW and to promote universal adherence.
- ✓ Update **members of parliament** in your country on progress towards universalising the TPNW, and encourage them to promote the treaty within the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- ✓ Collaborate with **civil society groups** in your country, including ICAN partners and the Red Cross or Red Crescent national society, in promoting the TPNW.
- ✓ Welcome new signatures and ratifications of the TPNW and share information about the treaty on government **social media** accounts / in **press statements**.