1. What is the NPT?

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) opened for signature on 1 July 1968, and entered into force on 5 March 1970. 189 states have ratified the NPT, becoming "states parties" to the Treaty. India, Israel, and Pakistan have not signed or ratified the Treaty and have developed nuclear weapons since its entry into force. North Korea did ratify the Treaty but announced its withdrawal in 2003.

The NPT divides all state parties into two groups: those that tested nuclear weapons before 1 January 1967 and those that did not. The states that tested nuclear weapons before 1967 are known as official "nuclear weapon states". This group consists of the United States, Russia (originally the Soviet Union), China, France, and the United Kingdom. The second group is known as non-nuclear weapon states.

The NPT’s main impetus was to stop the potentially rapid proliferation of nuclear weapons among states and to achieve disarmament. Therefore, the Treaty is considered to be a "grand bargain" for non-nuclear weapon states: that in exchange for their commitment to never develop or receive nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon states promised to eliminate their arsenals, while non-nuclear weapon states would have access to the "peaceful uses" of nuclear technology.

2. Summary of the NPT articles

**Article I:** Nuclear weapon states will not transfer nuclear weapons, nor will they assist in the development of nuclear weapons in any way.

**Article II:** Non-nuclear weapon states will not acquire nuclear weapons, nor will they manufacture such weapons.

**Article III:** Non-nuclear weapon states will accept inspection of their civilian nuclear energy plants by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the form of such inspections shall be negotiated by each state and the IAEA in additional protocols.

**Article IV:** Nothing in this Treaty shall impede states parties’ "inalienable right" to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

**Article V:** Benefits from peaceful nuclear explosions should be shared all around (this article has been superceded by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty).

**Article VI:** Each party to the Treaty is obliged to pursue negotiations on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at and early date and to nuclear disarmament. States parties also agree to pursue a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

**Article VII:** Nothing in the Treaty can stop nuclear weapon free zones from being negotiated.

**Article VIII:** Sets up procedure for amendments of the Treaty and for the review process.

**Article IX:** The Treaty is open for all countries, and it will enter into force when the US, UK, USSR and 40 other states have ratified it. The definition of a nuclear weapon state is one that has manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967.

**Article X:** Each party has the right to withdraw from the Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events have jeopardized the interest of the country. A three months notice of withdrawal must be given to all states parties of the treaty and the United Nations Security Council.

**Article XI:** The Treaty is available in English, Russian, French, Spanish, and Chinese and all languages are equally authentic.

3. ICAN at the NPT RevCon

The ninth review conference of parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will take place in New York from 27 April to 22 May 2015.

No meaningful progress has been made towards implementation of the disarmament action plan agreed at the last review conference, held in 2010. The five nuclear-armed states that are parties to the treaty – the US, Russia, China, France and the UK – are all investing heavily in upgrades to their nuclear arsenals, with plans to retain them for decades to come.

This has prompted many non-nuclear states to devise new pathways to the
prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons that cannot be held hostage by the nuclear-armed states.

The 2015 RevCon takes place after the three conferences on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna. The Review Conference is one of the major events about nuclear weapons during 2015, and it is therefore important that ICAN participates actively and ensures that the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and a treaty banning nuclear weapons remain central in any discussions.

ICAN will be present throughout the whole four weeks, but will focus its main activities and advocacy around the second week, 4-8 May. ICAN’s staff team will be present throughout the whole conference and will be able to guide and assist any campaigners on advocacy messages and activities.

4. ICAN objectives at the NPT

4.1. Get as many states as possible to endorse the Pledge to fill the legal gap (also known as the “Austrian Pledge”) for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons as an effective measure to implement Article VI.

4.2. Get as many states as possible to voice support for the start of a diplomatic process in 2015 to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons, as a way of implementing obligations under Article VI of the NPT.

4.3. Raise awareness about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and the need to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons in media.

5. Advocacy messages

Lack of implementation of Article VI

Suggested points to ask delegations to think about in their interventions:

• Express deep concern at the lack of progress made by the nuclear-armed states towards fulfilling the disarmament action plan agreed at the 2010 NPT review conference.
• Emphasize that modernization of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems, with plans to retain them for many decades to come, is incompatible with the requirement under article VI of the NPT to pursue nuclear disarmament.

