



## Stakeholder submission for the 40th session of the Universal Periodic Review

### Report on South Sudan

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.

As a member of the African Group in the UN, South Sudan aligned itself with the group's statement at the 2020 UN General Assembly's High-Level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which welcomed the adoption of the TPNW and stated that the Treaty does not undermine the NPT but complements and strengthens it. The African Group also called on all states, especially nuclear-armed and umbrella states, to sign and ratify the TPNW, and to consider the catastrophic humanitarian, environmental, and economic impacts of nuclear weapons and to dismantle and renounce these

weapons of mass destruction.<sup>1</sup>

South Sudan maintains policies and practices that are compliant with all of the prohibitions in Article 1 of the Treaty, and can therefore sign and ratify it without making changes to existing practices or policies.

### *Recommendations*

South Sudan should urgently sign and ratify the TPNW, and encourage other states to adhere to the Treaty. Until it is in a position to do so, it should welcome the TPNW as a valuable contribution to the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, attend its meetings of states parties as an observer, and work with its states parties on practical steps towards disarmament.

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<sup>1</sup><https://banmonitor.org/profiles/south-sudan>