

Cluster 2: Prohibitions

UN Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards Their Total Elimination

Delivered by Loreta Castro, 19 June 2017

Madam President,

ICAN is confident that the negotiating states – working together in a spirit of cooperation, with determination and courage – can achieve a strong, categorical ban on the ultimate weapons of mass destruction.

Anything less than a categorical ban would fail to meet the expectations of the world's peoples, who yearn for, and have long championed, the total elimination of these abhorrent, immoral weapons.

The prohibitions must properly capture all activities that might render the goal of nuclear disarmament more distant, or contribute in any way to planning and preparing for the use of these patently unacceptable weapons.

We therefore warmly welcome the strong support expressed by many states on Friday and again today for the inclusion of an explicit prohibition on military preparations to use nuclear weapons.

The Chemical Weapons Convention offers an important precedent for this. We believe that the prohibitions contained in the nuclear-weapon-ban treaty must be at least as broad as those in comparable instruments.

We welcome also the strong support expressed by a number of states for the inclusion of an explicit prohibition on the financing of nuclear weapons – a form of “assistance” that warrants particular attention in the treaty.

The draft does, of course, already forbid states parties from assisting anyone to develop, produce or manufacture nuclear weapons, or to engage in any other activity prohibited under the treaty.

However, for the sake of clarity, we believe that the term financing should be added. Curtailing investments in nuclear weapons is an important way to end the nuclear arms race and advance disarmament.

Finally, we welcome the inclusion in the draft of an explicit prohibition on testing, which reinforces the norm enshrined in the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty – a treaty

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that, we regret, has yet to enter into legal force. This approach is consistent, too, with that taken in the various nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties.

Thank you.