

Démarched about the ban treaty?



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

- Have you been inappropriately approached by a larger, more powerful country?
- Did they ask you to do things that you didn't want to do?
- Were you made to feel guilty and ashamed?
- Did they make you promise not to tell anyone?

**DON'T
SUFFER IN
SILENCE!**

Read on for
practical
advice...

You have nothing to be ashamed of
and nothing to apologise for!

WE CAN HELP!

Why they are wrong

As a state party to the NPT, you have undertaken “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures” relating to nuclear disarmament. Convening and participating in multilateral negotiations on a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons is a means of implementing your obligations under Article VI.

In contrast, it is disappointing and disturbing that NPT nuclear-weapon states are not only failing to support this initiative, but actively opposing and obstructing it. While countries may have different opinions on the best way to make progress on nuclear disarmament, obstructing or undermining the good-faith efforts of other NPT parties to implement their specific treaty obligations is obviously incompatible with the aims of the treaty.

Such opposition is also directly contrary to Action 1 of the 2010 NPT Action Plan, which commits all NPT states parties “to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons”.

Why you are right

You have probably been told to abandon the ban treaty in favour of the “practical, realistic”

measures of the “progressive approach”. But you already fully support the “progressive approach”! You are ready to work with all states to achieve the entry into force of the CTBT, to start negotiations on a fissile material treaty, and to develop confidence-building measures, among other steps. But these “practical, realistic” measures are all blocked – not by you or by other proponents of the ban treaty, but by one or more nuclear-armed states. While you wait for the international strategic situation (or whatever) to improve, it is perfectly reasonable to move ahead with the avenues that are open to you now as a non-nuclear-weapon state.

It’s their problem, not yours

There is simply no legitimate reason that countries that have made an “unequivocal undertaking” to “accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals”, and which are committed “to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons”, would object to other countries negotiating among themselves a legal prohibition of these weapons. Their opposition does nothing but draw into question their compliance with the NPT and the sincerity of their “commitment” to nuclear disarmament.

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Don't tolerate abuse – speak up!

Here are some handy responses you can use the next time you receive a démarche:

“We will do everything you say – as soon as you ratify the CTBT.”

“Why do you hate the NPT?”

“We are ready to take all the steps of the ‘progressive approach’. When do we start?”

“So the Conference on Disarmament, which has done nothing for 20 years, can ‘blaze a trail for progress’, but a multilateral process supported by all of Africa, Latin America, ASEAN and other states is ‘unrealistic’?”

“Non-nuclear weapon states may not be able to do much to advance nuclear disarmament. But what we can do, we will do. Unlike you.”

“If a ban treaty won’t make a difference, why bother to oppose it? If it will make a difference, how can you oppose it?”

“The ‘division’, ‘polarization’ and ‘harm’ come only from your opposition. If you support the ban treaty process, everyone will benefit – including you.”