

# TOWARDS A TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

*A Guide to Government Positions on a Nuclear Weapons Convention*



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# Overview

## Growing Government Support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention

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In recent years, government support for a nuclear weapons convention – a treaty to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons – has grown considerably. Since 2008, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been calling on nations to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention as a way of fulfilling their obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

At the five-yearly review conference of the NPT in May 2010, two references to a nuclear weapons convention made their way into the agreed outcome document. Since that conference, calls by governments for work to begin on a nuclear weapons convention have only grown louder, as this guide shows.

In addition to official statements of support for a convention, many non-government organizations have also advocated for such a treaty. In 2011, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, which has some 97 million volunteers and members globally, put its full weight behind a nuclear abolition treaty.

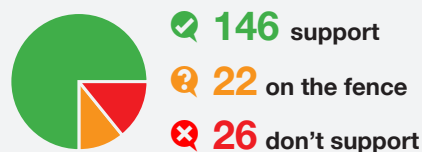
### Support for a Convention

This guide examines the policies of 194 governments on the question of a nuclear weapons convention. It shows that 146 of them – roughly three-quarters – support the immediate commencement of negotiations leading to a convention. Only 26 are opposed to the idea, and 22 sit “on the fence”.

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The whole of Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa are in favour of a nuclear weapons convention, along with most nations in Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East. Support is weakest among European and North American nations, many of which are part of NATO.

Only four members of the European Union are supportive – Austria, Ireland, Malta and Sweden – and just one NATO member is in favour: Norway. Russia and Israel are both resistant to a convention. Of the nuclear-armed nations, four have expressed their support: China, India, Pakistan and North Korea.

Three of the countries listed in this guide as “on the fence” are non-NATO allies of the United States that claim reliance on US nuclear weapons: Australia, Japan and South Korea. Five NATO countries have also been designated as on the fence: Canada, Croatia, Germany, Iceland and Romania.

Most of the other nations that are neutral towards a nuclear weapons convention have defence relationships with France (e.g. Andorra and Monaco) or the United States (e.g. Marshall Islands and Micronesia), or they are seeking membership of NATO (e.g. Macedonia).

Nations that support a nuclear weapons convention make up approximately 81% of the world's population, with the fence-sitters accounting for 5% and the opponents 14%. In

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the nuclear-armed states that do not favour a convention – namely, the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Israel – opinion polls show that the public is nonetheless supportive.

### Designations Used

This guide divides nations into three categories: those that support a nuclear weapons convention, those that are “on the fence” and those that do not support a convention.



**SUPPORT** These countries have voted in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention and/or have voiced their support for such a treaty.



**ON THE FENCE** These countries typically abstain from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention and/or have expressed partial support for such a treaty.



**DON'T SUPPORT** These countries have voted against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention and/or have voiced their opposition to a convention.

In a small number of cases, the designation used in this guide does not match a country's vote on UN General Assembly resolutions relating to a nuclear weapons convention. For example, Norway is described here as supportive based on its public statements, although it abstains from voting on the annual Malaysian resolution calling for a nuclear weapons convention.

The guide includes all 193 UN member states, as well as the Holy See, as it is a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It describes nations' positions based on their official statements without making any judgement as to the sincerity of those statements. It is thus descriptive rather than analytical.

When negotiations on a nuclear weapons

convention commence, it may well be that some of the countries described in this guide as supportive choose not to participate. Similarly, several of the nations currently “on the fence” or opposed may decide to take part.

### National Groupings

The guide indicates whether a country belongs to a particular national grouping. This may help to explain a country's position.

<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>NAC</b>	New Agenda Coalition
<b>NAM</b>	Non-Aligned Movement
<b>NATO</b>	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
<b>RIO</b>	Rio Group

### Updates to this Guide

Previous versions of this guide were published in August and December 2010. These used a more complicated system for assessing a government's level of support for a nuclear weapons convention. Nations were allocated one to four stars. Based on feedback, this version of the guide uses a simpler system.

We welcome comments, clarifications, corrections, additional information and updates from governments and individuals. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the descriptions in this guide, but we cannot guarantee that it is free from errors. Please email your comments to [tim@icanw.org](mailto:tim@icanw.org).

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Securing Our Survival \(SOS\)](#)
- [The Case against Nuclear Weapons](#)
- [Model Nuclear Weapons Convention](#)
- [The Case for a Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#)



## Support

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Afghanistan	Grenada	Paraguay
Algeria	Guatemala	Peru
Angola	Guinea	Philippines
Antigua & Barbuda	Guinea-Bissau	Qatar
Argentina	Guyana	Rwanda
Austria	Haiti	Saint Kitts & Nevis
Azerbaijan	Holy See	Saint Lucia
Bahamas	Honduras	Saint Vincent & Gren.
Bahrain	India	Samoa
Bangladesh	Indonesia	San Marino
Barbados	Iran	São Tomé & Príncipe
Belize	Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Benin	Ireland*	Senegal
Bhutan	Jamaica	Serbia
Bolivia	Jordan	Seychelles
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Kazakhstan	Sierra Leone
Botswana	Kenya	Singapore
Brazil	Kiribati	Solomon Islands
Brunei	Kuwait	Somalia
Burkina Faso	Laos	South Africa
Burma	Lebanon	South Sudan
Burundi	Lesotho	Sri Lanka
Cambodia	Liberia	Sudan
Cameroon	Libya	Suriname
Cape Verde	Liechtenstein	Swaziland
Central African Rep.	Madagascar	Sweden*
Chad	Malawi	Switzerland
Chile	Malaysia	Syria
China*	Maldives	Tajikistan
Colombia	Mali	Tanzania
Comoros	Malta	Thailand
Congo	Mauritania	Timor-Leste
Costa Rica	Mauritius	Togo
Cote d'Ivoire	Mexico	Tonga
Cuba	Mongolia	Trinidad & Tobago
Dem. Rep. of Congo	Morocco	Tunisia
Djibouti	Mozambique	Turkmenistan
Dominica	Namibia	Tuvalu
Dominican Republic	Nepal	Uganda
Ecuador	New Zealand*	Ukraine
Egypt	Nicaragua	United Arab Emirates
El Salvador	Niger	Uruguay
Equatorial Guinea	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Eritrea	North Korea	Venezuela
Ethiopia	Norway	Vietnam
Fiji	Oman	Yemen
Gabon	Pakistan	Zambia
Gambia	Panama	Zimbabwe
Ghana	Papua New Guinea	

\* The support expressed by these nations is qualified. See position descriptions.



**On the  
fence**

**22**

Andorra  
Armenia  
Australia  
Belarus  
Canada  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Finland

Germany  
Georgia  
Iceland  
Japan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Macedonia  
Marshall Islands  
Micronesia

Moldova  
Montenegro  
Nauru  
Romania  
South Korea  
Uzbekistan



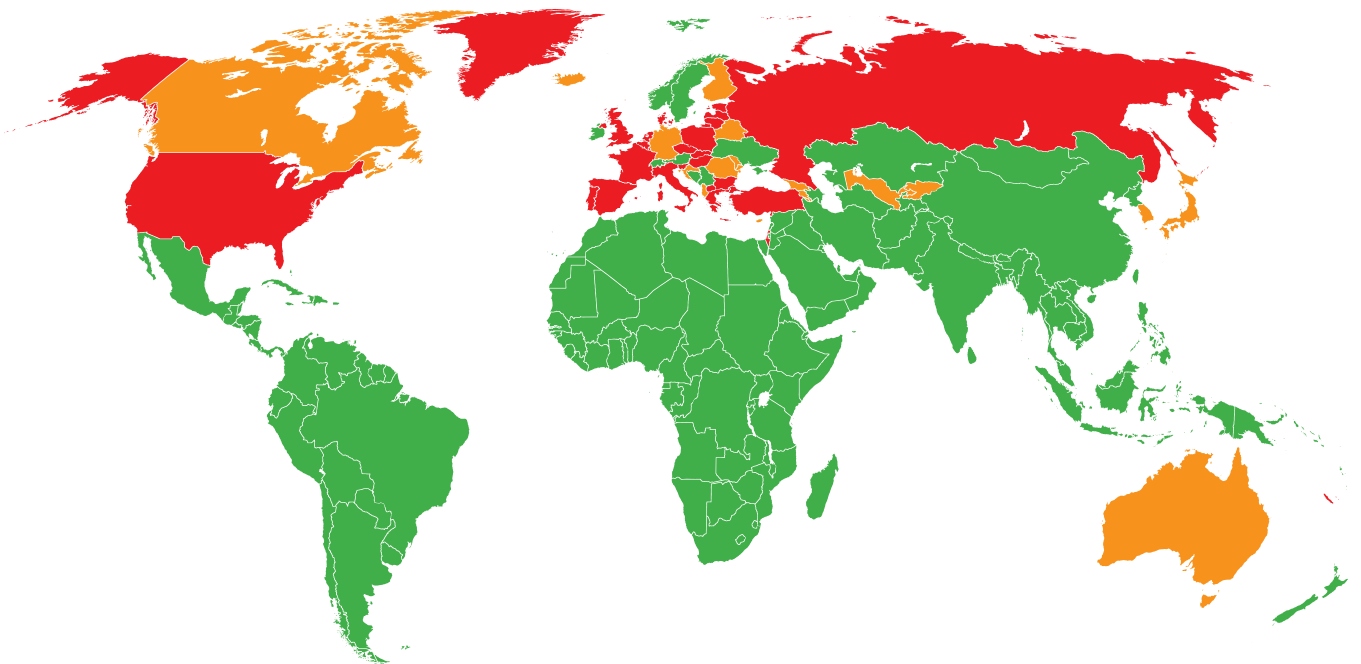
**Don't  
support**

**26**

Albania  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
France  
Greece  
Hungary

Israel  
Italy  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Monaco  
Netherlands  
Palau  
Poland

Portugal  
Russia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Turkey  
United Kingdom  
United States



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# National Positions

## Official Government Positions on a Nuclear Weapons Convention

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### Afghanistan

**NAM** Afghanistan votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>1</sup>



### Albania

**NATO** Albania votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>2</sup> In a letter sent to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in June 2011, Albania stated that it “believes that an intermediate step-by-step approach with gradual and practical steps toward nuclear disarmament with the involvement of the nuclear-weapon states would be a realistic and reachable approach”.<sup>3</sup>

It acknowledges that “the final implementation of the objectives of Article VI of the NPT will need a legally binding international document”. However, “Albania believes that it is not yet time to call for such an arrangement, including a nuclear weapons convention, as it could have a negative impact on the current disarmament process”. Albania is part of the NATO military alliance. It typically aligns itself with statements made by the European Union, although it is not a member.



### Algeria

**NAM** Algeria regularly expresses support for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. At a high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament in September 2010, it argued that a convention or framework agreement for the elimination of nuclear weapons is the “appropriate” way for the NPT nuclear-weapon states to fulfil their various commitments made at the NPT review conferences in 1995 and 2000, and reaffirmed in 2010.<sup>4</sup>

At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, Algeria argued for the insertion of an additional reference to a nuclear weapons convention in the draft outcome document as a fundamental objective of the NPT.<sup>5</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>6</sup>

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1. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

2. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

3. **Letter** to ICAN from the Permanent Mission of Albania to the UN, 30 June 2011.

