

ICAN statement during the adoption of the UPR of Monaco 14 March

Thank you Ms / Mr President,

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons welcomes recommendation 78.16 made by Togo during the UPR of Monaco, in which they called upon the Government of Monaco to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Despite voting against the UN General Assembly resolution in 2016 which established the mandate for nations to negotiate the treaty, we acknowledge that Monaco later participated in the negotiations of the Treaty, though did not vote on its adoption in July 2017.

We ask that the Government of Monaco sets these ambiguities aside by signing and ratifying the Treaty as a matter of urgency, as outlined in recommendation 78.16.

Since the beginning of 2018, ICAN has submitted a stakeholder report for every country coming before the UPR, calling on them to sign or ratify the Treaty, or acknowledging those which have done so. Preambular paragraph 8 of the Treaty reaffirms “the need for all States to comply with applicable international law...including international human rights law”, and human rights law is specifically mentioned in Article 6, which includes a clause on victim assistance and environmental remediation, imposing obligations on States Parties to assist victims of the use of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing “in accordance with human rights law”.

In October 2018, the Ambassador for Monaco in the Legal Affairs Committee highlighted the long-standing cooperation between the Monaco Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross, including through the direct involvement of the Prince himself in the work of the ICRC and Monaco has been active fighting for the protection of the environment. The Principality's commitment to the respect for international humanitarian law has been demonstrated through the ratification of the Treaties on chemical and biological weapons, and on cluster munitions and landmines.

However, the danger of a nuclear detonation by miscalculation, by accident or by intentional use would instantly reverse all the decades of work and commitment to protect the citizens of Monaco as well as those elsewhere.

We consider that Monaco must now complete its commitment to disarmament by becoming a State party to this treaty.

Thank you.