



# Today's Nuclear Crisis, Perspective and Moving Forward

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Presently, the entire world is hostage to a nuclear crisis expressed in the language of war and destruction by the leaders of North Korea and the United States We can look over the abyss and the reality of the consequence of the uses of nuclear weapons strikes fear and terror in the hearts of any sane person. **There is no alternative to international**

**coordinated diplomacy.** We believe a broad perspective is valuable now to deal with this crisis and prevent others from arising in the future

In a speech, titled “Global Nuclear Disarmament A Practical Necessity, a Moral Imperative then United Nations,” High Representative Sergio Duarte reminded us that even before Hiroshima, on 11 June 1945, fifteen days before the UN Charter was signed, Manhattan Project scientists issued the “[Franck Report](#), which stated with prescience: “Unless an effective international control of nuclear explosives is instituted, a race of nuclear armaments is certain to ensue following the first revelation of our possession of nuclear weapons to the world.” Appropriately, the [first UN General Assembly resolution](#), focused on the elimination of nuclear weapons. Last week, a step was taken at the United Nations to fulfill that vision of a nuclear weapons free world.

Since September 20, 2017, 53 nations signed the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#), popularly known as the Ban Treaty. It will enter into force after it is ratified by 50 states. UN Secretary General Guterres opened the signing of what he referred to as a “milestone” worthy of celebration.

The Treaty prohibits developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, possessing, stockpiling and deploying nuclear weapons, transferring or receiving them from others, using or threatening to use them, or allowing any stationing or deployment of nuclear weapons on national territories of signatories, and assisting, encouraging, or inducing any of these prohibited acts. The Treaty requires each signatory state to develop “legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress” these prohibited activities.

Criticism has been made that the Treaty is not supported by the nine states with nuclear weapons. Critics from nuclear weapons states argue that the Treaty does not address the threat of North Korea, undermines the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and will not advance nuclear disarmament.

The Treaty exemplifies an effort to establish a universal formal legal prohibition to end the incoherence of the states with nuclear weapons asking others to do as we say, not as we do. Nothing stimulates nuclear proliferation so much as strong states and coalitions such as NATO claiming they need these weapons for their security while claiming they create dangers for the world when others have them. There are no good hands for such horrible arms. We agree with the Nobel Peace Laureates who joined former South Korean President and Nobel Laureate Kim Dae Jung and stated in the [Gwanju Declaration of Nobel Peace Laureates](#):

If we are to have stability, we must have justice. This means the same rules apply to all. Where this principle is violated disaster is risked. In this regard we point to the failure

of the nuclear weapons states to fulfill their bargain contained in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to negotiate the universal elimination of nuclear weapons. To pursue a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula or Middle East or South Asia, without credible commitment to universal nuclear disarmament is akin to a parent trying to persuade his teenagers not to smoke while puffing on a cigar. There are steps available to make progress in this area and they include: a. Completing a treaty with full verification mechanisms cutting off further production of highly enriched uranium or plutonium for weapons purposes. b. Universal ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, now ratified by 176 nations. c. Taking the arsenals of Russia and the US off of hair trigger, launch on warning high alert. d. Legally confirmed pledges by all states with nuclear weapons never to use them first. e. Making cuts in the US and Russia's arsenal irreversible and verifiable.

The NPT requires the US, China, Russia, UK, and France to negotiate the elimination of nuclear weapons. Each of these states are either modernizing their nuclear arsenals and/or expanding them rather than fulfilling their legal obligations to negotiate their elimination. It is time they began to fulfill their disarmament duties by either joining the Ban Treaty and addressing its limitations of verification and other technical issues or move forward in the arduous process of negotiating a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention to their liking. Sitting on the sidelines and offering no better way forward is inadequate.

The Treaty, in its preamble, highlights, "the ethical imperative" to achieve a nuclear weapons free world. The Treaty is designed, in its intent and substance, to stimulate, support, and advance humanity's quest for the security of a nuclear free world.

Obviously, more work is needed. Rather than only criticize that the Treaty does not do everything at once, critics should get to work on moving forward.

The Treaty states "that any use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, in particular international humanitarian law." The Treaty deftly highlights prohibitions on the use of nuclear weapons that apply to all states now, including those with the weapons.

Existing international humanitarian law (law of war) limits the use of force in armed conflict, compels distinctions between civilians and combatants, sets forth requirements that force be proportionate to specific military objectives, prohibits weapons of a nature to that causes superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering and provides rules for the protection of the natural environment. The Treaty further emphasizes "that any use of nuclear weapons would also be abhorrent to the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience."