4. **Statement** by Algeria to the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations, New York, 24 September 2010.

5. Oral remarks by Algeria at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 24 May 2010.

6. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

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### Andorra

Andorra abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>7</sup> In a letter sent to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in 2011, it stated that it is “in favour of limiting the use of nuclear weapons”.<sup>8</sup>



### Angola

**NAM** Angola votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>9</sup>



### Antigua & Barbuda

**NAM** Antigua and Barbuda votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>10</sup>



### Argentina

**RIO** Argentina votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>11</sup> It has commended the proposal of the UN Secretary-General to begin negotiations on a convention prohibiting nuclear weapons.<sup>12</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 93% of Argentines support a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>13</sup>



### Armenia

Armenia abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>14</sup>



### Australia

Australia supports “the exploration of legal frameworks for the eventual abolition of nuclear weapons, including the possibility of a nuclear weapons convention, as prospects for multilateral disarmament improve”.<sup>15</sup> However, the government’s “immediate disarmament priorities” are the negotiation of a fissile materials cut-off treaty and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.<sup>16</sup>

Australia has acknowledged that a nuclear weapons convention may be necessary in the longer term for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world.<sup>17</sup> While it has not

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7. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

8. **Letter** to ICAN from the Permanent Mission of Andorra to the UN, 22 August 2011.

9. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

10. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

11. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

12. **Statement** by Argentina to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

13. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

14. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

15. **Letter** to Senators Bob Brown and Scott Ludlam from Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd, May 2011.

16. *Ibid.*

17. **Statement** by Australia to the NPT Preparatory Committee, New York, 6 May 2009; **statement** by Australia to the NPT Preparatory Committee, Geneva, 30 April 2008.

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actively promoted the negotiation of such a treaty, it has welcomed the UN Secretary-General's five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament, including his call for negotiations on a verifiable nuclear weapons convention.<sup>18</sup>

In September 2009, a cross-party parliamentary committee with members from both houses of parliament recommended unanimously that Australia make clear in international forums its support for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>19</sup> In its official response to the inquiry, the government stated that, “at an appropriate time, the international community may need to explore possible legal frameworks, including a nuclear weapons convention, for the eventual abolition of nuclear weapons”.<sup>20</sup> It is “open-minded as to when this might be”.<sup>21</sup>

In 2008 the Australian and Japanese governments established the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, which argued in its report that an “important project for the medium term will be to develop, refine and build international understanding and acceptance of the need for a nuclear weapons convention”, and expressed the view that there is “no reason why detailed further work on such a convention should not commence now, and with government support”.<sup>22</sup> The commission was an independent body and its views did not necessarily reflect the official policies of Australia and Japan. On the question of a convention, they appear to diverge.

Before the Labor Party came to power in November 2007, the party's foreign affairs spokesperson argued in a policy speech that the proposal to establish a nuclear weapons convention is “timely and important”, and noted that a convention could be used as a tool to assist short-term disarmament goals.<sup>23</sup> Three months later, in response to questioning by a journalist, he pledged that a Labor government, if elected, would “drive the international agenda” for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>24</sup>

In the lead-up to the federal election of August 2010, the Labor Party stated that it was pleased that the NPT Review Conference had acknowledged the UN Secretary-General's five-point proposal, but it would not commit to advancing a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>25</sup> In the same survey, the Australian Greens argued that negotiations on a convention must begin no later than 2015.<sup>26</sup>

Under the Liberal–National coalition government led by John Howard, Australia voted against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention. It now abstains from voting on such resolutions.<sup>27</sup> It is expected that in 2012 the Australian parliament will debate its own resolution calling for “progress towards the

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18. Letter to ICAN from Foreign Minister Stephen Smith, 9 July 2010.

19. Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, **Report 106: Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament**, Commonwealth Parliament of Australia, September 2009, p. 21.

20. **Response** to JSCT, *Report 106: Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament*, 25 February 2010.

21. **Letter** to ICAN from the Australian Government, 11 March 2011.

22. Gareth Evans and Yoriko Kawaguchi, **Eliminating Nuclear Threats: A Practical Agenda for Global Policymakers**, ICNND, 2009, p. pp. 201–2.

23. “A New Agenda for Australia in Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament”, **speech** delivered to the United Nations Association of Australia, Canberra, 14 August 2007.

24. Response to questions at the Australian Press Club, Canberra, 15 November 2007.

25. Survey conducted by People for Nuclear Disarmament, 17 August 2010.

26. *Ibid.*

27. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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adoption of a nuclear weapons convention”.<sup>28</sup> Australia claims reliance on US nuclear weapons under the ANZUS pact.



### Austria

**EU** Austria regularly expresses strong support for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. It believes that a world without nuclear weapons “can best be achieved by a legal ban” that would “gradually and systematically” get rid of all nuclear weapons in a verified manner.<sup>29</sup> It has undertaken to “participate in all organizations and processes that will constructively contribute towards achieving this goal”.<sup>30</sup>

At a high-level session of the UN Security Council on nuclear issues convened in September 2009, the Austrian president declared his country’s support for the idea of a nuclear weapons convention “equipped with a sophisticated verification mechanism”.<sup>31</sup> At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, Austria argued that the most effective way to move towards the goal of “global zero” is through a convention.<sup>32</sup>

In the UN General Assembly’s First Committee in October 2010, it noted that the NPT Review Conference of that year had placed the prospect of a legal framework such as a nuclear weapons convention on the international disarmament agenda for the first time in an agreed document. It argued that the process for such a convention is now under way, and that “it is up to us to identify the appropriate sequencing of events”.<sup>33</sup> At the 2011 session of the First Committee, it underscored “the importance of placing the prospect of such a legal framework on the international disarmament agenda”.<sup>34</sup>

In March 2010, the Austrian parliament adopted a resolution calling on the government to advance the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan on nuclear disarmament, in particular his proposal for the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>35</sup> Austria votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a convention.<sup>36</sup> Previously it had abstained from voting. Austria is a member of the European Union, but not a member of NATO.



### Azerbaijan

**NAM** Azerbaijan votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>37</sup> Prior to 2011, it had abstained from voting on such resolutions. A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 70% of people in Azerbaijan support a nuclear weapons convention, with 22% opposed.<sup>38</sup>

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28. **Newspaper article**, Simon Benson, “Prime Minister Julia Gillard to Call for Global Disarmament, Destroy Atomic Weapons in US, Britain”, *Daily Telegraph*, 27 June 2011.

29. **Statement** by Austria to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

30. *Ibid.*

31. **Statement** by Austria to the UN Security Council, New York, 24 September 2009.

32. **Statement** by Austria to the NPT Review Conference, New York, 3 May 2010.

33. **Statement** by Austria to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 15 October 2010.

34. **Statement** by Austria to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 14 October 2011.

35. **Resolution** introduced by Alexander Van der Bellen; adopted 25 March 2010.

36. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

37. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

38. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

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### **Bahamas**

**NAM** The Bahamas votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>39</sup>



### **Bahrain**

**NAM** Bahrain votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>40</sup>



### **Bangladesh**

**NAM** Bangladesh has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it endorsed a resolution adopted unanimously by the Bangladeshi parliament that April in support of the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan on nuclear disarmament, especially his proposal for negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>41</sup> Bangladesh was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>42</sup>



### **Barbados**

**NAM** Barbados votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>43</sup>



### **Belarus**

**NAM** Belarus abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>44</sup> It is one of only two members of the Non-Aligned Movement that do not vote in favour of such resolutions.



### **Belgium**

**NATO EU** Belgium votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>45</sup> as it believes that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process involving practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>46</sup> However, at a high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament convened in September 2010, Belgium delivered a statement on behalf of the European Union in which it warmly welcomed the intensified international public debate generated by the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan on disarmament, which encouraged states

39. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

40. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

41. **Statement** by Bangladesh to the NPT Review Conference, New York, 4 May 2011; resolution introduced into the Bangladeshi parliament by Saber Chowdhury and adopted on 5 April 2010.

42. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

43. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

44. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

45. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

46. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/58/L.31**, 15 October 2003.

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to consider negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>47</sup>

In October 2009, a bill was introduced into the Belgian parliament supporting the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan on nuclear disarmament and proposing an amendment to the Belgian constitution to prohibit nuclear weapons.<sup>48</sup> However, the bill did not become law. Belgium is a member of the European Union and hosts US nuclear weapons on its territory as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement.



### **Belize**

**NAM RIO** Belize votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>49</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>50</sup>



### **Benin**

**NAM** Benin votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>51</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>52</sup>



### **Bhutan**

**NAM** Bhutan votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>53</sup>



### **Bolivia**

**NAM RIO** Bolivia has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2005, it submitted a working paper together with five other nations calling on all states to fulfil their legal obligation to disarm by commencing negotiations on a convention or framework of instruments prohibiting the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination under international control.<sup>54</sup>

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47. **Statement** by the European Union to the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations, New York, 24 September 2010.

48. **Bill** introduced by Senator Philippe Mahoux on 8 October 2009.

49. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

50. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

51. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011. In 2010, it abstained from voting, although this appears to have been error, as it was a lead sponsor of the resolution.

52. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

53. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

54. **Working paper** submitted by Malaysia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Timor-Leste, Nicaragua and Yemen to the NPT Review Conference, 18 May 2005, NPT/CONF.2005/WP.41.

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### **Bosnia & Herzegovina**

Bosnia and Herzegovina votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>55</sup>



### **Botswana**

**NAM** Botswana votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>56</sup> At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it associated itself with the opening statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, which called for work to begin on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>57</sup>



### **Brazil**

**RIO NAC** Brazil regularly expresses strong support for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it called for enhanced verification mechanisms to be “devised and grafted into a future convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons”, which would “level the playing field by making zero nuclear weapons the norm for all members of the international community”.<sup>58</sup>

It argued that a successful outcome of the Review Conference was predicated on the definition of clear directives on a number of points, including a commitment to the goal of concluding a nuclear weapons convention outlawing this category of weapons entirely, with a well-defined timeframe, in line with the chemical and biological weapons conventions.<sup>59</sup> Brazil has since reminded other states of the two references in the conference outcome document to the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan.

In February 2011, it stated that, as a nation “favourable to negotiations on a convention banning nuclear weapons”, it would welcome any manifestation coming from the UN General Assembly in support of that objective.<sup>60</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>61</sup>

In April 2011, during a session of the UN Disarmament Commission, it stated that it believes that the “time is ripe” for beginning negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting such arms and leading to their “irreversible, transparent and verifiable destruction according to an agreed legal framework and specified timelines”. It acknowledged that “such negotiations will surely need extensive efforts”, but urged nations to take “the first step for the total elimination of nuclear weapons”.<sup>62</sup>

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55. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

56. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

57. **Statement** by Botswana at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 6 May 2010.

