

Conference on Disarmament

15 September 2017

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Note verbale dated 12 September 2017 from the United States Delegation to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament

The Delegation of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament Michael Moeller and has the honor of transmitting to the Secretariat the attached subject-matter:

**Submission of the United States to the Conference on Disarmament:
Joint Press Statement from the Permanent Representatives to the United
Nations of the United States, United Kingdom, and France Following the
Adoption of a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons**

The U.S. delegation would appreciate the Secretariat's assistance in issuing and circulating this Report as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Delegation of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament Michael Moeller the assurances of its highest consideration.



Joint Press Statement from the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the United States, United Kingdom, and France Following the Adoption of a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons

For immediate release

France, the United Kingdom and the United States have not taken part in the negotiation of the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. We do not intend to sign, ratify or ever become party to it. Therefore, there will be no change in the legal obligations on our countries with respect to nuclear weapons. For example, we would not accept any claim that this treaty reflects or in any way contributes to the development of customary international law. Importantly, other states possessing nuclear weapons and almost all other states relying on nuclear deterrence have also not taken part in the negotiations.

This initiative clearly disregards the realities of the international security environment. Accession to the ban treaty is incompatible with the policy of nuclear deterrence, which has been essential to keeping the peace in Europe and North Asia for over 70 years. A purported ban on nuclear weapons that does not address the security concerns that continue to make nuclear deterrence necessary cannot result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon and will not enhance any country's security, nor international peace and security. It will do the exact opposite by creating even more divisions at a time when the world needs to remain united in the face of growing threats, including those from the DPRK's ongoing proliferation efforts. This treaty offers no solution to the grave threat posed by North Korea's nuclear program, nor does it address other security challenges that make nuclear deterrence necessary. A ban treaty also risks undermining the existing international security architecture which contributes to the maintenance of international peace and security.

We reiterate in this regard our continued commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and reaffirm our determination to safeguard and further promote its authority, universality and effectiveness. Working towards the shared goal of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament must be done in a way that promotes international peace and security, and strategic stability, based on the principle of increased and undiminished security for all.

We all share a common responsibility to protect and strengthen our collective security system in order to further promote international peace, stability and security.
