



## CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW



# WHAT IS ICAN?

**T**he International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) aims to galvanize public and government support for multilateral negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention by 2015. Such a treaty would outlaw the production, testing, possession and use of nuclear weapons, and establish the mechanisms needed to eliminate them within an agreed timeframe. Already, a majority of nations support this plan, as do a majority of the world's people. But we need your help to make it a reality.

## BUILDING THE MOVEMENT

ICAN was launched in a dozen countries in 2007, including at a meeting of parties to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in Austria, where we presented an updated model Nuclear Weapons Convention to representatives of more than 180 nations.

Since its inception, ICAN has developed coordinated strategies and strengthened networking between national and international campaigners, broadening the abolition movement and building understanding of why a Nuclear Weapons Convention is the most realistic path to zero.

To date, more than 200 organizations in 60 countries have joined the campaign, with International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and Mayors for Peace among the first partners. Notable figures have also come on board as ICAN ambassadors — including the Dalai Lama, anti-apartheid leader Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize-winning anti-landmines advocate Jody Williams, jazz legend Herbie Hancock and cricket champion Ian Chappell. With their support, we have taken our message to new constituencies.

## NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE 2010

In the lead-up to the NPT review conference in May 2010, ICAN coordinated a global lobbying effort aimed at bringing the idea of a Nuclear Weapons Convention into the mainstream of the nuclear debate as a legitimate, practical and near-term objective to complement and strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

This strategy bore fruit when the final document of the conference recognized the importance of a comprehensive treaty approach, paving the way for concerted action on a convention.

## 1995–2006

- Civil society drafts a model treaty to prohibit and eliminate all nuclear weapons within an agreed timeframe
- Campaigners begin laying the groundwork for comprehensive negotiations to abolish all nuclear weapons

## 2007

- ICAN is launched around the world with the aim of building a public groundswell of support for nuclear abolition
- Costa Rica and Malaysia submit the updated model Nuclear Weapons Convention to the United Nations



# THE PLAN

**B**uilding on the unprecedented level of support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention generated at the NPT review conference, ICAN will now work to strengthen the commitment of civil society and governments to prioritize a Nuclear Weapons Convention as the next big negotiating objective of the international community. We will seek the full backing of major international and national humanitarian, human rights, anti-war, environmental and disarmament organizations, and work closely with supportive governments.

ICAN will develop and disseminate materials to inspire and explain the need for a nuclear abolition treaty to a range of audiences, from young to old, across a spectrum of regional and political interests. These will utilize new technologies, internet-based means and viral media as well as more traditional communications techniques.

We will continue to publicize the Million Pleas initiative to create the world's largest video chain letter calling on leaders to negotiate a nuclear abolition treaty, which was started by a group of Hiroshima students.



## 2008

- Organizations in over 60 countries advocate for ICAN's goal of a Nuclear Weapons Convention
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon joins the growing call for a Nuclear Weapons Convention

## 2009

- Nobel Peace Prize winners, famous musicians and sporting legends add their voices to the campaign
- ICAN initiates a global lobbying effort to increase government support for a nuclear abolition treaty

## 2010

- More than 120 nations call for a Nuclear Weapons Convention at the NPT review conference in May
- ICAN launches the Million Pleas initiative aimed at creating the world's largest video chain letter

# THE PATH TO ZERO

**N**ow that leaders and governments all over the world have expressed their vision for a world without nuclear weapons, they must also think about how to pursue this goal in practical terms. As with other weapons systems that have been prohibited, a multilaterally negotiated Nuclear Weapons Convention offers the most realistic path to combine disarmament with preventing proliferation. Opinion polls show that a majority of the world's peoples want their governments to start negotiations. Our challenge now is to transform this strong desire for security into fruitful negotiations and real action by governments.