58. **Statement** by Brazil at the NPT Review Conference, 10 May 2010.

59. **Statement** by Brazil at the NPT Review Conference, 7 May 2010.

60. **Statement** by Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 28 February 2011.

61. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

62. **Statement** by Brazil to the UN Disarmament Commission, New York, 4 April 2011.

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### Brunei

**NAM** Brunei votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>63</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>64</sup>



### Bulgaria

**NATO EU** Bulgaria votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>65</sup> It believes that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through “gradual steps” and that there are currently “no political conditions” for multilateral negotiations on an instrument that would comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons.<sup>66</sup>

Bulgaria has expressed its concern that a premature start to such negotiations, at a time when there is insufficient international support, could lead to the blocking of negotiations for nuclear disarmament and “may make more difficult, or could slow down, the implementation of already made international commitments”.<sup>67</sup>



### Burkina Faso

**NAM** Burkina Faso votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>68</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>69</sup>



### Burma

**NAM** Burma votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>70</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>71</sup> In October 2011, in a statement to the First Committee of the General Assembly, it argued that the negotiations for the attainment of a nuclear weapons convention “require our constant attention”.<sup>72</sup>



### Burundi

**NAM** Burundi votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>73</sup>

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63. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

64. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

65. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

66. **Letter** to ICAN from the Embassy of Bulgaria in Canberra, 22 February 2011.

67. *Ibid.*

68. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

69. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

70. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

71. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

72. **Statement** by Burma to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 7 October 2011.

73. **Vote** on **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 27 October 2011.



### Cambodia

**NAM** Cambodia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>74</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>75</sup>



### Cameroon

**NAM** Cameroon has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the 2009 session of the UN General Assembly's First Committee, it called for the immediate launch of multilateral negotiations with the aim of creating a convention banning the development, testing, construction, storage, transportation, use or threat of the use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination.<sup>76</sup>



### Canada

**NATO** Canada abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>77</sup> While it “is not opposed to the pursuit of a comprehensive, multilateral agreement banning nuclear weapons”, it believes that “this goal is best built on a foundation of incremental agreements”, such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.<sup>78</sup> Such treaties will, in Canada's view, “create the necessary framework and conditions towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons”.<sup>79</sup>

In June 2010, the Canadian Senate adopted a motion endorsing the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan on nuclear disarmament and encouraging the Canadian government to engage in negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>80</sup> The House of Commons gave its unanimous consent to the same motion in December 2010.<sup>81</sup> Canada has since acknowledged “the growing impetus for a nuclear weapons convention”.<sup>82</sup>

In 2002, the Canadian Department for Foreign Affairs and International Trade co-hosted a two-day experts' roundtable on the legal and technical aspects of complete nuclear disarmament, using the model nuclear weapons convention developed by civil society as a guide to explore the future requirements of a regime for the effective and verified reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. Canada claims reliance on US nuclear weapons under the NATO military alliance.

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74. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

75. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

76. **Statement** by Cameroon to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 12 October 2009.

77. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

78. **Statement** by Canada to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

79. *Ibid.*

80. **Motion** introduced by Senator Hugh Segal, adopted 2 June 2010.

81. **Motion** introduced by Bill Siksay MP, adopted 7 December 2010.

82. **Statement** by Canada to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

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### Cape Verde

**NAM** Cape Verde votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>83</sup>



### Central African Republic

**NAM** The Central African Republic votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>84</sup>



### Chad

**NAM** Chad votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>85</sup>



### Chile

**NAM RIO** Chile has expressed strong support for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. It believes that the negotiation of a convention prohibiting the development, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and providing for their destruction in a verified manner and according to an agreed timetable is an important “concrete action” for nuclear disarmament.<sup>86</sup>

At the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, it called on governments to support the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan on nuclear disarmament and to “lay the foundations for preliminary discussions concerning a convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons”.<sup>87</sup> It reiterated its support for a nuclear weapons convention during the 2010 session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly.<sup>88</sup>

It also delivered a statement on behalf of the Rio Group emphasizing the need for “urgent and consistent” action aimed at the total elimination and legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapons within a specified timeframe.<sup>89</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>90</sup>



### China

China has expressed qualified support for a nuclear weapons convention. On several occasions, it has stated its support for “the development, at an appropriate time, of a viable, long-term plan composed of phased actions, including a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons”.<sup>91</sup> It is the only NPT nuclear-weapon state to

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83. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

84. **Vote** on [A/RES/65/410](#), 8 December 2010.

85. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

86. **Statement** by Chile to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 24 March 2011.

87. **Statement** by Chile at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 6 May 2010.

88. **Statement** by Chile to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 7 October 2010.

89. **Statement** by Rio Group to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 6 October 2010.

90. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

91. See, e.g., **statement** by China at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 4 May 2010.

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vote in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a convention.<sup>92</sup>

China believes that the United States and Russia “bear special and primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament” and should continue to make “drastic and substantive reductions in their nuclear arsenals” before a multilateral nuclear disarmament process can begin.<sup>93</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 83% of people in China support a nuclear weapons convention, with 14% opposed.<sup>94</sup> China possesses approximately 240 nuclear weapons.<sup>95</sup>



### Colombia

**NAM RIO** Colombia has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it argued that governments should, “as a matter of urgency”, negotiate an international legally binding instrument that prohibits the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons.<sup>96</sup>



### Comoros

**NAM** Comoros votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>97</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>98</sup>



### Congo

**NAM** The Republic of the Congo votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>99</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2010 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>100</sup>



### Costa Rica

**RIO** Costa Rica regularly expresses strong support for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. It submitted a model nuclear weapons convention prepared by civil society to the United Nations in 1997.<sup>101</sup> In 2007 it submitted a revised version of the model convention, which took into account relevant technical, legal and political developments over the past decade.<sup>102</sup> It stated that the model was intended to assist NPT parties in deliberations with respect to implementation of Article VI of the treaty.

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92. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

93. **Statement** by China to the UN Disarmament Commission, New York, 4 April 2011.

94. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

95. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, **SIPRI Yearbook 2011**, 2011, ch. 7.

96. **Statement** by Colombia at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 5 May 2010.

97. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

98. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

99. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

100. **A/C.1/65/L.50**, 18 October 2010.

101. **Model convention** circulated by the UN Secretary-General as document A/C.1/52/7.

102. **Working paper**, Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, 1 May 2007, NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.17.

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At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, Costa Rica expressed its desire for states to build on the model convention in order to create an instrument capable of strengthening confidence in verification and ensure the supervision of the processes of dismantling nuclear weapons.<sup>103</sup> In the UN General Assembly's First Committee in October 2010, it commended the NPT Review Conference's final document for noting the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan on nuclear disarmament, which includes consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>104</sup>

Costa Rica argued that "it is time to take the necessary steps and begin a preparatory process to obtain a universal and legally binding convention banning nuclear weapons".<sup>105</sup> Together with five other countries, it submitted a working paper to the previous NPT Review Conference, held in 2005, calling on all states to fulfil their obligation to disarm by commencing negotiations leading to a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>106</sup> It submitted a similar paper to the NPT Review Conference in 2000.<sup>107</sup>

Costa Rica was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>108</sup> In February 2010, the Costa Rican parliament adopted a unanimous resolution promoting the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan on nuclear disarmament and, specifically, a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>109</sup>



### Côte D'Ivoire

**NAM** Côte D'Ivoire votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>110</sup>



### Croatia

**NATO** Croatia abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>111</sup> It is part of the NATO military alliance.



### Cuba

**NAM RIO** Cuba has stated that it is ready to negotiate "a treaty that eliminates and prohibits nuclear weapons".<sup>112</sup> In the Conference on Disarmament, it has urged nations to establish an ad hoc committee to work on "an instrument to establish a phased programme for the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified period of

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103. **Statement** by Costa Rica at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 5 May 2010.

104. **Statement** by Costa Rica to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 11 October 2010.

105. Ibid.

106. **Working paper** submitted by Malaysia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Timor-Leste, Nicaragua and Yemen to the NPT Review Conference, New York, 18 May 2005, NPT/CONF.2005/WP.41.

107. **Working paper** submitted by Costa Rica and Malaysia to the NPT Review Conference 2000, New York, NPT/CONF.2000/MC.1/SB.1/WP.4.

108. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

109. Resolution introduced by Edine von Herold; adopted unanimously on 23 February 2010.

110. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

111. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

112. See, e.g., **statement** by Cuba to the Disarmament Commission, New York, 5 April 2011.

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time and under strict international control”.<sup>113</sup>

At the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, it called on states to establish a concrete schedule for the gradual reduction of nuclear weapons in a transparent, irreversible, verifiable and legally binding manner, with the aim of achieving the complete elimination of such weapons by 2025.<sup>114</sup> This is in line with the position articulated by the Non-Aligned Movement during the conference.

Cuba was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>115</sup> In the First Committee in October 2011, it noted that the nuclear-weapon states have failed to meet their NPT Article VI obligation to negotiate “an international treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons”.<sup>116</sup>



### Cyprus

**EU** Cyprus abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>117</sup> It is a member of the European Union, but not part of the NATO military alliance.



### Czech Republic

**NATO EU** The Czech Republic votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>118</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Democratic Republic of the Congo

**NAM** The Democratic Republic of the Congo votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>119</sup> It is a member of the Group of 21 in the Conference on Disarmament, which has stated its strong commitment to nuclear disarmament and affirmed its readiness to commence work on “a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a nuclear weapons convention”.<sup>120</sup>



### Denmark

**NATO EU** Denmark votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>121</sup> It believes that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process involving practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>122</sup> It is a

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113. **Statement** by Cuba to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 22 February 2011.

114. **Statement** by Cuba at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 5 May 2010.

115. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

116. **Statement** by Cuba to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 5 October 2011.

117. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

118. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

119. **Vote** on **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 27 October 2011.

120. **Statement** by the Group of 21 to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 12 February 2009.

121. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

122. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/58/L.31**, 15 October 2003.

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member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Djibouti

**NAM** Djibouti votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>123</sup>



### Dominica

**NAM** Dominica votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>124</sup>



### Dominican Republic

**NAM RIO** The Dominican Republic votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>125</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>126</sup>



### Ecuador

**NAM RIO** Ecuador has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. In the UN General Assembly's First Committee in October 2010, it argued that negotiations on a convention must begin as soon as possible.<sup>127</sup> At the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, it declared its support for the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan on nuclear disarmament, which includes the consideration of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>128</sup>

At a high-level meeting on revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament in September 2010, Ecuador conveyed its support for the adoption of a programme of work that includes a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>129</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a convention.<sup>130</sup>



### Egypt

**NAM NAC** Egypt regularly expresses support for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. It has stated that the push for a convention takes as its premise the legal commitment of the nuclear-weapon states to disarm under Article VI of the NPT.<sup>131</sup> It also takes its cue from the 1996 nuclear weapons advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which

123. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

124. **Vote** on **A/C.1/64/L.51**, 30 October 2009.

125. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

126. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

127. **Statement** by Ecuador at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 6 May 2010.

128. **Statement** by Ecuador in the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 11 October 2010.

129. **Statement** by Ecuador to the the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Negotiation, New York, 24 September 2010.

130. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

131. **Statement** by Egypt to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

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declared the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons to be generally illegal.<sup>132</sup>

At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it called on the nuclear-weapon states to comply fully with their legal obligations under the NPT by initiating multilateral negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention aimed at banning nuclear weapons and achieving their total elimination within an agreed timeframe.<sup>133</sup> It argued that the lack of progress in implementing the disarmament provisions of the NPT confirms the need to create a legal framework to eliminate nuclear weapons through a convention.<sup>134</sup>

During the 2010 session of the UN General Assembly's First Committee, it expressed its disappointment that the final document of the NPT Review Conference had not adopted the Non-Aligned Movement's demand for marking the year 2025 as the "appropriate timeframe for the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world" by launching negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>135</sup> It noted that, despite some recent "promising signs of progress" in the field of nuclear disarmament, much more still needs to be done to launch negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>136</sup>

Egypt has emphasized that the final document of the Review Conference expressed "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear" and reaffirmed "the need for all states at all times to comply with applicable international law". It is within this context that Egypt envisages the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention. It aspires "to have this concluded in our lifetime as the specter of nuclear weapons will always haunt us until we finally get rid of this weapon that is the most heinous of all weapons of mass destruction".<sup>137</sup>

At a high-level meeting on revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament in September 2010, Egypt delivered a statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement arguing that the CD should focus on advancing a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>138</sup> Egypt was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>139</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 83% of Egyptians support a convention, with only 17% opposed.<sup>140</sup>



### **El Salvador**

**RIO** El Salvador votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>141</sup>

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132. Ibid.

133. **Statement** by Egypt at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 12 May 2010.

134. **Statement** by Egypt at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 5 May 2010.

135. **Statement** by Egypt to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 5 October 2010.

136. **Statement** by Egypt to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 15 October 2010.

137. **Statement** by Egypt to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

138. **Statement** by NAM to the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Negotiations, New York, 24 September 2010.

139. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

140. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

141. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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### Equatorial Guinea

**NAM** Equatorial Guinea votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>142</sup>



### Eritrea

**NAM** Eritrea votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>143</sup>



### Estonia

**NATO EU** Estonia votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>144</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Ethiopia

**NAM** Ethiopia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>145</sup> It is a member of the Group of 21 in the Conference on Disarmament, which has affirmed its readiness to commence work on “a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a nuclear weapons convention”.<sup>146</sup>



### Fiji

**NAM** Fiji votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>147</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>148</sup>



### Finland

**EU** Finland abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>149</sup> It is a member of the European Union, but not part of the NATO military alliance.

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142. **Vote** on **A/C.1/64/L.51**, 30 October 2009.

143. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

144. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

145. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

146. **Statement** by the Group of 21 to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 12 February 2009.

147. **Vote** on **A/C.1/65/L.50**, 29 October 2010.

148. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

149. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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### France

**NATO EU** France votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>150</sup> In the General Assembly's First Committee in October 2011, it complained that some governments were still calling "for an international convention to ban nuclear weapons" even though this was not, according to France, "retained at the [NPT] Review Conference or in debates at any other UN body".<sup>151</sup>

In 2009 a parliamentary resolution was submitted to the French Senate calling on the government to support at the NPT Review Conference in 2010 practical steps leading to a nuclear weapons convention. However, the resolution was not adopted.<sup>152</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 86% of French people support a nuclear weapons convention, with 12% opposed to the idea.<sup>153</sup> France possesses approximately 300 nuclear weapons,<sup>154</sup> and is a member of the European Union and NATO.



### Gabon

**NAM** Gabon votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>155</sup>



### Gambia

**NAM** The Gambia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>156</sup>



### Georgia

Georgia abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>157</sup> Prior to 2011, it voted against such resolutions.



### Germany

**NATO EU** Germany votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>158</sup> as it generally believes that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process of practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>159</sup> However, in March 2010, the German parliament, with cross-party support, called on the government to be proactive in discussions about various approaches aimed at achieving full nuclear disarmament and in the debate about a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>160</sup>

A public opinion poll in 2007 showed that 95.4% of Germans support a nuclear

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150. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

151. **Statement** by France to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 5 October 2011.

152. Resolution introduced on 24 December 2009 by Senator Michelle Demessine.

153. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

154. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, **SIPRI Yearbook 2011**, 2011, ch. 7.

155. **Vote** on **A/RES/65/410**, 8 December 2010.

156. **Vote** on **A/RES/65/410**, 8 December 2010.

157. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

158. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

159. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/58/L.31**, 15 October 2003.

160. Resolution tabled by various political parties, adopted on 24 March 2010.

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weapons convention.<sup>161</sup> Germany is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance. It hosts US nuclear weapons on its territory as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement.



### Ghana

**NAM** Ghana votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>162</sup>



### Greece

**NATO EU** Greece votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>163</sup> as it believes that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process of practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>164</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Grenada

**NAM** Grenada votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>165</sup>



### Guatemala

**NAM RIO** Guatemala votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>166</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>167</sup>



### Guinea

**NAM** Guinea votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>168</sup>



### Guinea-Bissau

**NAM** Guinea-Bissau votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>169</sup>

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161. Simons Foundation, *Global Public Opinion on Nuclear Weapons*, 2007, p. 15.

162. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

163. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

164. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/58/L.31**, 15 October 2003.

165. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

166. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

167. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

168. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

169. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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### Guyana

**NAM RIO** Guyana votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>170</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>171</sup>



### Haiti

**NAM RIO** Haiti votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>172</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>173</sup>



### Holy See

The Holy See has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it argued that the world had arrived at “an opportune moment” to begin addressing in a systematic way the legal, political and technical requirements for achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world. It called on governments to begin preparatory work as soon as possible on a convention or framework agreement leading to the phased elimination of nuclear weapons.<sup>174</sup> The Holy See is a state party to the NPT and has observer status at the United Nations.



### Honduras

**NAM RIO** Honduras votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>175</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>176</sup>



### Hungary

**NATO EU** Hungary votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>177</sup> It believes that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process of practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>178</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.

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170. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

171. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

172. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

173. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

174. **Statement** by the Holy See at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 6 May 2010.

175. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

176. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

177. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

178. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/58/L.31**, 15 October 2003.

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### Iceland

**NATO** Iceland abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>179</sup> Prior to 2010, it voted against such resolutions. It is part of the NATO military alliance.



### India

**NAM** India has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. It believes that nuclear disarmament “can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament”.<sup>180</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states to begin negotiations immediately on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>181</sup>

In September 2009, the Indian prime minister delivered a speech in which he reiterated India’s proposal for a convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and providing for their complete elimination.<sup>182</sup> The Rajiv Gandhi Plan for Nuclear Abolition and a Non-Violent World Order, which was presented to the UN General Assembly in 1988,<sup>183</sup> advocated for such a treaty.

At the 2009 session of the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, India argued that, just as it was possible to prohibit chemical and biological weapons through non-discriminatory conventions, it is also possible to prohibit nuclear weapons through a convention.<sup>184</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 62% of Indians support a nuclear weapons convention, with 20% opposed to the idea.<sup>185</sup> Estimates suggest that India possesses somewhere between 80 and 100 nuclear weapons.<sup>186</sup>



### Indonesia

**NAM** Indonesia regularly expresses support for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. It has said it will cooperate with all countries in order to enable the Conference of Disarmament to embark on deliberating such a treaty to address crucial elements such as timeframes, reducing operational readiness, negative security assurances, no first use, irreversibility and verification, and to “gradually but steadily” achieve the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.<sup>187</sup>

In the CD in August 2010, Indonesia called on states to work “intensively together” to produce a universal nuclear weapons convention with a specific timeline for the attainment of complete nuclear disarmament.<sup>188</sup> It made a similar call at the NPT

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179. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

180. **Statement** by India to the Disarmament Commission, New York, 5 April 2011.

181. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

182. **Speech** delivered by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, 26 September 2009.

183. See a **summary** of the plan.

184. **Statement** by India to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 8 October 2009.

185. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

186. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, **SIPRI Yearbook 2011**, 2011, ch. 7.

187. **Statement** by Indonesia to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

188. **Statement** by Indonesia to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 31 August 2010.

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Review Conference in May 2010,<sup>189</sup> and delivered the opening statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement calling for work to begin immediately on a convention.<sup>190</sup>

At a high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the CD in September 2010, Indonesia argued that the political will generated as a result of recent developments should allow the CD to advance negotiations towards a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>191</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>192</sup>

Indonesia has stated that Article VI of the NPT provides a clear legal basis for the development of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>193</sup> In its view, the reference in the final document of the NPT Review Conference of 2010 to “special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons” could be a “window of opportunity” for the proposed nuclear weapons convention to gain “some degree of support” from the nuclear-weapon states.<sup>194</sup>

It has been critical of the current “step-by-step” approach to nuclear disarmament, which it says only reinforces the status quo. It has called for “a comprehensive approach with a coherent overarching policy of nuclear disarmament”, which would help to prevent the “negotiation fatigue” caused by a prolonged and “piecemeal” negotiation process. It is Indonesia’s strong view that a nuclear weapons convention could serve as a comprehensive approach towards creating a nuclear-weapon-free world.<sup>195</sup>

It has recommended that the process for such a treaty begin “as soon as possible” and with the backing of civil society. This process should occur in parallel to a more “informal and open-ended setting for discussion involving all nuclear-weapon states” to gather information on their preliminary views and concerns. Joint efforts of some “key states” to initiate this process would, in its view, be “valuable”.<sup>196</sup>

Indonesia has advocated for the constructive engagement of the “unwilling” in the negotiations, particularly around questions of verification of a nuclear weapons convention. It has stressed the importance of ensuring that the treaty could “prevent any possible cheating and non-compliance by certain countries”.<sup>197</sup>



### Iran

**NAM** Iran regularly expresses support for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. It has called for a convention that bans the production, development and use of nuclear weapons; prohibits the deployment of nuclear weapons in all areas; bans the production of fissile materials for military purposes and requires the elimination

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189. **Statement** by Indonesia at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 3 May 2010.

190. **Statement** by the Non-Aligned Movement at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 3 May 2010.

191. **Statement** by Indonesia to the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Negotiations, New York, 24 September 2010.

192. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

193. **Statement** by Indonesia to the UN Conference on Disarmament Issues, Matsumoto, 29 July 2011.

