



# World Council of Churches

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H.E. Margot Wallström  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Rosenbad 4  
SE 103 33 Stockholm

Geneva, September 15, 2017

Your Excellency,

The new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons opens for signature on 20 September 2017 at the United Nations. A solid majority of governments have brought it this far. We write to express our strong support to the voices of religious leaders in Sweden that have requested that your country takes part in the next step towards entry-into-force.

Sweden has been leading international efforts in this area for many decades and in continuation of your traditional position as a strong advocate for measures to ensure global peace, we ask that your government joins in signing the accord on that day, and, if possible, becomes one of the first states to ratify it as well.

One hundred and twenty two governments have voted to adopt the new treaty on 7 July 2017. The World Council of Churches has members in many of these countries and looks forward to even broader support for bringing it into effect.

States with nuclear weapons continue to fail to negotiate nuclear disarmament. Early signatures for the TPNW by a solid majority of United Nations members are a constructive demonstration that all states share in the obligation to eliminate nuclear weapons under international law.

We find much in the treaty to engage all who work for peace. The use of nuclear weapons “would be abhorrent to the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience”, it states. The treaty recognizes “the unacceptable...harm caused to the victims”, the ionizing radiation that has a “disproportionate impact on women and girls”, and the suffering nuclear tests inflict on indigenous peoples. It notes the many efforts to raise public conscience including by “religious leaders”.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to positive action in this regard.

Respectfully yours,

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit  
General Secretary