



23 September 2022

Independent parliamentarians' statement on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Five years ago, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) opened for signature after being adopted by 122 states at the United Nations in 2017. It is the first treaty to set out a pathway for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and has now been signed by 91 countries and ratified by 68, including the vast majority of our Pacific and ASEAN neighbours.

This treaty comes at a critical time. With growing international risks, the danger of nuclear war is widely assessed to be at least as great as during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, and perhaps ever. The impacts of any nuclear war would be cataclysmic, with unthinkable humanitarian consequences and climate impacts that would jeopardise the very survival of humankind.

We welcome Labor's National Policy Platform commitment to sign and ratify TPNW when in government and look forward to working with the Albanese government in leading Australia to achieve this historic move towards global nuclear disarmament.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) opening this week provides a major opportunity to demonstrate to the world that Australia has a new government stepping up to address vital global issues.

We urge the new government to engage constructively with the TPNW and refer positively to the treaty during this important meeting of nations and make use of every opportunity to advance Australia's position in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Signed,

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Zoe Daniel MP, independent member for Goldstein, VIC

Helen Haines MP, independent member for Indi, VIC

Senator David Pocock, independent Senator for the ACT

Dr Monique Ryan MP, independent member for Kooyong, VIC

Dr Sophie Scamps MP, independent member for Mackellar, NSW



Allegra Spender MP, independent member for Wentworth, NSW

Zali Steggall MP, independent member for Warringah, NSW

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Andrew Wilkie MP, independent member for Clark, TAS