194. *Ibid.*

195. *Ibid.*

196. *Ibid.*

197. *Ibid.*

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of existing stocks; and sets out a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear warheads within a specific time frame.<sup>198</sup> It considers a nuclear weapons convention to be a “ripe topic for negotiation” in the Conference on Disarmament.<sup>199</sup>

At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it argued that governments should set a clear deadline for the total elimination of nuclear weapons through the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>200</sup> On several occasions, it has called for the establishment, “as the highest priority and as soon as possible”, of an ad hoc committee with a mandate to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention in the Conference on Disarmament.<sup>201</sup>

It argued that the negotiations undertaken by such a body must lead to a legal prohibition on the possession, development and stockpiling of nuclear weapons by any country and provide for the destruction of “these inhuman weapons”.<sup>202</sup> It believes that the implementation of a nuclear weapons convention should lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons no later than 2025,<sup>203</sup> which is in line with the position of the Non-Aligned Movement articulated at the NPT Review Conference in 2010.

In February 2011, Iran stated that, pending the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention, the nuclear-weapon states must honour their obligations under the NPT by immediately ceasing the modernization of their nuclear weapons, their deployment on foreign territories and their maintenance on high alert.<sup>204</sup> Iran was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a convention.<sup>205</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 68% of Iranians support a convention, with 13% opposed.<sup>206</sup>



### Iraq

**NAM** Iraq votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>207</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>208</sup> In a letter sent to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in March 2011, it stressed the importance of developing an agreement banning the possession of nuclear weapons.<sup>209</sup>

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198. **Statement** by Iran to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 March 2011.

199. **Statement** by Iran to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 30 March 2011.

200. **Statement by Iran at the NPT Review Conference**, New York, 17 May 2010.

201. *Ibid.*

202. **Statement** by Iran at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 7 May 2010.

203. **Statement** by Iran to the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Negotiations, New York, 24 September 2010; **statement** by Iran to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 6 October 2010.

204. **Statement** by Iran to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 24 February 2011.

205. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

206. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

207. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

208. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

209. **Letter** to ICAN from the Embassy of Iraq in Australia, 16 March 2011.

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### Ireland

**EU NAC** Ireland has expressed qualified support for a nuclear weapons convention, warning that the pursuit of a convention now could distract from the more immediate challenge of implementing agreed measures related to the NPT.<sup>210</sup> Its priority is the implementation of the 2010 NPT Review Conference final document, particularly Action 5 of the disarmament action plan committing the nuclear-weapon states to “accelerate concrete progress” towards nuclear disarmament and report back in 2014.<sup>211</sup>

Ireland considers a nuclear weapons convention to be a medium- to long-term goal, but votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for the immediate commencement of negotiations leading to a convention.<sup>212</sup> At a high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament in September 2010, the Irish foreign minister argued that the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan on nuclear disarmament, which includes consideration of a nuclear weapons convention, has framed the debate on this issue and been “a great source of inspiration”.<sup>213</sup>

Irish president Michael D. Higgins, who assumed office in November 2011, has previously spoken in favour of a nuclear weapons convention. In a speech delivered in November 2010, he argued that “the aspiration for a nuclear-weapons-free world contained in the NPT needs to be translated into reality with the emergence of a nuclear weapons convention”.<sup>214</sup> Ireland is a member of the European Union, and played an important role in the negotiation of the NPT at the end of the 1960s.



### Israel

Israel votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>215</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 67% of Israelis support a nuclear weapons convention, with 25% opposed to the idea.<sup>216</sup> Israel possesses approximately 80 nuclear weapons.<sup>217</sup>



### Italy

**NATO EU** Italy votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>218</sup> believing that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process involving practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>219</sup> In 2009 the Italian parliament adopted a resolution noting the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan on nuclear disarmament. An operative paragraph in the original draft resolution

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210. Oral remarks by Ireland to non-government organizations, Dublin, 15 June 2010.

211. Email to ICAN from the Irish Foreign Ministry, 12 April 2011.

212. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

213. **Statement** by Ireland to the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Negotiations, New York, 24 September 2010.

214. **Speech** delivered to Pax Christi Ireland, Dublin, 29 November 2010.

215. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

216. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

217. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, **SIPRI Yearbook 2011**, 2011, ch. 7.

218. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

219. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/58/L.31**, 15 October 2003.

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supporting a nuclear weapons convention was removed to secure government support.<sup>220</sup>

In 2010 a similar resolution was passed by the Italian parliament without any reference to the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan or a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>221</sup> A public opinion poll in 2007 showed that 94.6% of Italians support a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>222</sup> Italy is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance. It hosts US nuclear weapons on its territory as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement.



### Jamaica

**NAM RIO** Jamaica votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>223</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>224</sup>



### Japan

Japan has expressed its willingness to participate in discussions “with a longer perspective” on how a multilateral nuclear disarmament framework or nuclear weapons convention should look “in the final phase of nuclear disarmament”.<sup>225</sup> However, it believes that it is “premature” to call upon all states immediately to commence negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.

In Japan's view, as a precondition for beginning work on a nuclear weapons convention, states must take “concrete measures to achieve steady, step-by-step progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation”.<sup>226</sup> Japan abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>227</sup> and has offered explanations for its vote on the resolution entitled “Follow-up to the ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons”.

In 2010 it stated that it supports the unanimous opinion of the International Court of Justice on the existing obligations under international law to pursue nuclear disarmament and to conclude negotiations in good faith. However, in order to fulfil those obligations, “we must take further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons with the involvement of the nuclear-weapon states”. The approach of a convention “seems to be different from this”.<sup>228</sup>

In the Conference on Disarmament in September 2011, Japan stated that it is “not realistic”, at this point in time, to expect all CD members to agree to the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention encompassing a ban on

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220. Resolution adopted on 23 June 2009 by Chamber of Deputies and 17 December 2009 by the Senate.

221. Resolution adopted on 4 June 2010 by the Chamber of Deputies.

222. Simons Foundation, *Global Public Opinion on Nuclear Weapons*, 2007, p. 15.

223. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

224. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

225. **Statement** by Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 27 January 2011.

226. **Explanation of vote** on [A/C.1/65/L.50](#), 29 October 2010.

227. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

228. **Explanation of vote** on [A/C.1/65/L.50](#), 29 October 2010.

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fissile materials, negative security assurances and steps on nuclear force posture.<sup>229</sup> It believes that diplomatic efforts should instead be focused on the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and negotiations on a fissile materials cut-off treaty.

On several occasions, the Japanese government has also responded to questions in the national legislature pertaining to a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>230</sup> In 2002, for example, it argued that to seek the preparation of such an international agreement now would aggravate the confrontation between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states, with the possible consequence of delaying the disarmament process.<sup>231</sup>

In 2008 Australia and Japan established the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, which argued in its report that “an important project for the medium term would be to develop, refine and build international understanding and acceptance of the need for a nuclear weapons convention”, and that “there is no reason why detailed further work on such a treaty should not commence now, with government support”.<sup>232</sup> However, this does not appear to reflect official Japanese policy. Japan claims reliance on US nuclear weapons.



### Jordan

**NAM** Jordan votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>233</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2010 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>234</sup>



### Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has stated that it shares “the vision of countries around the world [for] a convention against nuclear weapons to become a reality”.<sup>235</sup> During the 2010 session of the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, it argued that a “universal declaration for a nuclear-weapon-free world” would “reaffirm the determination of all states to move, step by step, towards a convention against nuclear weapons”.<sup>236</sup>

Kazakhstan has offered its full and unequivocal support for such a convention, and has described the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan on nuclear disarmament as providing “much-needed high-level impetus” to disarmament negotiations. It votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>237</sup> Prior to 2010, it abstained from voting on such resolutions.

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229. **Statement** by Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 15 September 2011.

230. See Toshinori Yamada, **Initiatives in Japan Aimed at Making a Nuclear Weapons Convention a Reality**, in JALANA, *Recommendations to the NPT Review Conference 2010*, 2010, p. 35.

231. Answers to questions in the Japanese legislature dated 23 April 2002.

232. Gareth Evans and Yoriko Kawaguchi, **Eliminating Nuclear Threats: A Practical Agenda for Global Policymakers**, ICNND, 2009, p. 201–2.

233. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

234. **A/C.1/65/L.50**, 18 October 2010.

235. **Statement** by Kazakhstan to the Disarmament Commission, New York, 4 April 2011.

236. **Statement** by Kazakhstan to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 5 October 2010.

237. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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### Kenya

**NAM** Kenya has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it called on the international community to begin early negotiations leading to the conclusion of “an international convention for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons”.<sup>238</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>239</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 96% of Kenyans support a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>240</sup>



### Kiribati

Kiribati is not known to have publicly expressed its position on a nuclear weapons convention. However, it can reasonably be assumed that it is supportive.



### Kuwait

**NAM** Kuwait votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>241</sup>



### Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>242</sup>



### Laos

**NAM** Laos has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention on several occasions. In the UN General Assembly’s First Committee in October 2010, it called on nations to harness and “vigorously implement” each of the actions agreed at the NPT Review Conference of 2010 “resulting finally in a convention against nuclear weapons”.<sup>243</sup>

During the First Committee’s 2011 session, it argued that a “key step” towards making “the entire planet a nuclear-weapon-free zone” would be to make real the UN Secretary-General’s call for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>244</sup> Laos was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to a convention.<sup>245</sup>

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238. **Statement** by Kenya at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 5 May 2010.

239. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

240. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

241. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

242. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

243. **Statement** by Laos to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 11 October 2010.

244. **Statement** by Laos to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 7 October 2011.

245. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

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### Latvia

**NATO EU** Latvia votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>246</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Lebanon

**NAM** Lebanon has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it argued that, in order to prevent the future use of nuclear weapons, governments should strengthen the international legal system by commencing negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>247</sup> It hopes “that there will be a universal treaty adopted in the near future to outlaw and eliminate all nuclear weapons”.<sup>248</sup>

During the Review Conference, it also submitted a working paper on behalf of the League of Arab States calling on the conference to establish a timetable and specific plan for nuclear disarmament with a view to accelerating the negotiations called for in Article VI of the NPT and commencing work on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.<sup>249</sup>



### Lesotho

**NAM** Lesotho votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>250</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>251</sup>



### Liberia

**NAM** Liberia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>252</sup>



### Libya

**NAM** Libya has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it called for “the elimination of nuclear weapons through a verifiable instrument”,<sup>253</sup> and submitted a working paper on the need to promote nuclear disarmament, which noted the “affirmation” by the Non-Aligned Movement in 2009 to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>254</sup>

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246. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

247. **Statement** by Lebanon at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 5 May 2010.

248. **Letter** to ICAN from the Embassy of Lebanon in Australia, 14 February 2011.

249. **NPT/CONE.2010/WP.28**, 13 April 2010.

250. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

251. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

252. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

253. Oral statement by Libya at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 12 May 2010.

254. **NPT/CONE.2010/WP.12**, 25 March 2010. The affirmation was made at the 15<sup>th</sup> summit of heads of state and government of the Non-Aligned Movement in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 11–16 July 2009.

