TPNW
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

What is it?

2017 treaty that bans the use, possession, development, testing, deployment, or transfer of nuclear weapons under international law

Entered into force in January 2021
- 93 states have signed
- 70 states have ratified

Why is it important?

First legally-binding multilateral agreement to ban nuclear weapons

Basic Obligations:
- Prohibits developing, testing, producing, stockpiling nuclear weapons
- Bans using or threatening to use nuclear weapons
- Forbids stationing, installing, or deploying nuclear weapons on State Parties’ territories
- Obligates States Parties to provide victim assistance and help with environmental remediation necessary due to testing or use of nuclear weapons

What should I know?

Does not contain a verification regime but States Parties must maintain or conclude a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The TPNW came from efforts led by the Humanitarian Initiative to increase awareness of consequences of nuclear war

Controversy:
- Proponents believe the TPNW complements the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and reinforces norms against nuclear weapons use
- Opponents believe it undermines the NPT

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