



Proposal for the ban treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons investments.



April 18, 2017

Your Excellency
Ambassador of [country] to the United Nations

Dear Ambassador [name],

The first session of the [UN conference to negotiate a nuclear weapons prohibition treaty](#) was held at the United Nations in New York from March 27-31. One of the issues discussed was a proposal that the treaty should [prohibit any financing of nuclear weapons production](#).

It is often said that *'money makes the world go around'*. With respect to nuclear weapons, the corporations manufacturing them are highly influential on nuclear weapons policy. Most of the global nuclear weapons budget of \$100 billion goes to about a dozen powerful corporations, all of which spend lavish amounts of money lobbying to keep the nuclear arms race going.

If the nuclear prohibition treaty includes a ban on investing in these corporations, it could put a big dent in their lobbying power, and give support to legislators and civil society in nuclear-armed States who are trying to cut nuclear weapons budgets.

In a [working paper to the UN conference](#), UNFOLD ZERO, Basel Peace Office and PNND:

- give support to the proposal of Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Samoa and Tuvalu to include a prohibition of financing of nuclear weapons in the ban treaty;
- note that such a prohibition would help to delegitimize nuclear weapons production;
- highlight the possibility of re-directing a substantial percentage of the nuclear weapons budgets to meeting Sustainable Development Goals including climate protection;
- report on the experience of nuclear divestment that has already been undertaken by the governments of New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland (Liechtenstein has also adopted nuclear divestment legislation);

- note that a prohibition in the treaty on financing nuclear weapons would encourage and assist nuclear divestment to be undertaken in many additional countries.

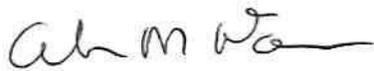
We hope that you will read the working paper and consider the proposal positively. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Leroy
Program Director, Basel Peace Office

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Robson". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Hon Matt Robson
Former Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control (New Zealand)
Co-founder, UNFOLD ZERO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alyn Ware". The signature is cursive and appears to be a stylized version of the name.

Alyn Ware
PNNP Global Coordinator