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At a high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament in September 2010, Libya emphasized the need for the CD to focus on advancing the agenda of nuclear disarmament, including negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>255</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a convention.<sup>256</sup>



### Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it argued that governments should prepare the ground for achieving “the long-term goal of a nuclear weapons convention, in line with the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan” on nuclear disarmament.<sup>257</sup>

It reiterated its support in the UN General Assembly’s First Committee in October 2010, but warned that “we must be realistic: such a convention will not come about tomorrow”.<sup>258</sup> Liechtenstein abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>259</sup>



### Lithuania

**NATO EU** Lithuania votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>260</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Luxembourg

**NATO EU** Luxembourg votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>261</sup> believing that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process of practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>262</sup> However, at a high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament in September 2010, it expressed its support for the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan on nuclear disarmament, which includes consideration of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>263</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of NATO.

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255. **Statement** by Libya to the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Negotiations, New York, 24 September 2010.

256. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

257. **Statement** by Liechtenstein at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 5 May 2010.

258. **Statement** by Liechtenstein to UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 5 October 2010.

259. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

260. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

261. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

262. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/58/L.31**, 15 October 2003.

263. **Statement** by Luxembourg to the High-Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Negotiations, New York, 24 September 2010.



### Macedonia

Macedonia typically abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>264</sup> In 2008 and 2009, it voted against such resolutions. Its positions on nuclear issues at the United Nations are “coherent with [its] strategic priority of accession to NATO and membership of the European Union”.<sup>265</sup>



### Madagascar

**NAM** Madagascar votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>266</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>267</sup>



### Malawi

**NAM** Malawi votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>268</sup>



### Malaysia

**NAM** Malaysia has long advocated for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. Along with Costa Rica, it submitted a revised model nuclear weapons convention prepared by civil society to the United Nations in 2007.<sup>269</sup> At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it called on nuclear-weapon states to demonstrate leadership by implementing past commitments and achieving the total elimination of their nuclear weapons through the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>270</sup>

At the previous review conference, in 2005, it submitted a working paper together with five other nations calling on all states to fulfil their legal obligation to disarm by commencing negotiations leading to a convention prohibiting the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination under strict and effective international control.<sup>271</sup>

It was also a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>272</sup> Malaysia believes that “the incremental–comprehensive approach” encapsulated in the model nuclear weapons convention will enable states to reach “a balanced implementation of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation”, which is “crucial in ensuring the NPT remains as the cornerstone in

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264. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

265. Email to ICAN from the Permanent Mission of Macedonia to the UN, 9 December 2011.

266. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

267. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

268. **Vote** on **A/C.1/65/L.50**, 29 October 2010.

269. Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, 1 May 2007, **NPT/CONF.2010/PC.I/WP.17**.

270. **Statement** by Malaysia at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 5 May 2010.

271. **Working paper** submitted by Malaysia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Timor-Leste, Nicaragua and Yemen to the NPT Review Conference, New York, 18 May 2005, NPT/CONF.2005/WP.41.

272. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

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the maintenance of international peace and security”.<sup>273</sup>



### **Maldives**

**NAM** The Maldives votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>274</sup>



### **Mali**

**NAM** Mali votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>275</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2010 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>276</sup>



### **Malta**

**EU** Malta votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>277</sup> It is a member of the European Union.



### **Marshall Islands**

The Marshall Islands abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>278</sup> It has previously voted in favour of such resolutions. The country's defence is the responsibility of the United States.



### **Mauritania**

**NAM** Mauritania votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>279</sup>



### **Mauritius**

**NAM** Mauritius votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>280</sup>



### **Mexico**

**RIO** Mexico has expressed strong support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it called on the nuclear-weapon states to agree to negotiate a convention that would prohibit nuclear weapons and establish a timeframe for their elimination. It believes that a nuclear weapons convention would provide

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273. **Statement** by Malaysia to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, 14 October 2011.

274. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

275. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

276. **A/C.1/65/L.50**, 18 October 2010.

277. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

278. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

279. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

280. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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“necessary certainty to the international community”.<sup>281</sup>

It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>282</sup> In February 2011, it argued that partial measures aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons in no way replace the need for multilateral negotiations leading to an instrument or set of legally binding instruments to eliminate nuclear weapons in a verified manner.<sup>283</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 87% of Mexicans support a nuclear weapons convention, with 10% opposed.<sup>284</sup>



### Micronesia

Micronesia abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>285</sup> It has a military agreement with the United States allowing the United States to operate its armed forces on its territory.



### Moldova

Moldova abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>286</sup>



### Monaco

Monaco votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>287</sup> It has a military arrangement with France.



### Mongolia

**NAM** Mongolia supports the early start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame, including a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>288</sup> In 2007, the then Mongolian president delivered a statement in which he welcomed the launch of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and expressed his hope that the campaign for a nuclear weapons convention would “yield positive results”.<sup>289</sup> Mongolia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a convention.<sup>290</sup>

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281. **Statement** by Mexico at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 6 May 2010.

282. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

283. **Statement** by Mexico to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

284. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

285. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

286. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

287. **Vote** on **A/C.1/60/L.46**, 8 December 2005.

288. **Statement** by Mongolia to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 7 October 2011.

289. “President of Mongolia Endorses ICAN”, ICAN **website**, 21 June 2007.

290. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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### Montenegro

Montenegro abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>291</sup> Prior to 2011, it had voted against such resolutions. It is seeking NATO membership.



### Morocco

**NAM** Morocco has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. During the 2010 session of the Disarmament Commission, it called on states to give “serious consideration to the merits” of concluding an international convention for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and, towards that end, the immediate creation of a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament.<sup>292</sup> In February 2011, it argued that the current impasse in negotiations on nuclear disarmament promotes proliferation and undermines the ultimate goal of a convention banning nuclear weapons.<sup>293</sup>



### Mozambique

**NAM** Mozambique votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>294</sup>



### Namibia

**NAM** Namibia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>295</sup>



### Nauru

Nauru abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>296</sup> Previously it had voted in favour of such resolutions.



### Nepal

**NAM** Nepal votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>297</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>298</sup>

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291. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

292. **Statement** by Morocco at the Disarmament Commission, New York, 30 March 2010.

293. **Statement** by Morocco to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 15 February 2011.

294. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

295. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

296. **Vote** on **A/C.1/61/L.44**, 27 October 2006.

297. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

298. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

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### Netherlands

**NATO EU** The Netherlands votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>299</sup> believing that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process involving practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>300</sup> It is a member of the European Union and the NATO military alliance. It hosts US nuclear weapons as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement.



### New Zealand

**NAC** New Zealand votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>301</sup> At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it welcomed the UN Secretary-General's push in his five-point disarmament action plan for progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons.<sup>302</sup> During the conference, New Zealand's parliament unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the government to advance the five-point plan, which includes consideration of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>303</sup>

In June 2010, the minister for disarmament and arms control stated that, “in order to reach a world without nuclear weapons, there will eventually need to be a legally binding instrument or framework of instruments”.<sup>304</sup> However, New Zealand believes that it is “a matter of starting negotiations when the time is right and when our efforts will have the most impact”; “much more work needs to be done” before a nuclear weapons convention can be negotiated.<sup>305</sup>



### Nicaragua

**NAM RIO** Nicaragua has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>306</sup> At the NPT Review Conference in 2005, it submitted a working paper together with five other nations calling on all states to fulfil their legal obligation to disarm by negotiating a convention prohibiting nuclear weapons.<sup>307</sup>



### Niger

**NAM** Niger votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>308</sup>

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299. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

300. **Explanation of vote** on [A/C.1/58/L.31](#), 15 October 2003.

301. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

302. Statement by New Zealand at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 12 May 2010.

303. **Motion** introduced by Phil Twyford MP and adopted on 5 May 2010.

304. **Letter** to the Peace Foundation from the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, 15 June 2010.

305. *Ibid.*

306. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

307. **Working paper** submitted by Malaysia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Timor-Leste, Nicaragua and Yemen to the NPT Review Conference, 18 May 2005, NPT/CONF.2005/WP.41.

308. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.



### Nigeria

**NAM** Nigeria votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>309</sup> It is a member of the Group of 21 in the Conference on Disarmament, which has affirmed its readiness to commence work on “a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a nuclear weapons convention”.<sup>310</sup>

Nigeria was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>311</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 86% of Nigerians support a nuclear weapons convention, with 12% opposed.<sup>312</sup>



### North Korea

**NAM** North Korea votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>313</sup> In February 2011, it argued in the Conference on Disarmament that “priority should be given to concluding at an earlier date an international convention placing nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states under an obligation to prohibit development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons”.<sup>314</sup>

North Korea has said that it “is steadfast on the comprehensive and total abolition of nuclear weapons and, to this end, insists that a convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons with [a] timeframe be adopted”.<sup>315</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>316</sup> It is believed to possess nuclear weapons.



### Norway

**NATO** Norway supports “a genuine, total ban” on nuclear weapons and is “working actively to lay the political and practical foundation for achieving this”.<sup>317</sup> It has acknowledged the need and obligation to negotiate “a legally binding instrument to fulfil the provisions of Article VI of the NPT”, in accordance with the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the illegality of nuclear weapons.<sup>318</sup>

However, Norway does not support the call by many states for the negotiation of such a convention in the Conference on Disarmament, which it says has been “paralysed” for many years.<sup>319</sup> In October 2011, during a session of the UN General

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309. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

310. **Statement** by the Group of 21 to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 12 February 2009.

311. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

312. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

313. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

314. **Statement** by the DPRK in the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 24 February 2011.

315. **Statement** by the DPRK to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 14 October 2011.

316. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

317. **Response** to questions from Peter S. Gitmark MP, 29 September 2011 (**Norwegian version**).

318. *Ibid.*

319. *Ibid.*

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Assembly's First Committee, it argued that "substance should guide our methods of work, and we should not let ourselves be blocked by our own institutional structures".<sup>320</sup> On this basis, it abstains from voting on the Malaysian resolution advancing negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention in the Conference on Disarmament.<sup>321</sup>

Norway supports "the general objective of the resolution" but does not find "the general approach and methodology conducive to further nuclear disarmament".<sup>322</sup> It is "far from convinced that the CD provides the best arena for developing legally binding disarmament commitments".<sup>323</sup> It also has "serious reservations concerning the reference to the model nuclear weapons convention" in the resolution, believing that it is highly doubtful "that the allusion to such a specific treaty text, at this point in time, is an adequate way to catalyse the process towards the abolition of nuclear weapons".<sup>324</sup>

At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it stated that, as "the ultimate implementation" of Article VI of the treaty, a nuclear-weapon-free world would need "an additional legal instrument".<sup>325</sup> It also observed that the question of a nuclear weapons convention is becoming "increasingly relevant and important", and argued that there will likely be more discussions on this matter in times to come.<sup>326</sup> In the UN General Assembly's First Committee in October 2010, it asserted that the "overall objective of the NPT must, eventually, be codified in a legally binding instrument".<sup>327</sup>

In September 2011, Norway said that it is an important development that the 2010 NPT Review Conference outcome document referred to the UN Secretary-General's five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament, which recommends negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention. It noted that "this is the first time that the need to take a step of this kind is reflected in the NPT process".<sup>328</sup> Norway supports civil society initiatives aimed at promoting a nuclear weapons convention, including the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. It is the only member of NATO to have expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention.



