

Urgent Appeal

Regarding Meaningful Civil Society Participation at the TPNW Review Conference

This appeal is open for endorsement of affected community members and organizations, as well as supporting civil society organizations working for nuclear abolition, disarmament and justice.

The purpose of this appeal is to share concerns about equitable and meaningful access for affected community members and other civil society members who are seeking participation in the TPNW RevCon. This was drafted by affected community members and organizations in a collaborative process throughout March. The appeal will be forwarded to the Coordination Committee for the Review Conference on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and UNODA.

Open for signatures until 10 April 2026.

TO ENDORSE: [please fill in this form](#)

FINALISED AND SENT 14 APRIL 2026

Date: April 2026

Ambassador Xolisa Mabhongo

Chair of the Coordination Committee for the Review Conference – Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Via United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

United Nations Headquarters

New York, NY 10017

United States of America

Re: Urgent Appeal Regarding Meaningful Civil Society Participation at the TPNW Review Conference (30 November – 4 December 2026)

Dear TPNW Coordination Committee

We write to you as civil society organisations' and affected community members with deep urgency regarding the effective and meaningful participation of our communities in the upcoming United Nations Review Conference of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW RevCon), scheduled for 30 November – 4 December 2026 at UN Headquarters in New York.

As our organisations' begin planning our participation, we have heard serious and mounting concerns from affected community representatives and other civil society members about their ability to attend UN meetings in New York. These concerns have focused on the TPNW

Review Conference at the end of the year, but extend for some to the upcoming Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (27 April - 22 May), and the recently announced one-day International Conference on Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation (rescheduled for September).

A number of rapidly evolving political situations have created serious potential barriers to access. These include significant visa restrictions or bans on entry to the United States, affecting numerous nations; unattainable visa bonds for some Pacific Island and other nations¹; and proposed intrusive requirements for I-94 or ESTA visa holders or applicants.²

These restrictive measures compound broader and deeply alarming concerns about the safety of marginalized community members, immigrants, non-citizens, LGBTIQ+ individuals, political activists, and others, against a backdrop of what many are experiencing as a rapid degradation of civil rights in the United States. The recent deployment of ICE agents to many major airports throughout the US has raised further concerns too. A number of affected community advocates and other activists have indicated that they are reluctant or unable to travel to the US under the current conditions, or are questioning whether doing so may put themselves and/or their organizations, family members, or communities at risk.

In addition, the recent escalation of wars, causing great stress on the international system and disruptions to global oil supplies, has resulted in a significant rise in costs to international travel. While there is hope that these wars and conditions will resolve peacefully and rapidly, we must also be prepared to adapt to situations where travel for many civil society and small or developing state representatives may become more difficult. These challenges aren't just compounded by geographic size, but by economic development level. Developing states from the global south, who are the majority of signatories to this treaty, would face the greatest challenge in being represented at such conferences. Most do not have the privilege and resources of both larger and more developed states.

The diverse voices of survivors and affected community representatives are not merely supplementary to the TPNW process; they are essential to it. The work and lived-experience expertise of frontline affected community members and representative organisations have been central to the success of the TPNW. Survivor testimony is not only informative for environmental remediation and victim assistance efforts, but essential to the Treaty's policy, scientific, and diplomatic progress.

The unique perspectives and lived experience expertise of affected community members cannot be delegated, replicated, or transferred to others at such meetings. All affected

¹ For example in the Pacific, Fiji, Tuvalu, Vanuatu (all states parties to the TPNW) and others now face the U.S. Visa Bond Pilot Program: up to USD \$15,000 refundable bond required for B-1/B-2 visas (effective 21 January 2026, per State Department list).

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/countries-subject-to-visa-bonds.html>.

² Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2025-22461/page-57209>.

communities deserve to represent their own story, and to lead their own healing and restoration of bodies, lands, waters, and oceans.

We therefore respectfully request that the Coordination Committee and UNODA, in close consultation with States Parties and the Review Conference President, give consideration to the following:

(Suggestion 1) Move the TPNW Review Conference to an alternative UN venue.

To ensure effective and meaningful participation of the affected community and other civil society voices in the meeting, we respectfully urge that serious consideration be given to moving the conference to the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG), Vienna, or another UN venue. Geneva, for example, offers a well-established UN conference infrastructure, broad accessibility, and a proven track record of hosting inclusive multilateral disarmament processes. We believe moving the conference would offer the most cohesive and equitable conditions for participation by the greatest number of affected community voices and civil society representatives.

(Suggestion 2) Make additional time allowances for online/remote participation by representatives of affected communities

We respectfully request that at least a portion of sessions be scheduled at times that would allow greater remote participation of affected communities from regions deeply affected by nuclear weapons activities. This may include extended conference hours, or scheduling agendas to allow greater participation online. This would apply in particular to those sessions addressing affected community perspectives, Articles 6 and 7 on victim assistance and environmental remediation, as well as deliberations on the proposed Trust Fund.

Given that such communities are often less well-resourced than civil society organisations in other regions, and taking into consideration particularly aging survivors who may not be able to travel (such as first and second generation test survivors), this offers a cost-effective means of ensuring their meaningful inclusion.

