

Information Circular

INFCIRC/952

Date: 22 January 2021

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication dated 21 January 2021 received from the Permanent Mission of Ireland concerning the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

1. The Secretariat has received a Note Verbale dated 21 January 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the Agency on the occasion of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
2. At the request of the Permanent Mission, the Note Verbale and its attachment are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

BUAN-MHISEAN NA hÉIREANN
D'EAGRAÍOCHTAÍ IDIRNÁISIÚNTA VÍN



PERMANENT MISSION OF IRELAND
TO THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
IN VIENNA

Note No. 01/2021 IAEA

The Permanent Mission of Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and, with reference to the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons/TPNW on 22 January 2021, has the honour to request an IAEA INFCIRC, based on the attached agreed text, on the occasion of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on Friday 22 January 2021.

This INFCIRC is requested on behalf of the TPNW core group namely Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa and Thailand.

The Permanent Mission of Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: as stated



Vienna, 21 January 2021

The U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons/TPNW comes into force (IAEA INFCIRC, final, 19 1 2021)

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force on 22 January 2021. This landmark treaty was adopted by 122 states on 7 July 2017. The TPNW prohibits countries from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities. A country that possesses nuclear weapons may join the treaty, on condition that it agrees to destroy them in accordance with a legally binding, time-bound plan. Similarly, a country that hosts another country's nuclear weapons on its territory may join if it undertakes to remove them by a specified deadline.

The TPNW preamble acknowledges the disastrous humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, including the disproportionate impact of ionising radiation on women and girls, and the impact on indigenous peoples around the world. The Treaty strengthens the existing disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, complementing and reinforcing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 1968, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, 1996.

The Treaty was negotiated under a mandate by the United Nations General Assembly, with the participation of over 120 countries, the victims of nuclear weapons use (*hibakusha*), survivors of nuclear weapons testing, and civil society, and opened for signature on 20 September 2017. It has now been signed by 86 countries, and ratified by 51.