

When you meet with your government officials, hand them a copy of ICAN's Briefing Paper on the NPT Review Conference 2015 ("Time to Fill the Legal Gap"), and:

Introduction

- Explain that 158 States attended the Vienna Conference. Note that the outcome of the conference featured a Chair's Summary and a "Pledge to Fill the Legal Gap".
- Argue that the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has become the dominant theme in the international nuclear weapons debate in recent years, but that there is an urgent need for states to follow up on this initiative if it is going to lead to real and sustainable change in the field of nuclear disarmament.
- Russian Federation has not associated themselves with the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Inform them that nearly 160 states have already confirmed their support for the Joint Statement and ask them if they will join the overwhelming majority of states in support.
- Ask whether they intend to express their support for the Pledge to Fill the Legal Gap in their statement at the RevCon.

The Pledge to Fill the Legal Gap

- Nuclear weapons are the only weapon of mass destruction not explicitly made illegal by international treaty. The current standstill in nuclear disarmament is a result of the lack of a clear normative framework that rejects the possession of these weapons.
- Explain that the Pledge calls on all parties to the NPT to renew their commitment to fulfilling the existing obligations under Article VI of the treaty by pursuing effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

About the NPT

- Argue that the NPT, although it faces significant challenges, has served the international community well by preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- Ask them what they think are the main challenges facing the NPT at the moment, and what they would consider to be a successful result of the 2015 NPT Review Conference.
- Argue that the lack of progress on disarmament threatens to undermine the credibility of the treaty. States must work now to implement Article VI of the treaty by launching a diplomatic process in 2015 to negotiate a nuclear weapons ban treaty which would complement and strengthen the NPT.

About a ban on nuclear weapons

- State that you are a part of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and that ICAN believes that it is time for states to develop a new legal instrument prohibiting nuclear

SUPPORT FOR A BAN

Expressed support for a ban treaty at the 2014 UNGA First Committee or the 2014 NPT PrepCom?

National Group	No	
Expressed support for a ban in Vienna		n./a.
Expressed need for prohibition in Vienna		n./a.

HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE

Associated with Humanitarian Initiative statement at:

2012 NPT	No	2013 NPT	No
2014 UNGA	No	2013 UNGA	Yes
Participated in Vienna Conference?			No
Statement made in Vienna			(n./a.)
Signed the "Austrian Pledge"?			No

weapons, even if nuclear-armed states refuse to participate.

- Argue that the fact that there is no explicit legal prohibition of nuclear weapons constitutes a legal anomaly among weapons of mass destruction.
- Argue that Russia, as one of nine nuclear possessors, have a special responsibility to support efforts to prepare the ground for a world without nuclear weapons.
- Argue that human history is full of examples of misjudgment, miscalculation and misunderstanding. As shown by Eric Schlosser in his recent book "Command and Control", it is at best naïve and at worst reckless to consider that a security doctrine based on threatening the use of weapons of mass destruction against each other will operate with complete perfection indefinitely.
- Ask them why they believe a new legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons would be a distraction from existing work, as such an instrument would not preclude continuing on other aspects of the established disarmament and arms control agenda such as FMCT.

And finally

- Ask them who will be in their NPT delegation this year, and ask for their contact details.
- Report back to ICAN using the online report card.