Funding mechanisms to achieve universality of the TPNW]

Working paper submitted by the Middle East Treaty Organization

1. Focusing on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in diplomatic forums has been instrumental in leading states to, first adopt the text of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and subsequently sign and ratify it. The same efforts have not been targeted at the global population at large on a sufficient scale, and particularly at populations in nuclear weapons states and their military allies.

2. In the preamble to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), “the ethical imperatives for nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapons-free world, which is a global public good of the highest order, serving both national and collective security interests” are acknowledged.

3. In addition, the preamble recognises “the importance of peace and disarmament education in all its aspects and of raising awareness of the risks and consequences of nuclear weapons for current and future generations.”

4. Finally, “the role of public conscience in the furthering of the principles of humanity as evidenced by the call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons” is stressed and the “efforts to that end undertaken by the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, other international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, parliamentarians, academics and the Hibakusha,” are recognised (emphasis added).

5. According to the figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, global military spending reached almost two trillion dollars in the year 2019, of which 72.9 billion dollars was spent on nuclear weapons according to ICAN, subsequently a pandemic has ravaged the planet and climate chaos continues at an alarming and exponentially increasing rate, showing the utter futility of spending money to fund nuclear weapons as a way to achieve human security.

6. In comparison, the tiny sums of money invested in peace and disarmament civil society organizations are woefully inadequate and in many cases are only available through philanthropic foundations with no public accountability.
Almost without exception, civil society organizations participating in this first meeting of states parties are struggling financially and are investing huge amounts of time searching for funding opportunities and competing against their colleagues which requires overcoming incredible levels of bureaucracy just in order to survive. The work of civil society could be exponentially improved with better funding.

Thus, there is a need today to massively increase funding to civil society organizations in non-States Parties, especially to those in nuclear weapon states and those in military alliances who have thus far rejected calls to accede to this Treaty.

In this context, there is an imperative need for States Parties to the TPNW to implement a funding mechanism that can support all efforts to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, upon which this treaty is founded, in non-States Parties.

We call on this first meeting of States Parties to examine this issue and investigate and implement a funding mechanism to enable non-governmental organizations to take forward education and awareness-raising programmes on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons.