



Assisting Victims and Remediating the Environment: Putting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons into Action

**Side Event for UNGA First Committee
12 October 2017 13:15 – 14:45
Conference Room A, UN Headquarters**

History was made in July 2017 when 122 states adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The TPNW opened for signature on 20 September 2017 and over fifty states have already signed the treaty.

This ground-breaking treaty included a number of positive obligations for states parties. The positive obligations concerning victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance will bring the treaty to life in affected communities and have a concrete impact on individuals around the world.

This panel discussion will explore what the implementation of the provisions concerning victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation and assistance will mean for states party to the TPNW, and what steps should be taken in the run up to and following its entry into force. It is time to turn words on the page into action.

Moderator: Elizabeth Minor, Article 36

Speakers:

- Her Excellency Ambassador Penelope Beckles, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago
- Bonnie Docherty, International Human Rights Clinic, Harvard Law School: “The TPNW’s Provisions on Victim Assistance and Environmental Remediation”
- Erin Hunt, Mines Action Canada: “Lessons Learned from Victim Assistance Implementation in the Landmine and Cluster Munition Ban Treaties.”
- Matthew Bolton, International Disarmament Institute: “Lessons for Environmental Remediation from Humanitarian Demining.”
- Oksana Leschenko, United Nations Development Programme : “UNDP’s Experience in Addressing Nuclear Contamination”