## HOW WOULD IT WORK?

A Nuclear Weapons Convention would comprehensively ban nuclear weapons as well as weapons-useable fissile materials. It would prohibit the use of nuclear weapons by everyone, with international obligations and heavy penalties to prevent and deter terrorists and governments from trying to acquire nuclear devices or violate this fundamental ban on their use. Delivery vehicles would be destroyed or converted to make them incapable of firing nuclear weapons. All nuclear-armed nations would be required to dismantle their nuclear arsenals in accordance with agreed steps and phases, and an international monitoring system would be set up to verify compliance with the convention.

**How many governments support a Nuclear Weapons Convention?**

**140** support  
**22** on the fence  
**30** oppose



## WHY IS IT NEEDED?

The Nuclear Weapons Convention would build on the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which despite successive attempts at improvements continues to lack the effective mechanisms needed to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. Forty years after its entry into force, there are still more than 20,000 nuclear weapons in the world, and no comprehensive process is under way to abolish them. A convention is the most obvious and realistic path to a nuclear-weapon-free world. Comprehensive treaties have been negotiated to outlaw biological weapons, chemical weapons, anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions. Nuclear weapons should not be the exception.

The current step-by-step approach has proven unsatisfactory. With growing proliferation threats and the continued refusal of the nuclear powers to do away with their nuclear arsenals, it is time to seek a new path.



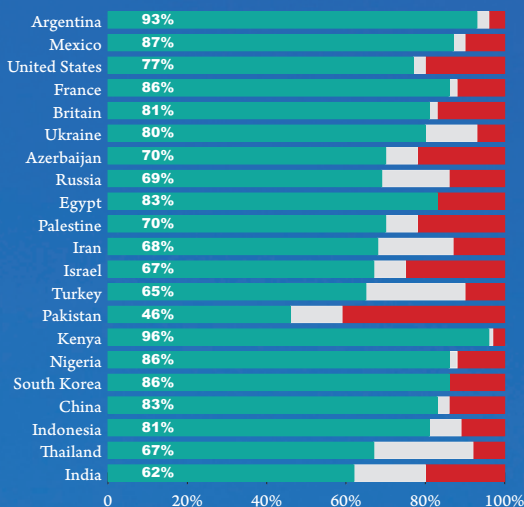
*"A Nuclear Weapons Convention is possible, necessary and increasingly urgent. I can imagine a world without nuclear weapons, and I support ICAN."*

**His Holiness the Dalai Lama**

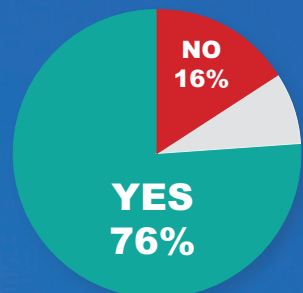


# WHY A CONVENTION?

- 1** There is an urgent political necessity and a window of opportunity to pursue the total abolition of nuclear weapons now
- 2** A convention will reduce nuclear dangers by making it unlawful for anyone to use, deploy, produce or proliferate nuclear weapons
- 3** Nuclear abolition has the support of two-thirds of all governments and overwhelming endorsement from public opinion everywhere
- 4** Work on a convention will strengthen the current non-proliferation regime while establishing the conditions for disarmament
- 5** A convention will engage states that are outside the NPT and will provide effective and non-discriminatory obligations for everyone
- 6** Work on a convention will facilitate further incremental steps and bring advocates of non-proliferation and disarmament closer together
- 7** A convention will provide legal recognition that any use of nuclear weapons would be a war crime and crime against humanity
- 8** A convention will develop appropriate phases to enable all the nuclear weapon possessors to eliminate their existing arsenals quickly and securely
- 9** A convention will help build trust and confidence among nations by establishing much more effective systems to verify compliance
- 10** Governments negotiated conventions to outlaw other inhumane weapons — now it's time to prohibit nuclear weapons, the most inhumane of all



## Public support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention



Average support globally



MILLION **pleas**.COM

**O**n the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ICAN launched “Million Pleas” — a project to create the world’s largest video chain letter, with one million people from around the world calling for a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. The chain letter was started by students in Hiroshima.

