



IRELAND

Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

National Statement

Statement by Ireland

Check against delivery

President,

Congratulations on assuming the role of President. Thank you to you and your team for your continued work in managing our preparations for this important Meeting. I can assure you of Ireland's full support.

President,

We meet against a backdrop of growing uncertainty and heightened nuclear risks. This is marked by a lack of progress on disarmament, increasing reliance on nuclear threats and nuclear weapons in security doctrines, extensive quantitative and qualitative build-ups of arsenals, a continued lack of transparency, and increasing proliferation risks.

The TPNW represents an important response by the international community. It is a call to action and a powerful declaration that the status quo cannot continue.

This Meeting of States Parties must deliver clear messages and advance proposals that effectively and efficiently implement the Treaty, and help us achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, without delay.

President,

Ireland condemns any and all **nuclear threats**, implicit or explicit, and irrespective of circumstance. Any use of nuclear weapons would result in devastating humanitarian consequences that would have global impact.

These consequences cannot be mitigated. The only guarantee of safety from nuclear weapons is their complete elimination.

We welcome this Meeting's focus on "**the risks to humanity of a nuclear conflict and its devastating**

humanitarian consequences.” At this time of elevated risk of nuclear conflict, and with the growing threat posed by nuclear proliferation, it is imperative that we have full knowledge of these consequences.

The work of the recently established UN independent Scientific Panel on the effects of Nuclear War - an initiative that we were pleased to champion with New Zealand - will be an important contribution in this regard, building on the major scientific advances of recent decades that deserve - and demand - wide dissemination.

President,

The vast majority of nuclear weapons are still held by just two States, states that also bear a unique responsibility for matters of international security as Permanent Members of the UN Security Council.

The actions of the **Russian Federation** since it launched its brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine over three years ago flagrantly disregard such responsibilities. Its actions threaten and undermine the entire disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Russia's reliance on nuclear threats and rhetoric in its barbaric war - alongside its continued illegal occupation of the Zaporizhzhya (*Zap-or-ree-zya*) Nuclear Power Plant - continue to raise the risk of nuclear disaster for us all. The recent drone strike on the containment structure of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor number 4 serves to underscore how replete with nuclear risk Russia's aggression on Ukraine's territory has become.

Russia must fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders, and fulfil its international obligations.

President,

Nuclear testing has left a trail of destruction and a legacy of immense human suffering. There can be no return to this practice under any circumstances. Any reversal of progress or weakening of the norm against testing would be dangerous and unacceptable, and would mark the perilous escalation of a new nuclear arms race. We must stand firm to uphold that norm.

We call on all remaining States who have not yet done so, particularly Annex II States, to join the **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty** without delay and without pre-conditions. Ahead of this, strict observance of the global moratorium on nuclear weapons testing must be maintained.

Today, many people – often marginalised or vulnerable populations as well as indigenous peoples – suffer the enduring consequences of nuclear weapons testing. Testing and its legacy of irradiation has impacted their

health, their environments, and in many cases, their way of life - suffering is often intergenerational and results can be irreversible. This can never happen again.

President,

The TPNW is an important and necessary addition to the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. It is fully consistent with and complementary to the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**, the cornerstone of this architecture.

TPNW States Parties have created a legal framework that can help to implement article VI of the NPT as an effective measure and achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The Treaty ensures that nuclear weapons are correctly considered as weapons of mass destruction and are comprehensively prohibited under international law. It has contributed to understanding how nuclear

disarmament can be realised in practice, including pathways and solutions through the work on verification and transition.

President,

The TPNW has also broken new ground in its approach to **women, peace and security**, directly recognising the disproportionate impact of nuclear weapons on women and girls, including as a result of ionising radiation.

We are pleased to see the work of UNIDIR, collating data in this area and pointing to a future research agenda. To ensure sustainable peace and security, it is essential that women equally, fully and effectively participate in nuclear disarmament diplomacy.

The Treaty is distinctive in being rooted in scientific knowledge and understanding. The work of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) - a novel innovation of the

TPNW - enriches deliberations in the context of this Treaty and more broadly, and ensures that they are grounded in real-world impact.

We thank the SAG, under the able guidance of its Co-Chairs, Dr Zia Mian (*Me-an*) and Dr Patricia Lewis, for their invaluable expertise.

Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty recognise the legacy of nuclear weapons testing and seek to remediate these terrible harms. We thank Kazakhstan and Kiribati for their continued work on these important issues. The implementation of these provisions is an important measure for the Treaty to deliver for those who need it most.

A key strength of the Treaty lies in its inclusiveness. The active participation of civil society, academia, international and regional organisations and, most importantly, victims and survivors - who are at the heart of the TPNW - is invaluable.

The testimonies of the *hibakusha*, and the work of groups such as Nobel Peace Prize-winners, Nihon Hidankyo (*Ne-hon Hi-dank-yo*), are a powerful reminder of the immense pain and suffering caused by these weapons. Through their tireless efforts, the call for disarmament is as strong as ever. Ireland pledges to support these efforts, amplifying all voices in our demand for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

We know that this call must grow to be wide and unified. The urgency of the task of disarmament requires our collective efforts. Therefore, universalisation of the TPNW must be a key and renewed priority.

We welcome the participation of observers to this MSP, and the opportunity to engage with a variety of perspectives. We must build support for, and enhance the authority of, this Treaty through meaningful engagement with non-States Parties, and share the invaluable

contributions of the TPNW in bringing us closer to our ultimate goal.

President,

Ireland's message is clear: nuclear weapons afford us neither security nor safety, and instead are a continued, existential threat to humanity.

The TPNW is a testament to what the international community can achieve, for the benefit of all. Ireland is immensely proud of the role we played in the creation of the TPNW.

The Treaty is a living expression of the international community's desire for a safe, secure and peaceful world, with the recognition that this is only possible through disarmament.

We must work together to achieve this goal.

Thank you.

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