

Not ready to join the **Austrian Pledge**? Too ambitious and daring for you? We understand. So why not join the Australian Pledge instead?



Australian Pledge

After careful consideration of the evidence, Australia has come to the following provisional conclusions and makes the subsequent pledge to consider the possibility of discussing modalities for taking them forward with interested parties in available fora, including in the context of the NPT and the 2015 Review Conference:

Mindful of the considerable harm that victims of nuclear weapons explosions and nuclear testing have experienced,

Understanding that the consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion would be of clear concern, possibly to a medium-to-large number of people over an uncertain area,

Recognizing the complexity of and interrelationship between these consequences on global and regional strategic stability and key alliance relationships,

Aware that the risk of a nuclear weapon explosion is fairly low, on the whole, but not completely zero,

Cogniscent of the fact that the risk of nuclear weapons use with their consequences can best be avoided by careful stewardship by the nuclear-weapon states of their nuclear arsenals, along with appropriate steps to modernize and upgrade these arsenals to ensure they are safe, secure and effective,

Emphasizing that the consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion and the risks associated with nuclear weapons are of clear concern and that all states share the

responsibility to work methodically and with realism with the nuclear-weapon states to reduce the likelihood of any use of nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing that the scope of consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion and risks associated highlight the need to cooperate to address the important security and humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons,

Affirming that it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear war must only occur when absolutely necessary,

Reiterating the secondary and occasionally irritating role that international organisations, relevant UN entities, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, elected representatives, academia and civil society play for advancing the shared objective of a nuclear weapon free world,

Australia regards it as its responsibility and consequently pledges to present the need for balanced consideration of the important security and humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons, and for substantive and constructive engagement with those states which possess nuclear weapons, to all relevant fora, in particular the NPT Review Conference 2015 and in the UN framework, as this need should be at the centre of all deliberations, obligations and commitments with regard to nuclear disarmament,

Australia pledges to follow the imperative of global strategic stability and to pursue avenues to consider modalities to discuss the creation of conditions that would facilitate further major reductions in nuclear arsenals and eventually possibly eliminate them,

Australia calls on all states parties to the NPT to renew their commitment to continue to discuss the development of proposals to support the consideration of the step-by-step implementation of existing obligations under Article VI, and to this end, to take into account the important security aspects of nuclear weapons, and Australia pledges to cooperate and engage with the nuclear-weapon states to achieve this goal,

Australia calls on those nuclear weapons possessor states in a position to do so to consider exploring possible interim measures to reduce the risk of nuclear weapon detonations, if and when the strategic context allows,

Australia pledges to cooperate with selected stakeholders to unblock the world's key disarmament negotiating forum, the Conference on Disarmament; begin negotiations for a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty; bring into force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty; and do various other things that sound worthy but maintain the status quo.
