

FACT SHEET

TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. The Treaty was approved at the United Nations in July 2017 by 122 nations.

2. According to the terms of the Treaty, 50 nations had to ratify it (or accede to it) before it would enter into force. Entry into force would automatically happen 90 days after the 50th ratification was deposited at the UN.

3. As of January 1, 2021, 86 states have signed the treaty.

4. On October 24, 2020, Honduras became the 50th nation to deposit its ratification at the United Nations. In December, Zimbabwe became #51.

5. As of January 22, 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is in force.

6. None of the nuclear weapons states (US, Russia, England, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea) have signed the Treaty. Legally, the terms of the Treaty will not apply to them until they have signed the Treaty. None of the “umbrella states”—those countries protected by agreements with nuclear powers—have signed the Treaty.

7. The Treaty outlaws the development, manufacture, testing, possession, transfer, acquisition, stockpiling, use or threat of use, control or receipt, stationing or deployment of nuclear weapons. It also bans providing assistance in these activities.

8. The Entry Into Force of the Treaty makes nuclear weapons illegal under International Law.

9. The Entry Into Force will pressure umbrella nations, especially nations with US/NATO nuclear weapons deployed on their soil (Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, Turkey) and nations that permit nuclear weapons in their ports, controlled waters, or on US bases on their soil, to reconsider their responsibilities under the Treaty.

10. Five of the nuclear weapons states (US, England, France, China, Russia) have been obligated under the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (since 1970) to pursue disarmament “in good faith” “at an early date.” The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is an expression of the impatience of non-nuclear states with the failure of NPT states to meet their obligation to disarm.

11. According to Article 6 of the US Constitution, international treaties to which the US is a signatory are the “Supreme Law of the Land” and supersede state laws.

12. With the Entry Into Force of the TPNW, Nuclear Weapons will now be in the same category as land mines, cluster munitions, chemical and biological weapons, and poison gas.

13. As of September 2020, the nuclear weapons states possess 13,400 nuclear weapons. The breakdown* is as follows—

Russia	4,310	(1,572 deployed)
US	3,800	(1,750)
China	320	
France	290	(200)
UK	195	(60)
Pakistan	160	
India	150	
Israel	90	
North Korea	35	