The humanitarian framing.

Suggested points to ask delegations to think about in their interventions:

• Welcome the recent focus on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, which has brought much-needed energy and impetus to discussions on nuclear disarmament.
• Welcome the three major diplomatic conferences convened on this topic in Oslo in March 2013, Nayarit in February 2014 and Vienna in December 2014.
• Highlight that it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances, and elimination is the only guarantee against use.
• Stress that the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons must remain the essence of all efforts towards nuclear disarmament, and encourage further initiatives in this area.

Pledging to “fill the legal gap”

Suggested points to ask delegations to think about in their interventions:

• Endorse and highlight the Pledge issued at the Vienna conference in December 2014 “to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons”.
• Argue that filling the legal gap requires the negotiation of a treaty that clearly prohibits nuclear weapons based on their catastrophic humanitarian consequences.
• Emphasize that it is unacceptable that nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction not yet comprehensively prohibited, and we must rectify this legal anomaly now.
• Note that, in the past, weapons have been eliminated after they have been prohibited through a global treaty, and this is the path to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.
• Note that all states have expressed their support for a nuclear-weapon-free world, and prohibiting nuclear weapons is a necessary part of the process to achieve that universal goal.
• Argue that a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons will complement the NPT and other related treaties, and constitute an effective measure for nuclear disarmament as stipulated by article VI.
• Welcome the examination of specific proposals for legal instruments to implement article VI, such as those set out by the New Agenda Coalition in its NPT working papers.

A diplomatic process in 2015

Suggested points to ask delegations to think about in their interventions:

• Signal a readiness to join a diplomatic process in 2015 to negotiate a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, which will represent a significant step towards their complete elimination.
• Call for a negotiating process that is inclusive, democratic, and involves civil society, and argue that no single state or group of states should have the power to block the negotiations.
• Argue that a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons should be negotiated by those states ready to do so, even if states with nuclear weapons oppose it and decide not to participate.
• Support the conclusion in the Nayarit chair’s summary that the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to be marked in August 2015, is “an appropriate milestone” by which to initiate a diplomatic process to ban nuclear weapons.

ICAN staff will be available throughout the conference to provide more information on specific issues.

7. Actions that can be taken

1. Meet with your government representatives during the meeting

Campaigners are expected to take an active role reaching out to governments throughout the conference, but please check in with our regional coordinators or any member of the staff team first. ICAN staff will be able to help you with further talking points and lobby sheets.

2. Take part in ICAN’s advocacy meetings and briefings each morning

During the second week of the NPT, ICAN will organize daily advocacy and media meetings with all campaigners present. These meetings will provide the latest updates on what’s going on, what campaigners can do and what should be done during the day.

In addition, from 08:00 – 09:00 each day of the Review Conference, NGOs will hold coordination meetings. All ICAN campaigners are welcome to come to these meetings to plan advocacy outreach for the day, share feedback on advocacy work, and discuss the conference proceedings and hear about other activities taking place. Reaching Critical Will organizes a daily briefing by a government for NGOs in the same room from 09:00-09:50. ICAN campaigners are encouraged to participate and ask questions to the government present.

3. Take part in side events and promote a ban on nuclear weapons.

ICAN campaigners are encouraged to attend and ask questions at the numerous side events that take place during the Review Conference. We’d like the humanitarian initiative and the need to ban nuclear weapons to be the dominating theme throughout the whole Review Conference, so don’t be afraid to ask panelists about these issues.

4. Promote ICAN’s work and messages online with Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and website articles

Discuss the NPT Review Conference and ICAN’s messages through your organisation’s online media. Write a blog, a website article or a newsletter piece about the conference. Throughout the meeting post regular updates on Twitter using the hashtag #goodbyenukes and make sure you follow ICAN’s Twitter feed @nuclearban. Post pictures and updates on Facebook.

5. Promote a ban on nuclear weapons in your national media

Brief your national media contacts throughout the conference, write letters to the editor of your local newspaper, and try to place an op-ed in your national paper. We will provide templates of article and key messages that you can tailor to your national context.

All NPT statements, documents, working papers and a calendar of events can be found at Reaching Critical Will: www.reachingcriticalwill.org

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