

Cluster 5: Institutional arrangements

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

Delivered by Carlos Umaña, 20 June 2017

Madam President,

To realize the objectives of this treaty, national implementation measures will be essential – not only with respect to the various prohibitions, but also the positive obligations.

We believe that a stronger, more detailed provision is needed on international cooperation, assistance and the facilitation of compliance. Such a provision will be crucial, in particular, for the full realization of the rights of victims and the remediation of contaminated environments. It will also be highly relevant for stockpile destruction.

The assistance may be rendered in various forms, including legislative assistance, institutional capacity-building, and technical, material or financial assistance.

Meetings of states parties will also be an important component of the institutional arrangements for the treaty, and should be held at least annually – not just every second year – with the participation of civil society.

ICAN was pleased to serve as the civil society partner for the three conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. We also played an active role in the open-ended working groups on nuclear disarmament.

Well over a hundred of our campaigners are here participating in this negotiating conference, and we intend to work strenuously in coming years to promote the full implementation and universalization of the ban.

It is essential, therefore, that civil society be invited to participate in the meetings of states parties, not just to attend them. We welcome the proposal to allow non-parties to be present as observers, with the aim of attracting their accession to the treaty.

We would suggest the inclusion of an obligation on states parties to report on measures undertaken towards implementation of the treaty. This is a standard feature of many comparable treaties.

We believe that the treaty should establish a body that would be responsible for organizing meetings of states parties, facilitating implementation, developing verification and enforcement mechanisms, and promoting universalization.

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It should also have a mandate to educate the global public about the treaty, and about the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons – for, without an informed citizenry, our goal will remain elusive.

Thank you.