

Fremantle Declaration For a Ban On Nuclear Weapons

22 September 2014 (The “Fremantle Declaration”)

We, the undersigned Mayors and Shire Presidents,

Acknowledge the catastrophic humanitarian impacts caused by the use of nuclear weapons, as experienced by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945;

Acknowledge the devastating impacts of nuclear testing in Australia in the 1950s and '60s on Aboriginal people, servicemen and servicewomen, and on the environment; ⁽¹⁾

Recognise the impossibility of emergency services, relief, public health, humanitarian and infrastructure agencies to respond adequately in the aftermath of a nuclear weapon detonation; ⁽²⁾

Note with concern scientific research) about a limited nuclear exchange leading to profound global environmental, food security and other humanitarian consequences; ⁽³⁾

Recognise that the 16,000 nuclear weapons still in existence daily threaten humanity with the risk of their use either by accident, design or miscalculation; ⁽⁴⁾

Affirm our commitment to supporting and developing dynamic cultures of peace within our cities, towns and regions;

Affirm our commitment to ensuring that the cities, towns and regions we represent never become nuclear targets;

Recognise that an international treaty banning nuclear weapons is an urgent and necessary step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

Call on the Australian Government to actively support international negotiations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons once and for all.

(1) P.N Grabosky (1989), "Chapter 16: A Toxic Legacy: British Nuclear Weapons Testing in Australia", Wayward Governance: Illegality and its control in the public sector, pp. 235-253, <http://aic.gov.au/publications/previous%20series/lcj/1-20/wayward/ch16.html>

(2) International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) (2013), "The Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons", Intervention presented by Australian Red Cross on behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, http://www.redcross.org.au/files/Australian_Red_Cross_Intervention_FINAL_060313.pdf

(3) Alan Robock and Owen Brian Toon, (2012) "Self-assured destruction: The climate impacts of nuclear war" Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, September/October 2012 vol. 68 no. 5 66-74 doi: 10.1177/0096340212459127

(4) Patricia Lewis & Heather Williams, (2014) "Too Close for Comfort: Cases of Near Nuclear Use and Options for Policy." Chatham House Report. http://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/papers/view/199200?dm_i=1TY5,2EIQH,BHZJ2P,8Q9SA,1#sthash.cYjYWZHw.dpuf

