



**ICAN – France**

187, montée de Choulans, 69005 Lyon

Tél : +33 (0)4 78 36 93 03

E-mail : [coordination@icanfrance.org](mailto:coordination@icanfrance.org)

<http://icanfrance.org>

## **Secretary-General's report on Youth, Disarmament and Non-proliferation ICAN France**

### **Submission to Secretary-General's report on Youth, disarmament, and non-proliferation.**

Since September 2023, with the arrival of a young student in its volunteer team and in its steering committee, ICAN France has made it a priority to facilitate the involvement of young people in the French nuclear disarmament movement. While it can be difficult to be heard as a young person in a field often seen as a matter for 'experts', we feel it is our duty to give young people the impetus to claim not only a place in the discussion, but also an active role in shaping strategies and policies.

Young people are the ones who will inherit the consequences of current choices, but the fight for nuclear disarmament should not be seen as a burden on their generation: it is also an opportunity to innovate, to create a more inclusive, intersectional, modern movement, and to redefine the way we do advocacy. That is why ICAN France has been helping to increase youth-led initiatives and mobilizations, so that young people have a place and a space to make their voices heard. This work is being done without the support of the French state, which, to our great dismay, is totally abandoning the topic of disarmament education.

Over the last two years, ICAN France made a point of including young people in its delegations to NPT PrepCom 2024 and 3MSP TPNW. Our three young delegates shone through their speeches and their participation in the general debate and side-events, showing that when young people are given the means, supported in their projects and given confidence, they help each other and get involved. As intergenerational remembrance and the strengthening of youth leadership are essential to our fight, we also funded the participation of one of our volunteers in the Hiroshima-ICAN Academy 2024, where she was able to take part in intensive training for young people, visits to places of remembrance and, above all, listen directly to the testimonies of the hibakusha.

Our social networks are also entirely managed by a young volunteer. Young people's approach to storytelling (such as our 'Hebdo Atomique'), which breaks with more traditional strategies, breathes new life into advocacy strategies and, in the case of ICAN France, enables us to create accessible educational content and propose campaigns around key dates. This new approach is also making a major contribution to our growing presence on social networks.

For ICAN France, young people are fully-fledged agents of change. By offering them spaces for expression and commitment, we are helping to build a generation capable of questioning the logic of nuclear domination and proposing alternatives. In the coming months, our priority will be to broaden this commitment even further, by forging new partnerships, strengthening young people's advocacy skills and giving them the means to influence debates on peace, security and disarmament.



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**Executive summary of your organization's submission.**

Over the past two years, ICAN France has made youth engagement a central pillar of its advocacy strategy. With the arrival of a young volunteer in both our team and steering committee in 2023, we have taken significant steps to empower young people and make space for their leadership in a field often dominated by experts.

ICAN France has actively included youth delegates in major international disarmament events, where they contributed to debates and led side events. We also supported participation in the Hiroshima-ICAN Academy 2024 to strengthen intergenerational memory and develop the expertise of young leaders.

At a national level, ICAN France has prioritized youth-led initiatives, particularly through its social media strategy. New formats have revitalized disarmament communication, increased outreach and provided educational content accessible to a wider audience.

Despite the French government's lack of institutional support for disarmament education, ICAN France continues to advocate for an inclusive and innovative youth presence in nuclear disarmament debates. In the coming months, we will seek to deepen this commitment by strengthening advocacy skills, building partnerships and broadening youth participation in peace and security policymaking.