### Oman

**NAM** Oman votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>329</sup>



### Pakistan

**NAM** Pakistan votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>330</sup> In October 1997, prior to its first nuclear test, Pakistan's foreign

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320. **Statement** by Norway to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 14 October 2011.

321. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

322. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/65/L.50**, 29 October 2010.

323. *Ibid.*

324. *Ibid.*

325. **Statement** by Norway at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 12 May 2010.

326. *Ibid.*

327. **Statement** by Norway in the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 4 October 2010.

328. **Response** to questions from Peter S. Gitmark MP, 29 September 2011 (**Norwegian version**).

329. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

330. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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minister argued that “nuclear weapons must be banned and eliminated just as chemical and biological weapons have been prohibited”, and called on governments to adopt, “as a first step”, a “universal and legally binding multilateral agreement committing all states to the objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons”.<sup>331</sup>

In the Conference on Disarmament in February 2011, Pakistan argued that the “raison d’être” of the CD is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention. It spoke positively of the UN Secretary-General’s five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament, particularly his call for states to consider negotiating a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>332</sup> It criticized the “major nuclear-weapon states” for their failure to heed the Secretary-General’s call by blocking “the emergence of consensus” on a convention.<sup>333</sup>

It has called on the CD to “get on with its job of negotiating a convention on nuclear disarmament”.<sup>334</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 46% of Pakistanis support a nuclear weapons convention, with 41% opposed.<sup>335</sup> This is the lowest level of public support for any of the states surveyed. Estimates suggest that Pakistan possesses between 90 and 110 nuclear weapons.<sup>336</sup>



### Palau

Palau votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>337</sup> It has a military agreement with the United States allowing the United States to operate its armed forces on its territory.



### Panama

**NAM RIO** Panama votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>338</sup>



### Papua New Guinea

**NAM** Papua New Guinea votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>339</sup>



### Paraguay

**RIO** Paraguay votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>340</sup>

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331. Statement by Pakistan to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 17 October 1997.

332. **Statement** by Pakistan to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

333. **Ibid.**

334. **Ibid.**

335. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

336. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, **SIPRI Yearbook 2011**, 2011, ch. 7.

337. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

338. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

339. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

340. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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### Peru

**NAM RIO** Peru has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. In the Conference on Disarmament in February 2011, it suggested that member states negotiate a nuclear weapons convention as proposed by Costa Rica and Malaysia in the UN General Assembly.<sup>341</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>342</sup>



### Philippines

**NAM** The Philippines regularly expresses strong support for the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention. It has called for “an international conference that will set the parameters for the elimination of nuclear weapons and prohibit their production, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use”.<sup>343</sup> It “gives much importance to having a specified time frame or timeline for the destruction of such weapons”.<sup>344</sup>

In September 2010, it argued that “the time to act on a nuclear weapons convention is now”, and urged the Conference on Disarmament to commence discussions on a convention in a subsidiary body to be created “at the soonest opportunity”.<sup>345</sup> More recently, it called on the CD to adopt a programme of work that is balanced and “gives due attention to all the core issues”, particularly the need to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, “including a nuclear weapons convention”.<sup>346</sup>

In the UN General Assembly’s First Committee in October 2011, it called on states to “seriously consider the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention whether this be done in the CD or elsewhere”.<sup>347</sup> It has said that, of the actions set out in the 2010 NPT Review Conference final document, it “gives particular importance” to the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>348</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>349</sup>



### Poland

**NATO EU** Poland votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>350</sup> believing that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process of practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>351</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.

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341. **Statement** by Peru to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 22 February 2011.

342. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

343. **Statement** by the Philippines to the Disarmament Commission, New York, 5 April 2011.

344. *Ibid.*

345. **Statement** by the Philippines to Middle Powers Initiative Conference, Geneva, 14–15 September 2010.

346. **Statement** by the Philippines to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 22 February 2011.

347. **Statement** by the Philippines to the General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 13 October 2011.

348. **Statement** by the Philippines to the General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 7 October 2011.

349. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

350. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

351. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/58/L.31**, 15 October 2003.

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### Portugal

**NATO EU** Portugal votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>352</sup> believing that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process of practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>353</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Qatar

**NAM** Qatar has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it stressed the importance of adopting the disarmament action plan put forward by the Non-Aligned Movement,<sup>354</sup> which called for an international conference at the earliest possible date to achieve agreement on a convention.<sup>355</sup> It hopes that the world would not wait long before being able to celebrate “a universal treaty for disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear weapons”.<sup>356</sup>



### Romania

**NATO EU** Romania abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>357</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Russia

Russia votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>358</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 69% of Russians support a nuclear weapons convention, with 14% opposed.<sup>359</sup> Russia possesses approximately 11,000 nuclear weapons, more than any other nation.<sup>360</sup>



### Rwanda

**NAM** Rwanda votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>361</sup>



### Saint Kitts & Nevis

**NAM** Saint Kitts and Nevis votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>362</sup>

352. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

353. **Explanation of vote** on [A/C.1/58/L.31](#), 15 October 2003.

354. **Statement** by Qatar at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 4 May 2010.

355. **Working paper** submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement to the NPT Review Conference, NPT/CONF.2010/WP.47, 28 April 2010.

356. **Statement** by Qatar at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 4 May 2010.

357. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

358. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

359. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

360. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, [SIPRI Yearbook 2011](#), 2011, ch. 7.

361. **Vote** on [A/RES/65/410](#), 8 December 2010.

362. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

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### Saint Lucia

**NAM** Saint Lucia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>363</sup>



### Saint Vincent & the Grenadines

**NAM** Saint Vincent and the Grenadines votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>364</sup>



### Samoa

Samoa votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>365</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>366</sup>



### San Marino

San Marino votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>367</sup>



### São Tomé and Príncipe

**NAM** São Tomé and Príncipe votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>368</sup>



### Saudi Arabia

**NAM** Saudi Arabia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>369</sup>



### Senegal

**NAM** Senegal has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it called on governments to consider ways and means to arrive at such a convention.<sup>370</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>371</sup> It stated that “the adoption of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons as mentioned in

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363. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

364. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

365. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

366. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

367. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

368. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

369. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

370. **Statement** by Senegal at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 6 May 2010.

371. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

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Article VI of the NPT will be a step towards nuclear disarmament<sup>372</sup>.



### Serbia

Serbia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>373</sup>



### Seychelles

**NAM** Seychelles votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>374</sup>



### Sierra Leone

**NAM** Sierra Leone votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>375</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>376</sup>



### Singapore

**NAM** Singapore votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>377</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>378</sup> It has urged states to make “progress on all issues before the Conference on Disarmament”, including a convention.<sup>379</sup>



### Slovakia

**NATO EU** Slovakia votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>380</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Slovenia

**NATO EU** Slovenia votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>381</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.

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372. **Statement** by Senegal to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, 13 October 2011.

373. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

374. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

375. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

376. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

377. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

378. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

379. **Statement** by Singapore to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 10 October 2011.

380. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

381. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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### Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>382</sup>



### Somalia

**NAM** Somalia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>383</sup>



### South Africa

**NAM NAC** South Africa has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. It believes that, in order to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a nuclear-weapon-free world, “it is incumbent upon us all to begin timely preparations that will culminate in the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention or a framework or set of instruments for the complete and sustainable elimination of nuclear weapons”.<sup>384</sup>

It has argued that a world without nuclear weapons will require “the underpinning of a universal and multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument that would ban the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons” and provide for their destruction within a specified time frame, either in the form of a nuclear weapons convention or a mutually reinforcing set of instruments.<sup>385</sup>



### South Korea

South Korea abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>386</sup> At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it applauded the UN Secretary-General for his leadership in rekindling discussions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including through his five-point plan, which calls on governments to consider a nuclear weapons convention as a way of fulfilling their legal obligation to disarm.<sup>387</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 86% of South Koreans support a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>388</sup>



### South Sudan

South Sudan is not known to have publicly expressed its position on a nuclear weapons convention. However, it can reasonably be assumed that it is supportive.

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382. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

383. **Vote** on **A/RES/65/410**, 8 December 2010.

384. **Statement** by South Africa to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, 12 October 2011.

385. **Statement** by South Africa in the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 1 February 2011.

386. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

387. **Statement** by South Korea at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 4 May 2010.

388. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

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### Spain

**NATO EU** Spain votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention,<sup>389</sup> believing that nuclear disarmament is best achieved through a gradual process of practical steps, not a comprehensive approach.<sup>390</sup> It is a member of the European Union and part of the NATO military alliance.



### Sri Lanka

**NAM** Sri Lanka regularly expresses support for a nuclear weapons convention. It has called on the Conference on Disarmament to recognize the “urgent need” to commence negotiations on “a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specific timeframe, including a nuclear weapons convention”.<sup>391</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a convention.<sup>392</sup>



### Sudan

**NAM** Sudan votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>393</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>394</sup>



### Suriname

**NAM** Suriname votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>395</sup>



### Swaziland

**NAM** Swaziland votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>396</sup>



### Sweden

**EU NAC** Sweden votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>397</sup> However, it has been reluctant to support calls by Swedish civil society to advocate for a convention in international forums. It has acknowledged that, “as the disarmament process continues towards global zero”, governments would reach a point where all major players accept the need for a

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389. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

390. **Explanation of vote** on [A/C.1/58/L.31](#), 15 October 2003.

391. **Statement** by Sri Lanka to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 17 March 2011.

392. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

393. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

394. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

395. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

396. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

397. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

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negotiated multilateral legal regime beyond the NPT, “an even grander bargain”.<sup>398</sup>

Sweden commented during the 2010 and 2011 sessions of the UN General Assembly’s First Committee that the addition of a reference to the model nuclear weapons convention in the Malaysian resolution on the International Court of Justice’s nuclear weapons advisory opinion is, in its interpretation, “done without prejudice to any future negotiating process on a nuclear weapons convention, or on a framework of separate, mutually reinforcing instruments”.<sup>399</sup> Sweden is a member of the European Union, but not formally a part of the NATO military alliance.



### Switzerland

Switzerland regularly expresses support for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it stated that “ultimately the question of banning nuclear weapons by a new convention”, as proposed by the UN Secretary-General in his five-point plan on nuclear disarmament, “must be addressed”.<sup>400</sup> It said that it expected that the final document of the conference would encourage discussion on a convention to ban nuclear weapons.<sup>401</sup>

In the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, it argued that, if states are serious about “achieving global zero and bolstering nuclear non-proliferation”, “a new approach is required towards a comprehensive legal instrument that can outlaw, once and for all, the most inhumane weapons ever invented”.<sup>402</sup> It said that it was pleased that the UN Secretary-General’s five-point proposal had “gained traction” at the NPT Review Conference, and in particular that many states had voiced their support for starting deliberations on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>403</sup>

During the First Committee’s 2011 session, it stated that it remained “convinced of the necessity to create a legally binding instrument to ban nuclear weapons”.<sup>404</sup> It believes that we need to outlaw nuclear weapons “for all states, not just for some”,<sup>405</sup> and that a nuclear weapons convention is “the only sustainable way to eliminate the nuclear threat”.<sup>406</sup> Switzerland votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>407</sup>



### Syria

**NAM** Syria votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>408</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early

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398. **Statement** by Sweden to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 31 August 2010.

