

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver



Proclamation No. 21-0250 Global Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

WHEREAS, the United Nations Assembly Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty has been ratified by enough of the World's governments that it entered into force on January 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS, prior to the treaty's adoption, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a comprehensive ban, despite their catastrophic widespread & persistent humanitarian & environmental consequences. The new agreement fills a significant gap in international law. It prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using, or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging, or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities; and

WHEREAS, international arms control cooperation is building. Over the past century, world governments have increasingly looked to create laws that govern the conduct of nations in war. The institutions that work to verify these international agreements have become robust & the rules enabling their ability to provide verifiable oversight have also been strengthened. Any international agreement that would move us closer to abolition would also include robust on-the-ground inspections using lessons learned from the process the U.S. & Russia have developed over years of nuclear arms control cooperation. The alternative to serious nuclear disarmament efforts is the status-quo where countries will continue to develop nuclear weapons programs over time, & we will increasingly face a world that teeters on the brink of nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons pose a particular threat to cities, which are in many cases the primary targets for an attack. Governments of nuclear nations are putting their citizens' lives at risk by subscribing to the strategy of nuclear deterrence, which has been undermined time & again by near misses & miscalculations; and

WHEREAS, as many as 49 Minuteman III first strike Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) are armed with nuclear weapons on high alert in silos in Northeast Colorado. These warheads can be launched within minutes & reach any destination within thirty-five minutes. A Minuteman warhead has the potential to destroy the genetic code of the human race. Current warheads carry 27 times more power than the first nuclear bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima, Japan, August 6, 1945; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020, the United State Conference of Mayors – to which Denver belongs – unanimously adopted a resolution calling for Human-Centered Security in a time of the global pandemic. The resolution calls on the United States to “lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first; ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack taking United State nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; & actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City & County of Denver hereby recognizes & supports the Global Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City & County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City & County of Denver to this proclamation & that a copy be transmitted to the Loretto Community and American Friends Service Committee, whom have been actively working to abolish nuclear weapons since the 1960s. Their work has included protesting, praying, attending hearings, attending shareholder meetings of corporations involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons, circulating petitions, and educating about nuclear threat.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 22, 2021

PRESIDENT