**NGO Statement**
**2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, and esteemed colleagues,

We, the European partner organizations of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), wish to raise concerns about current deviations in the interpretation and implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Nuclear-weapon States have committed, under Article VI of the NPT, to "pursue negotiations in good faith towards general and complete nuclear disarmament." This obligation was reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice in its 1996 Advisory Opinion, which confirmed the existence of a legal obligation not only to negotiate but to achieve a precise result: "nuclear disarmament in all its aspects."

In January 2022, these same nuclear weapon states also declared their intention to "prevent an arms race that would benefit none and endanger all."

However, all nuclear States, whether democratic or authoritarian, have been and are right now acting in contradiction with these commitments and are contributing to the destabilisation of the non-proliferation regime.

Recently, non-nuclear-weapon European states have also been contributing to this weakening of the non-proliferation regime. States like Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, and Sweden are reinforcing the fallacious security logic based on the threat of the use of weapons of mass destruction, by engaging in forms of nuclear arms cooperation proposed by France.

After NATO's nuclear alliance and that between Russia and Belarus, the French initiative contributes to establishing nuclear alliances as a norm.

In this context, one question arises: How can these states claim to defend the NPT while supporting policies that go against its spirit — and may even violate it in the future?

Basing security on fear amounts to encouraging proliferation.

If every State believes it must “be feared in order to be free,” as the French president Emmanuel Macron recently stated, then *all* states will be driven to acquire nuclear weapons. Particularly at a time when three nuclear-armed states are involved in armed conflicts, we must ask ourselves: Is this a reasonable path?

As civil society organizations and as citizens of European states, we call on our governments to finally ensure security – security through the abolition of nuclear weapons. Have you already forgotten a not-so-distant past shaped by nuclear fear?

From Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the Cold War, history has shown that civilian populations lived through constant crises, under the permanent threat of escalation, with states ready to use weapons whose humanitarian and environmental consequences would have been catastrophic.

We cannot accept that this is the vision of the future that our governments offer to the younger generations, already confronted with climate disruption. This would be a major political failure. The states mentioned would bear particular responsibility: as democracies, they repeatedly invoke their democratic values, which we, as their citizens and as representatives of civil society organizations, cannot hold in high enough regard. And that is precisely why they must uphold the rule of law, not undermine it.

Let us be clear: Nuclear weapons, much like climate disruption. pose an existential threat to the very survival of humanity.

We know that the vast majority of States reject nuclear weapons, as demonstrated by their commitments to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and nuclear-weapon-free zones.

This majority must now make its voice heard firmly, in all international forums, against a minority of States that is putting “human security” at risk. We want to support them in this, and we call on those states that are undermining the NPT to finally take seriously the demands and security needs of the majority of states and the civilian population.

**Endorsed by:**

- Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy
- Aktionsbündnis atomwaffenfrei.jetzt
- Alianza por el Desarme Nuclear
- Beati i costruttori di pace
- Belgian Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons

- Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Wales
- Coordination nationale d’action pour la paix et la démocratie
- Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft – Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen
- Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen
- Fredsministerium in Denmark
- Fondazione Be the Hope
- Forbyd Atomvåben - ICAN i Danmark
- Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V.
- Gmünder Friedensinitiative
- Greater Manchester and District Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- ICAN Finland
- ICAN France
- ICAN Germany
- ICAN Norway
- International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons
- International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
- IPPNW Germany
- IPPNW Greece
- Initiatives pour le désarmement nucléaire
- Medact Scotland
- Moruroa e tatou
- Movement for the Abolition of War
- Mouvement de la paix
- Naturefriends Greece
- Naturfreunde Deutschland
- Nei til Atomvåpen
- Netzwerk Friedenskooperative
- Norwegian People's Aid
- Norwegian Physicians against Nuclear Weapons, IPPNW Norway
- Nuclear Information Service
- NVMP - Artsen voor vrede, Dutch IPPNW
- NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark
- Ohne Rüstung Leben
- Our House Centre for Human Rights and Relief
- Pathways To Peace
- Pax Christi England and Wales
- Pax Christi Flanders
- Pax Christi France
- Pax Christi München und Freising
- Peace & Justice Scotland
- Physicians for Social Responsibility Finland
- Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo
- Soka Gakkai International UK
- Science4Peace

- Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- Secure Scotland
- Senzatomica
- Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society
- Swedish Physicians against Nuclear Weapons, IPPNW Sweden
- United Nations Association UK
- You Decide CIC
- Vrede vzw
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Germany
- World Without Wars and Violence, Greece
- 80000 Voices