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2017 Nobel Peace Laureate Presents Denuclearisation Plan for the Korean Peninsula

Working behind the scenes for the last month, a group of the world's foremost nuclear disarmament experts have mapped out the best pathway for total denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, determining that the existing international treaty framework is the most appropriate solution.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), winner of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for efforts to promote denuclearisation through a treaty-based solution, presented the "Korean Peninsula Denuclearisation Roadmap" at a press conference in Singapore today ahead of the historic meeting between Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump.

The plan begins by recognizing the horrific loss of life and suffering that would be caused by any use of nuclear weapons. Experts agree that even a limited nuclear engagement on the Korean Peninsula would see upwards of 30 warheads detonated causing massive loss of life and cataclysmic environmental damage in North and South Korea, as well as the entire Northeast Asia region. Any solution to the crisis requires all parties to reject nuclear weapons outright on humanitarian grounds, through the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The roadmap outlines a solution to the question of how the Korean Peninsula is denuclearised where states recognize the unacceptable humanitarian risk of nuclear weapons; reject weapons by joining the TPNW; remove existing weapons with verifiable and time-bound plans; ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); and rejoin the world community through the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"The existing treaty frameworks are the only way to make Korean denuclearisation permanent," said Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN. "There has been little talk as to what an agreement could look like. This roadmap answers the question at the heart of negotiations: How do North and South Korea denuclearise in a way that is verifiable, irreversible and won't unravel?"

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the central point of the plan and joining the Treaty would oblige the DPRK to immediately cease any development, production, and manufacture of nuclear weapons. The DPRK would also be obliged to eliminate its nuclear-weapon programme, to resume implementation of its IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement, and to conclude and implement an Additional Protocol with the IAEA.

The plan also calls on South Korea, who has not had nuclear weapons on their soil since the early 1990s, to denuclearise. South Korea must formally reject the United States' extended nuclear deterrence in order to guarantee nuclear weapons will not be used on their behalf. This would not change existing military treaties between the US and South Korea, and the current "nuclear umbrella" security arrangement would be transformed to a general "security umbrella." For its part, the US would take a practical step towards denuclearization by finally following through on its commitment to ratify the CTBT. North Korea and China would join the US in this step. Ultimately,

ICAN calls on the US and all states to sign and ratify the TPNW and join the 122 nations who adopted the Treaty at the UN last July in moving towards a global nuclear weapons ban.

“Any denuclearisation must fully reject nuclear weapons and use existing international frameworks to ensure long-term success that would withstand any future changes. If not, a bilateral agreement, or even one involving multiple states, could unravel if a government shifts policy, or if a leader gets cold feet or takes offense at a Tweet. Denuclearizing through ICAN’s proposed plan would reinforce efforts to formally end the Korean War and build a lasting peace,” said Akira Kawasaki of ICAN’s International Steering Group.

ICAN worked in secret consultation with over 30 experts from the international sector, nuclear agencies, academia, humanitarian organisations and the diplomatic corps to develop a clear, practical and realistic plan. Several organisations and individuals provided confidential input as they lacked an official mandate for such an undertaking, but felt it was important a plan be presented leading into the historic talks in Singapore. ICAN undertook diplomatic efforts to reach out to parties involved negotiations including a series of opinion pieces published in key countries and languages, and an offer to contribute towards costs of the summit, to demonstrate civil society’s commitment to help ensure these efforts to denuclearise are a success.”

The plan at a glance:

- 1 **Recognize** the risk of nuclear use and unacceptable humanitarian consequences of such use.
- 2 **Reject** nuclear weapons by joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
- 3 **Remove** – a verifiable and irreversible plan for disarmament
- 4 **Ratify** the CTBT and verify through the CTBTO
- 5 **Rejoin** the NPT and the world community

The full Korean Peninsula Denuclearization Framework is available for download here: <http://www.icanw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ICAN-Korean-Peninsula-Denuclearization-Roadmap.pdf>

ICAN Spokespeople Beatrice Fihn and Akira Kawasaki will be available for comment in Singapore, beginning June 11 and for the duration of the Summit.

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About ICAN The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. This landmark global agreement was adopted in New York on 7 July 2017. The campaign was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2017, for their “groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition” of nuclear weapons. More information about ICAN can be found at: www.ICANw.org