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Presidential Candidates' Pledge for Nuclear Abolition

If elected President, I will sign the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on behalf of the United States. I will invite the Russian Federation and the other nuclear-armed nations to join me in signing this Treaty, and I will initiate negotiations on a protocol that will ensure the irreversible and verifiable elimination of all nuclear weapons from all countries.

Once other nuclear-armed nations have also signed the Treaty and the necessary protocols are in place, I will urge the Senate to ratify the Treaty and I will instruct the Departments of Defense and Energy to implement a legally-binding, time-bound plan for the elimination of our nuclear weapons, along with those of the other nuclear-armed nations, in accordance with the Treaty.

Furthermore, I will ensure that the federal funding and scientific expertise expended on nuclear weapons be redirected to address the global climate emergency.

Signed: _____

To sign this Pledge, please scan and send to
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ican
international campaign to
abolish nuclear weapons

**NOBEL
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Background: The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are the most destructive, inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever invented. They are also, according to Gen. Colin Powell, Gen. Lee Butler, and others who have been responsible for the US arsenal, extremely dangerous, obsolete, and militarily useless. Meanwhile, they are squandering the funds, the scientific and engineering expertise, and the international goodwill necessary to address the global climate emergency.

A single detonation – on purpose or by accident – would be a humanitarian catastrophe of unparalleled proportions. If a city was targeted, the casualties could overwhelm the response capacity of the entire global Red Cross/Red Crescent, and overflow every burn bed in every hospital in the world.

A “limited” exchange of nuclear weapons, for instance between India and Pakistan or between the US and North Korea, could put enough soot into the atmosphere to cause climate disruption and global famine, starving billions. A full-scale nuclear war between the US and Russia would be the end of human civilization as we know it, if not the end of all life on earth.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted by 122 nations at the UN on 7/7/17. The Treaty comprehensively bans the development, production, possession, deployment, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons in the countries the join the Treaty.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (www.icanw.org) won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its work facilitating the Treaty. The Treaty entered into force on Jan 22, 2021 after being ratified by 50 countries. There are now 70 states parties and another 27 countries are going through the process of ratification.

The United States, along with the other nuclear-armed nations and many of its nuclear allies, boycotted the treaty negotiations and refuses to sign it. Despite the legally-binding commitment made more than 50 years ago (in Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty) to negotiate ‘in good faith’ and ‘at an early date’ the elimination of its nuclear weapons, the United States continues to develop and ‘modernize’ its nuclear arsenal.

The world has had enough of this existential threat to human survival and of the empty promises by the US and the other nuclear-armed nations to address it. The TPNW represents **world public opinion, international law and the commitment of a majority of the world’s governments** to finally and definitively condemn these weapons as unacceptable, like chemical and biological weapons.

The time has come for the United States to join the rest of the international community in condemning these weapons and moving swiftly to ensure their complete elimination under effective international control.