399. **Explanation of vote** on **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 27 October 2011.

400. **Statement** by Switzerland at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 7 May 2010.

401. *Ibid.*

402. **Statement** by Switzerland to General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 5 October 2010.

403. *Ibid.*

404. **Statement** by Switzerland to the General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 14 October 2011.

405. **Statement** by Switzerland to the Middle Powers Initiative Conference, Geneva, 14–15 September 2010.

406. **Statement** by Switzerland to the IPPNW World Congress, Basel (Switzerland), 27 August 2010.

407. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

408. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

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conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>409</sup>



### Tajikistan

Tajikistan typically votes in favour of, or abstains from voting on, UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>410</sup>



### Tanzania

**NAM** Tanzania has expressed strong support for a nuclear weapons convention. In the UN General Assembly's First Committee in October 2010, it called on all states to work to implement the UN Secretary-General's five-point disarmament proposal, and argued that the "immediate launch of negotiations" for a nuclear weapons convention under the auspices of the Conference on Disarmament "would add value to our collective commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons".<sup>411</sup>

It has stressed that "the time and conditions are ripe for accelerating progress in nuclear disarmament".<sup>412</sup> In October 2011, it argued that negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention "must take place without further delay".<sup>413</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a convention.<sup>414</sup>



### Thailand

**NAM** Thailand has expressed support for the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan on nuclear disarmament, which encourages states to consider negotiating a nuclear weapons convention as a way of implementing Article VI of the NPT.<sup>415</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft UN General Assembly resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>416</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 67% of Thai people support a nuclear weapons convention, with 8% opposed.<sup>417</sup>



### Timor-Leste

**NAM** Timor-Leste has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention in international forums. It was a lead sponsor of a UN General Assembly draft resolution in 2010 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>418</sup>

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409. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

410. **Vote** on [A/RES/66/46](#), 2 December 2011.

411. **Statement** by Tanzania to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 7 October 2010.

412. **Statement** by Tanzania to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 13 October 2010.

413. **Statement** by Tanzania to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 13 October 2011.

414. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

415. **Statement** by Thailand at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 6 May 2010; **statement** by Thailand to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 6 October 2011.

416. [A/C.1/66/L.42](#), 17 October 2011.

417. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

418. [A/C.1/65/L.50](#), 18 October 2010.

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At the NPT Review Conference in 2005, it submitted a working paper together with five other nations calling on all states to fulfil their legal obligation to disarm by commencing negotiations leading to the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination.<sup>419</sup>



### Togo

**NAM** Togo votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>420</sup>



### Tonga

Tonga votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>421</sup>



### Trinidad & Tobago

**NAM** Trinidad and Tobago votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>422</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>423</sup>



### Tunisia

**NAM** Tunisia has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it called on the nuclear-weapon states to launch negotiations on a phased programme for the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals through a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>424</sup> It argued that such an approach would be consistent with the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.<sup>425</sup>



### Turkey

**NATO** Turkey votes against UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>426</sup> A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 65% of Turks support a nuclear weapons convention, with 10% opposed.<sup>427</sup> Turkey hosts US nuclear weapons on its territory as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement.

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419. **Working paper** submitted by Malaysia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Timor-Leste, Nicaragua and Yemen to the NPT Review Conference, New York, 18 May 2005, NPT/CONF.2005/WP.41.

420. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

421. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

422. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

423. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

424. **Statement** by Tunisia at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 5 May 2010.

425. *Ibid.*

426. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

427. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

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### Turkmenistan

**NAM** Turkmenistan votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>428</sup>



### Tuvalu

Tuvalu votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>429</sup>



### Uganda

**NAM** Uganda votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>430</sup>



### Ukraine

Ukraine votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>431</sup> Prior to 2011, it had abstained from voting on such resolutions. A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 80% of Ukrainians support a nuclear weapons convention, with 7% opposed.<sup>432</sup>



### United Arab Emirates

**NAM** The United Arab Emirates votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>433</sup> It has called on states to agree on a comprehensive and balanced programme of action in the Conference on Disarmament, including “a convention on the final disposition of nuclear weapons by 2025 as a time frame to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons through these negotiations”.<sup>434</sup>



### United Kingdom

**NATO EU** The United Kingdom is generally opposed to a nuclear weapons convention. In August 2011, the prime minister wrote in a letter that he did not agree “that negotiations now on a nuclear weapons convention should be the immediate means of getting us to a world free of nuclear weapons”.<sup>435</sup> However, he acknowledged that such a convention “could ultimately form the legal underpinning for this end point”, but the prospects of reaching agreement on a convention “are remote at the moment”.<sup>436</sup>

The United Kingdom’s priority is to reach consensus on the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and to start negotiations on a fissile materials cut-off

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428. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

429. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

430. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

431. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

432. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

433. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

434. **Statement** by the UAE to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 5 October 2011.

435. **Letter** to Jeremy Corbyn MP from the Prime Minister, 15 August 2011.

436. *Ibid.*

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treaty. It believes that “until the necessary political and security conditions are in place, attempts to establish a new conference or body would risk diverting political capital and resources away from the NPT”, which it considers to be “the best vehicle we have for creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons”.<sup>437</sup>

A 2009 government policy paper argued that, although a convention will “likely be necessary to establish the final ban on nuclear weapons”, it would at present be “premature and potentially counter-productive” to focus efforts on such a treaty “when the many other conditions necessary to enable a ban have yet to be put in place”.<sup>438</sup> In June 2010, it stated that “the idea of a nuclear weapons convention is a fine one”, but “a whole series of things need to be done before one comes to the happy situation where the nuclear world is disarmed, and a convention could then get full support”.<sup>439</sup>

An early day motion was submitted to the parliament in November 2009 and signed by 138 members noting the growing international support for the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention and calling on the government to give its full support to such a treaty.<sup>440</sup> A similar motion was tabled in June 2011 calling “on the government actively to support and participate in multilateral negotiations on a comprehensive treaty to prohibit the use, production and deployment of all nuclear weapons and provide for their total elimination”.<sup>441</sup> It had 51 signatures as at December 2011.

A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 81% of Britons support a nuclear weapons convention, with 17% opposed.<sup>442</sup> The United Kingdom is a member of the European Union and part of NATO. It possesses approximately 225 submarine-based nuclear weapons.<sup>443</sup> It no longer hosts US nuclear weapons on its territory.



### United States

**NATO** The United States is generally opposed to a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it argued that a convention is not achievable in the near term and therefore is not a realistic alternative to the step-by-step approach to disarmament currently under way.<sup>444</sup> It also argued that “trying to combine all the issues into a single negotiation” would be “a formula for deadlock”, and expressed concern that such an effort would distract energy and attention from practical steps.<sup>445</sup>

It believes that it is not possible to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention before negotiating a fissile materials cut-off treaty.<sup>446</sup> In the UN General Assembly’s First Committee in October 2010, it expressed support for “a pragmatic step-by-step approach” to nuclear disarmament “rather than the impractical leap of seeking to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention”.<sup>447</sup> At a UN conference in Japan in 2011, it said

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437. Ibid.

438. Commonwealth and Foreign Office, **Lifting the Nuclear Shadow**, 2009, p. 34.

439. **Answers** to questions by Baroness Williams of Crosby (Liberal Democrat), 9 June 2010.

440. Early day **motion** introduced by Jeremy Corbyn MP, 19 November 2009; not adopted.

441. Early day **motion** introduced by Jeremy Corbyn MP, 23 June 2011.

442. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

443. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, **SIPRI Yearbook 2011**, 2011, ch. 7.

444. **Statement** by the US to the NPT Review Conference, New York, 10 May 2010.

445. Ibid.

446. **Statement** by the US to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 7 September 2010.

447. **Statement** by the US to the UN General Assembly’s First Committee, New York, 5 October 2010.

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that “unfortunately” it cannot support a nuclear weapons convention “at this time”.<sup>448</sup>

The question of a nuclear weapons convention was not addressed in the nuclear posture review released in April 2010. A public opinion poll in 2008 showed that 77% of Americans support a nuclear weapons convention, with 20% opposed.<sup>449</sup> The United States possesses approximately 8500 nuclear weapons,<sup>450</sup> some of them stationed on the territories of five European nations as part of a NATO nuclear-sharing arrangement.



### Uruguay

**RIO** Uruguay votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>451</sup> At a high-level meeting on revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament in September 2010, it expressed support for the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan on nuclear disarmament, which includes the consideration of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>452</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>453</sup>



### Uzbekistan

**NAM** Uzbekistan abstains from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>454</sup> It is one of only two members of the Non-Aligned Movement that do not vote in favour of such resolutions.



### Vanuatu

**NAM** Vanuatu votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>455</sup>



### Venezuela

**NAM RIO** Venezuela votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>456</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2010 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>457</sup>

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448. Oral remarks by the US to the UN Conference on Disarmament Issues, Matsumoto, 28 July 2011.

449. **Poll** commissioned by Global Zero and conducted by World Public Opinion, 9 December 2008.

450. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, **SIPRI Yearbook 2011**, 2011, ch. 7.

451. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

452. **Statement** by Uruguay to the Conference on Disarmament, New York, 24 September 2010.

453. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

454. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

455. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

456. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

457. **A/C.1/65/L.50**, 18 October 2010.

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### Vietnam

**NAM** Vietnam votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>458</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>459</sup> In the First Committee in October 2010, it expressed its support for the UN Secretary-General's five-point nuclear disarmament plan, which includes consideration of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>460</sup>



### Yemen

**NAM** Yemen has expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, it urged states to negotiate a ban on the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and ultimately to accomplish their complete elimination.<sup>461</sup> Together with five other nations, it submitted a working paper to the previous NPT Review Conference, held in 2005, calling on all states to fulfil their legal obligation to disarm by commencing negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>462</sup>



### Zambia

**NAM** Zambia votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>463</sup>



### Zimbabwe

**NAM** Zimbabwe votes in favour of UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>464</sup> It was a lead sponsor of a draft resolution in 2011 calling upon all states immediately to commence multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention.<sup>465</sup>

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458. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

459. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.

460. **Statement** by Vietnam in the UN General Assembly's First Committee, New York, 6 October 2010.

461. **Statement** by Yemen at the NPT Review Conference, New York, 6 May 2010.

462. **Working paper** submitted by Malaysia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Timor-Leste, Nicaragua and Yemen to the NPT Review Conference, New York, 18 May 2005, NPT/CONF.2005/WP.41.

463. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

464. **Vote** on **A/RES/66/46**, 2 December 2011.

465. **A/C.1/66/L.42**, 17 October 2011.