Stakeholder submission for the 36th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Report on the United States of America

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a campaign coalition of almost 500 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.

ICAN regrets that the United States, which possesses approximately 6,800 nuclear weapons, did not participate in the negotiation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It has said that it intends never to join the Treaty. It voted against the UN General Assembly resolution in 2016 that established the mandate for nations to negotiate the Treaty. It has failed to fulfil its legally binding disarmament obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

ICAN recommends that the United States signs and ratifies the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.