

MALAYSIA RATIFIES THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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Today, I signed the instrument of ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on behalf of the Government of Malaysia in a ceremony in Putrajaya. The ceremony was witnessed by representatives from Malaysian Government Ministries and Agencies, members of the diplomatic corps as well as representatives from international, non-governmental and civil society organisations.

The TPNW, adopted on 7 July 2017, prohibits all activities related to nuclear weapons, including, its development, testing, manufacturing, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, use and stationing. The Treaty is also the first instance in international law that the threat of use of nuclear weapons is outlawed.

Ratifying the TPNW is Malaysia's tangible effort to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament on the international stage. It also reaffirms Malaysia's unwavering commitment and support towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty will come into force 90 days after the 50th instrument of ratification is presented to the United Nations. To date, 46 States have ratified the Treaty.

Malaysia signed the TPNW as soon as it was opened for signature on 20 September 2017. By ratifying the Treaty, Malaysia is contributing to the Treaty entering into force and urges other States to follow suit.

The entry into force of the TPNW complements international law regarding nuclear disarmament, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The TPNW further reinforces the norm that nuclear weapons are unacceptable, should not be used, should not be threatened to be used and need to be discarded and destroyed as soon as possible.

Malaysia hopes that ratifying the TPNW will change the nuclear disarmament discourse from one dominated by the nuclear weapons and nuclear-armed States, to one which is more democratic, equitable and where all States have an equal voice.

Malaysia calls on all States to ratify the TPNW at the earliest opportunity. Malaysia will also work with other partners to realise the long-overdue goal of a world free of the threat of nuclear weapons.

YB DATO' SERI HISHAMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
30 September 2020