The Treaty makes clear that even today should North Korea bomb Tokyo with a nuclear weapon, should a conflict take place, that it would be illegal and indeed criminal. This scope of the existing illegality of such uses of the weapon applies to all states, including those that have not signed on to the Treaty.

The Ban Treaty presents a challenge to the nuclear weapons states to help make humanity great by joining in efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons.

GSI was honored to participate in the Treaty negotiations along with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and hundreds of other passionate civil society advocates who for decades have laid the groundwork for this step forward.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Granoff

GSI contributions to the 2017 Conference on Establishing a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons:

i. [The Turtle, The Horse, and Nuclear Weapons, First Working Paper](#)

ii. [Never Forget the Good, Second Working Paper](#)

iii. VIDEO: [Jonathan Granoff, speaking on behalf of GSI and the Parliament of the World's Religions, to delegates](#)

iv. VIDEO: [Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament, World Future Council and UNFOLD Zero's Presentation on Divestments](#)

v. VIDEO: [United Nations Correspondents Association's press event on the prohibition treaty, featuring Jonathan Granoff, President of GSI; Bill Kidd, Co-President of PNND; Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of PNND, and Mr. Robert Green, former commander of the British Royal Navy](#)

*After 72 years, nuclear weapons have been prohibited*

Dr. Tarja Cronberg, Chair of the [Middle Powers Initiative\(MPI\)](#)



7 July 2017 was a momentous day for disarmament and arms control. On that day, 122 states approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, often called 'the ban



treaty', at the United Nations in New York. Once 50 states have ratified the treaty, nuclear weapons will be illegal. The agreement will prohibit the possession of nuclear weapons for all states in the same way as the chemical and biological weapon conventions have prohibited those weapons for all.

In the final report of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, the parties to the treaty expressed 'their deep concern over the catastrophic consequences of any use of nuclear weapons'. Since then, it has taken three international conferences to debate these consequences, a humanitarian pledge signed by over 100 states and a UN Open-ended Working Group to agree to start negotiations on a prohibition treaty. Consequently, the treaty is above all a humanitarian achievement recognizing the indiscriminate nature and uniquely destructive power of nuclear weapons. (CONTINUED)

*Why Canada should sign the treaty banning nuclear arms*



*Hon. Douglas Roche, Chairman Emeritus of MPI and a member of GSI Board of Advisors. He is also a former senator and a former Canadian ambassador for disarmament and honorary citizen of Hiroshima*

I was 16 when the first atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August, 1945. It was only years later, when I visited Japan as a member of Parliament, that I realized the unspeakable horror and scale of destruction possible in the new nuclear age.

That experience changed my life as I began to understand that the threat to use the immense killing power of modern nuclear weapons challenges all human rights. Through the years, the movement to abolish nuclear weapons ebbed and flowed, and few people thought the elimination of all 15,000 nuclear weapons was a practical political goal.

(CONTINUED)

*RENEWED HOPE FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT*



SERGIO DUARTE, Ambassador, President of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and former High Representative of the

United Nations for Disarmament Affairs, and Member of GSI's Board of Advisors

Seventy-one and a half years after the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to establish a Commission charged with making specific proposals "for the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons," the international community finally took a historic step in that direction. On July 7, a Conference, attended by over 122 States, several inter-governmental and civil society organizations, which are dedicated to disarmament and the pursuit of peace, adopted a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons leading to their complete elimination. The report of the Conference, together with the text of the new Treaty will be sent to the General Assembly of the United Nations, which will open it to the signature of States as from 20 September 2017. The Treaty will enter into force once fifty signatories have ratified it. ([CONTINUED](#))

For additional resources, please see the following links:



[1. INTERVIEW ON GLOBAL CONNECTIONS TELEVISION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS WITH BILL MILLER AND JONATHAN GRANOFF](#)



2. VIDEO: [Role for the Catholic Church in the Ban Treaty](#)

3. For legal analysis: See: [The International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms' statement on Ban Treaty](#)

4. For serious in depth analysis of international law and nuclear weapons law, see “[Nuclear Weapons and Compliance with International Humanitarian Law and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#)”

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at [info@gsinstitute.org](mailto:info@gsinstitute.org), or contact Mr. Jonathan Granoff at [granoff@gsinstitute.org](mailto:granoff@gsinstitute.org) or

Mr. Christian N. Ciobanu at [christian@gsinstitute.org](mailto:christian@gsinstitute.org).

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### PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT



Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) is engaging legislators worldwide in critical steps towards nuclear disarmament.

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