

**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

- Thank them for participating in the third conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, hosted by Austria in December 2014.
- 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.
- South Africa has previously associated themselves with the humanitarian initiative (see right for details). Thank them for this and ask what they intend to do during the NPT RevCon to continue to raise awareness of the humanitarian and environmental effects of nuclear weapons.
- 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 weapons, even if nuclear-armed states refuse to participate.

## SUPPORT FOR A BAN

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

National Group	No	Yes (African Group)
Expressed support for a ban in Vienna	No	
Expressed need for prohibition in Vienna	Yes	

## HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE

Associated with Humanitarian Initiative statement at:			
2012 NPT	No	2013 NPT	No
2014 UNGA	Yes	2013 UNGA	Yes
Participated in Vienna Conference?		Yes	
Statement made in Vienna		Yes	
Signed the "Austrian Pledge"?		No	

- 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 a new legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons would help achieve the objectives embedded in the treaty of Pelindaba and strengthen and fulfill the purpose of the NPT.
- Hand them a copy of Article 36's paper "Banning Nuclear Weapons" and argue that a new legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons would establish a strong international norm against use, possession and deployment of nuclear weapons and require governments to decide whether they want to continue to support nuclear weapons or reject them entirely.
- Argue that a legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons will provide a strong moral incentive for nuclear possessor states to eliminate their arsenals in compliance with Article VI of the NPT.
- Encourage them to reach out to other states in SADC to develop a joint position on the need for a new legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons.

## 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.