



Stakeholder submission for the 42nd session of the Universal Periodic Review

Report on Pakistan

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a campaign coalition of over 600 non-government organizations in over one hundred countries. Following the historic achievement of the adoption of a strong nuclear weapons ban treaty, ICAN now campaigns for all States to sign and ratify the Treaty as a matter of urgency, take measures towards the global elimination of all nuclear weapons, and provide an overdue response to the victims of the humanitarian and environmental impact of nuclear weapon tests in the Pacific and elsewhere.

ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for “its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”

National Human Rights Framework

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has clear references to and implications for human rights law and practice. Preambular paragraph 8 reaffirms “the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law” The most relevant rights concern from a nuclear weapons attack is the right to life, other relevant rights concerns include the prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment, the right to a home and to property, as well as rights violations resulting from nuclear weapons testing.

Nuclear Weapons Possessing State

Pakistan has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Pakistan has consistently voted against an annual UN General Assembly resolution since 2018 that welcomes the adoption of the TPNW and calls upon all states to sign, ratify, or accede to it “at the earliest possible date”.

Pakistan possesses approximately 165 nuclear weapons, which it can launch from missiles and aircraft. It is also developing its capability to launch them from submarines. Pakistan conducted two nuclear tests in 1998.

In 2020, Pakistan spent an estimated US\$1 billion to build and maintain its nuclear weapons.

Pakistan did not participate in the negotiation of the TPNW at the United Nations in New York in 2017 and thus did not vote on its adoption. In 2016, Pakistan abstained from voting on the UN General Assembly resolution that established the formal mandate for states to commence the negotiations in 2017 on “a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination”.

ICAN urges Pakistan to take steps to pursue nuclear disarmament and to sign, ratify and implement the TPNW as a matter of international responsibility and urgency.