



Stakeholder submission for the 42nd session of the Universal Periodic Review

Report on Switzerland

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a campaign coalition of over 600 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.

Prior to the adoption of the TPNW in 2017, Switzerland had supported calls in the UN General Assembly for a comprehensive, globally applicable treaty prohibition on nuclear weapons.

In November 2017, at the 28th session of the UPR, Guatemala recommended that Switzerland sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. (147.4). Switzerland noted (rejected) this recommendation.

In 2018, the Swiss Government published a report on the implications of becoming a state party to the TPNW.¹

Both houses of the Swiss parliament subsequently instructed the government to proceed with signature and ratification of the TPNW without delay. This has not yet taken place.

ICAN welcomed the decision of Switzerland to participate in the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW in Vienna in June 2022 as an observer.

ICAN now calls upon Switzerland to sign and ratify the TPNW, as a matter of international urgency.

¹ <https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/documentation/media-releases.msg-id-71821.html>