We would urge the Coordination Committee to consult with a range of affected community organizations to establish times that address these concerns.

(Suggestion 3) Establish a Parallel Participation Hub in a Compatible Time Zone

Should the Review Conference proceed at UN Headquarters in New York, we request that the UNODA, States Parties, Review Conference President, and the Coordination Committee give immediate and serious consideration to establishing a parallel in-person participation process to the meeting.

This could be achieved by creating a dedicated Hub in a country sharing a compatible time zone (EST/UTC-5). Such a parallel in-person Hub could include real-time remote

engagement via live links, remote speaking rights, and adjusted timings particularly for Articles 6 & 7, Trust Fund, and affected community sessions. This parallel process would not be a substitute for full in-person participation, but it could provide a meaningful and coordinated alternative that preserves the integrity and inclusivity of the Review Conference.

(Suggestion 4) Earlier accreditation and support for visa applicants in advance of the TPNW Review Conference

Should the TPNW Review Conference take place in New York, we request UNODA consider bringing forward accreditation processes and providing official documentation to support the US visa process at an earlier stage, ideally starting in early summer 2026. This is particularly important for US visa applications where, in our experience, visa support letters issued directly by the UNODA carry significantly greater weight than those provided solely by sponsoring or inviting organizations, especially for applicants without prior visa history (to the US, Europe, or elsewhere).

(Suggestions 5) Consider establishing a mechanism to aid in meaningful participation of affected communities, Indigenous Peoples, and non-self-governing territories in the work of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

We further suggest that a specific and official platform or mechanism to ensure meaningful participation of affected communities and Indigenous Peoples be discussed fully at the upcoming Review Conference. Precedents found in other multilateral bodies, such as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and/or Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body for Article 8(j) offer potential models for full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Establishing this kind of permanent conduit for voice to the TPNW Review Conferences could buttress and channel participation of affected communities. Please refer to this working paper³ offered to the 3MSP in 2025 for further details.

We respectfully request a response at your earliest convenience regarding what plans and considerations are currently underway to address the participation concerns outlined above, or whether there are other alternative solutions under active consideration.

The presence of affected community expertise in the room at TPNW meetings has been shown as deeply influential, meaningful, and motivating. The TPNW represents a historic commitment to the voices of those most harmed by nuclear weapons. This first Review

³ [TPNW/MSP/2025/NGO/6](#) Establishing a Mechanism to Ensure Meaningful Participation of Affected Communities, Indigenous Peoples and Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Work of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Conference demands nothing less than the full and meaningful participation of affected community members and diverse civil society representation. We urge the Coordination Committee, UNODA and States Parties to act swiftly to ensure that those voices can be heard at this First Review Conference.

We thank you for your urgent attention to this matter and remain available for further discussion.

Respectfully [signed by:](#)

Organizations:

1. Nuclear Truth Project
2. Moruroa e Tātou
3. Marshallese Educational Initiative
4. LABRATS
5. Sixth World Solutions
6. Qazaq Nuclear Frontline Coalition/JASA | ASQAQ-QNFC
7. Steppe Organization for Peace (STOP)
8. Indigenous World Association
9. One Sunny Day Initiatives
10. Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG)
11. Fiji Nuclear Veterans and Families Association
12. Pacific Conference of Churches
13. Reaching Critical Will
14. Union of Concerned Scientists
15. Friends of the Earth Australia
16. Disarmament and Security Centre | Aotearoa New Zealand
17. Peace Movement Aotearoa
18. ICAN Aotearoa New Zealand
19. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Australia (End Nuclear Weapons working group)
20. Pazifik-Netzwerk e.V.
21. Nukewatch
22. Generational Radiation Impact Project
23. Peace Action
24. Peace Action New York State
25. ICAN Australia
26. International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)
27. Youth Arts New York/Hibakusha Stories
28. NYCAN New York Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
29. DAWN - Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era

Individuals:

30. Hinamoeura Morgant-Cross, Member of the Assembly of French Polynesia, Nuclear-affected community advocate
31. Indira Weaver
32. Tamatoa Tepuhiarii, PhD candidate
33. Benetick Kabua Maddison, Executive Director, Marshallese Educational Initiative
34. Petuuche Gilbert
35. Ms Karina Lester
36. Dr Dimity Hawkins, AM, Program Coordinator, Nuclear Truth Project
37. Dr Chanese Forté, Scientist
38. Dr Catherine Keaney MBBS FRACGP DCH BSc
39. Professor Benedetta Brevini, University of Sydney
40. Beverly Lyne, RN, MSN Global Health Consultant
41. Robert Croonquist, Founder, Youth Arts New York
42. Kelly Lundeen/ Co-director, Nukewatch
43. Dr. Emily Welty, professor of Peace and Justice Studies, Pace University
44. Dr. Matthew Breay Bolton, Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies, Pace University
45. Linda Chapman
46. Brendan Fay, NYCAN (New York Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons).
47. Mary Olson, Founder, Generational Radiation Impact Project
48. Rachel Clark
49. Dr. Kathleen Sullivan, Co-Chair, Nuclear Truth Project

Open for signatures until 10 April 2026.

TO ENDORSE: [please fill in this form](#)