*“You can build the groundswell of support for a nuclear abolition treaty from your home or school by adding your voice to the world’s largest video chain message to leaders. Sixty-five years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it’s time we retired nuclear weapons.”*

**Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize 1984**

*“We can’t leave it up to politicians to rid the planet of nuclear weapons. The best chance we have of achieving this goal is for the people to stand up and demand our right to live in a world free of nuclear weapons. I urge you to upload your plea today at MillionPleas.com.”*

**Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize 1997**



# BUILDING THE MOVEMENT

ICAN's major international partner organizations include International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Mayors for Peace, the International Trade Union Confederation, the Nobel Women's Initiative, the World Federation of UN Associations, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms. We are planning to expand the networks of groups that are working together under national ICAN umbrellas (such as set up in Australia, Britain and France).

## WORKING WITH DIVERSE GROUPS

An effective movement for nuclear abolition will require the involvement of a broad range of groups. Humanitarian organizations played a pivotal role in the efforts to ban landmines and cluster munitions. In April 2010 the International Committee of the Red Cross signalled for the first time that nuclear abolition is among its top priorities.

The participation of development organizations will help us to draw attention to the broader problem of excessive military expenditure. Redirecting the annual sum spent on nuclear weapons would make a huge difference in solving actual development and security problems, like mitigating climate chaos and alleviating poverty.

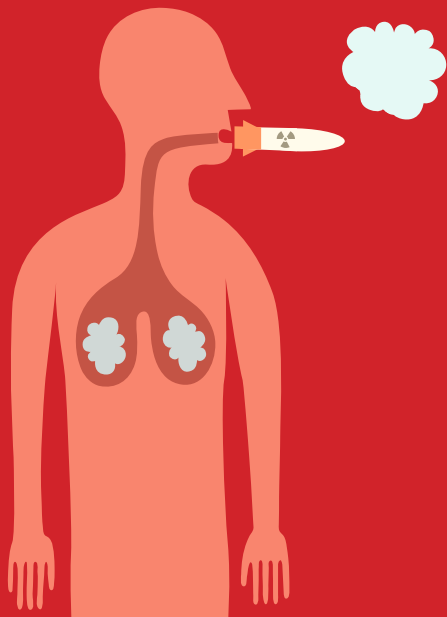
In raising awareness of the human and ecological destruction that would result from widespread radiation and the abrupt global cooling and darkening effects from nuclear weapons detonations, we aim to build alliances with humanitarian and environmental groups to push collectively for negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention to prevent such a catastrophe from ever occurring.



## SCHOOLS PROGRAM

ICAN has launched a public education initiative called *Learn Peace*, which encourages primary and secondary school students to contribute to a world without nuclear weapons. Activities in the resource book include holding a mock UN debate on nuclear disarmament, designing a peace symbol to rival the original, conducting an opinion poll on nuclear issues, role-playing a nuclear crisis, and holding a nuclear-themed trivia night.

[www.icanw.org/learn\\_peace](http://www.icanw.org/learn_peace)



# Quitnukes.

**Advice from your doctor?  
Support a Nuclear Weapons  
Convention. Help the world  
overcome its addiction.**

## **If you support a Nuclear Weapons Convention wear a red wristband.**

Si vous supportez une Convention relative  
aux armes nucléaires, portez un bracelet rouge.

إذا كنت تدعم إتفاقية الأسلحة النووية، ضع ربطة حمراء على رسغك

Si quiere dar apoyo a una Convención sobre  
Armas Nucleares, póngase una pulsera roja.

核兵器禁止条約を支持する方は真っ赤なリストバンドを付けましょう。

Wenn Sie eine Nuklearwaffenkonvention  
unterstützen, tragen Sie ein rotes Armband.



### **HEAD OFFICE**

PO Box 1379  
Carlton VIC 3053  
Australia

**t** + 61 (0)3 9347 4795

**f** + 61 (0)3 9347 4995

**e** [info@icanw.org](mailto:info@icanw.org)

**w** [www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org)

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