UK nuclear policies, TPNW and what Cities can do

Dr Rebecca E Johnson
Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy/ICAN

UK nuclear-armed Trident near Faslane, Scotland
UK dimension: Production + deployment risk nuclear accidents
miscalculations....and possibly terrorism
and nuclear war...

NUKES OF HAZARD -
UK’s nuclear warhead
convoy on public roads
Burghfield, England <-> Coulport, Scotland
www.nukewatch.org.uk
Driving proliferation, risking nuclear accidents

Does ‘the deterrent’ deter??
What happens when nuclear weapons
don’t deter?

“Nuclear deterrence is a dialogue between
the blind and the deaf” General Lee Butler,
Commander of US forces in Europe 1990-92

“Reliance on nuclear weapons for
[deterrence] is becoming increasingly
hazardous and decreasingly effective.”
Kissinger, Shultz, Nunn and Perry, Wall Street Journal, Jan 2007
The TPNW entered into international legal force on 22 January 2021

88 Signatories
54 States Parties (as 24.3.2021)

Setsuko Thurlow
(Hiroshima Survivor 6 Aug 1945)

Speaking for ICAN during the 2017 negotiations in the UN GA
32. The four overarching and mutually supporting objectives set by the Strategic Framework are:

i. Sustaining strategic advantage through science and technology: we will incorporate S&T as an integral element of our national security and international policy, fortifying the position of the UK as a global S&T and responsible cyber power. This will be essential in gaining economic, political and security advantages in the coming decade and in shaping international relationships in collaboration with allies and partners. It will also drive prosperity at home and progress towards the three objectives that follow.

ii. Shaping the open international order of the future: we will use our convening power and work with partners to renovate the international system. In doing so, we will ensure that it is one in which open societies and open economies can flourish as we move further into the digital age – creating a world that is more favourable to democracies and the defence of universal values. We will seek to reinforce and renew existing pillars of the international order – such as the UN and the global trading system – and to establish norms in the future frontiers of cyberspace, emerging technology, data and space.

iii. Strengthening security and defence at home and overseas: we will work with allies and partners to address challenges to our security in the physical world and online. NATO will remain the foundation of collective security in our home region of the Euro-Atlantic, where Russia remains the most acute threat to our security. We will also place greater emphasis on building our capacity and that of like-minded nations around the world in responding to a growing range of transnational state threats, radicalisation and terrorism, S&G and weapons proliferation.

iv. Building resilience at home and overseas: we will place greater emphasis on resilience, recognising that it is not possible to predict or prevent every risk to our

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1. The term 'state threats' is now used in place of 'Hostile State Activity'.
Strong TPNW humanitarian Preamble recognises:-

- Catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear use and war
- The experience, rights and needs of survivors of nuclear use and testing
- Disproportionate impacts on women and indigenous peoples
- Effective participation of women (along with men) in nuclear disarmament, recognising women’s rights and abilities to attain sustainable peace and security
- Role of international organisations and civil society
- Importance of promoting peace and disarmament education.

Imperative to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons? What the TPNW says:

"Cognizant that the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons cannot be adequately addressed, transcend national borders, pose grave implications for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations, and have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionizing radiation..."

TPNW Article 1 Prohibitions
1. Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to:

   (a) Develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

   (b) Transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly or indirectly;

TPNW Article 1 Prohibitions [continued]
   (c) Receive the transfer of or control over nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices directly or indirectly;
   (d) Use or threaten to use nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
   (e) Assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty;
   (f) Seek or receive any assistance, in any way, from anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty;
   (g) Allow any stationing, installation or deployment of any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in its territory or at any place under its jurisdiction or control.
TPNW Articles 2-5: Towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

a) Sign and eliminate by negotiating with TPNW states parties a timetable, requirements and conditions for elimination; or
b) Eliminate and then join (South Africa/NPT/1992)

First steps:
- Report on nuclear-related status
- End operational deployments of NW
- Safeguards requirements - cross ref’d with NPT + IAEA
- Meetings of states parties

National implementation

• National Implementation (taking ‘all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures... to prevent and suppress’ activities prohibited by TPNW)
  e.g. ICAN Cities Appeal encourages local authorities to support and align their policies with the TPNW, particularly important in countries that have not yet signed, especially nuclear armed states (NAS, inc UK) and nuclear endorsers (like US allies in NATO, Australia, Japan, South Korea who formally endorse nuclear use doctrines, as well as states close to NAS who are being put under pressure – the ICAN Cities Appeal enables cities, mayors, parliamentarians and local authorities to pressure these governments to join TPNW
MEDACT HAS MADE A GREAT PACK WITH INFO, GUIDES AND A BASIC TEXT TO HELP MAKE COUNCIL MOTIONS RELEVANT

https://www.medact.org/2021/actions/ican-cities-appeal/

Other provisions include:

- Positive obligations on victim assistance and environmental remediation
- International assistance and cooperation
- Entry into force (50 signatures and ratifications)
- Unlimited duration
- Not subject to reservation
- Relationship with other treaties and agreements (e.g. NPT, CTBT, IAEA...)
- Universality (goal of ‘universal adherence’ – states parties must encourage other states to join TPNW e.g. through bilateral meetings, regional forums, national and diplomatic statements etc)
Meetings of states parties and responsibilities

First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) within 12 months of entry into force (EIF)

=> decide/establish rules and institutions, such as how to implement victim assistance and environmental remediation, issues relating to designating/establishing 'competent international authority', developing verification and enforcement mechanisms, reviews etc...

CALL ON UK government to attend 1MSP as an observer