

Prohibition or Non-Proliferation? Germany's Point of View Concerning the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Effective Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament

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I. Introduction

This year representatives of 124 countries came together to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.¹ The United Nations Conference took place in New York.² At the end of two sessions from 27 to 31 March and from 15 June to 7 July, with 122 votes in favour, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted.³

The Nuclear Weapon States under the terms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT),⁴ *i.e.* China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and the *de facto* Nuclear Weapon States, *i.e.* Israel, Pakistan, India, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea did not attend the negotiations.⁵ Germany, along with other Member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), was also absent.⁶ According to the German government, an immediate prohibition of

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¹ General Assembly (GA), United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, List of Participants, UN Doc. A/CONF.229/2017/INF/4/Rev.1 (2017).

² *Ibid.*

³ Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, UN Doc. A/CONF.229/2017/8 (2017).

⁴ Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1 July 1968, UNTS 729, 161 (NPT).

⁵ GA (note 1).

⁶ *Ibid.*