

30 Years INF-Treaty Mutlangen Manifesto 2017

Disarmament Treaties create Security

- ▶ **Maintain the INF-Treaty!**
- ▶ **Sign and Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons!**



Bürgermeister
für den Frieden



Schwäbisch Gmünd



OSTALBKREIS

BÜCHEL IST ÜBERALL!
atomwaffenfrei.
 **jetzt**



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Noting

- that, on the one hand, the number of nuclear weapons has been reduced during the past ten years,
- that, on the other hand, plans are steadily being pursued to technically upgrade US nuclear weapons, among them those deployed in Germany,
- that in the conflict between the United States and North Korea both sides threaten to use nuclear weapons,

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Concerned

- that the future existence of the INF Treaty is in danger and the debate on »closing the missile gap« might be renewed,
- that the technical upgrading of nuclear weapons might initiate a global and uncontrollable arms race and might lead to the belief that nuclear warfare could be feasible,
- that during an escalation of an international conflict the nuclear threshold might be crossed by irresponsible presidents and impetuous military officials,

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In the hope

- that the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, agreed on in July 2017 by 122 states, will enter into force and become a milestone on the path to a nuclear-weapons-free world,
- that Germany will sign and ratify this treaty and that the German Bundeswehr will no longer maintain nuclear weapons delivery systems,
- that the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) will encourage additional civil society engagement towards overcoming the nuclear threat,

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we update the Mutlangen Manifesto 2007 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the INF Treaty.

A. The INF Treaty must be maintained

Through the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed by the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Michail Gorbachev, on December 8, 1987, Mutlangen became nuclear-weapons-free. The treaty prohibits both Parties from possessing ground-launched intermediate-range missiles. With the treaty, the goal of the campaign »Civil disobedience until disarmament is achieved« had been fulfilled. The 30th anniversary of the treaty signing provides a good reason to celebrate.

However, for some time now the United States and Russia have accused each other of treaty violations: Russia has allegedly developed a land-based cruise missile while the United States could make offensive use of missile defense systems that are deployed in Eastern Europe.

The »INF Treaty Preservation Act« recently introduced to US Congress demands that the US government “take certain actions to bring the Russian Federation back into compliance” with the INF Treaty.

Violations of the INF Treaty, let alone a failure of the treaty, would have far-reaching consequences for arms control in Europe. Termination of the treaty could lead to a new arms race.

B. The Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons must enter into force

50 years ago, under Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the nuclear weapons states undertook “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.”

The International Court of Justice confirmed this undertaking in its 1996 Advisory Opinion.

However, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the nuclear weapons states continue to keep 15,000 nuclear warheads in their arsenals. These threaten the very existence of humanity, indeed, of all life on Earth. All nuclear weapons states run programs to upgrade their nuclear arsenals and plan to spend more than one trillion US dollars on these programs. The conflict on the Korean peninsula demonstrates that possession of nuclear weapons and the concept of nuclear deterrence cause escalation.

The humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons are so catastrophic that their production, maintenance, and use cannot be justified in any way. Like other weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons must be banned and prohibited.

The existence of and compliance with disarmament treaties create security.

- We call on the United States and Russia to solve their dispute about compliance with the INF Treaty within the framework of the treaty, in order to maintain this cornerstone of European security.
- We call on all states to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible.
- The German government must no longer base its security policy on nuclear weapons of mass destruction. We call on the German government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and on the German parliament to ratify the treaty. The nuclear weapons deployed in Büchel must be withdrawn.

C. Our demands and activities

Adoption of the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons has become possible as a result of the systematic and persistent civil society engagement under the umbrella of ICAN. The Mayors for Peace are a partner organisation to ICAN.

We, elected citizens’ representatives, undertake to support nuclear disarmament wherever possible in the context of global Mayors for Peace activities and the German campaign »Büchel ist überall! atomwaffenfrei.jetzt« (Büchel ist everywhere! nuclear-weapons-free now).

- As long as US nuclear weapons are deployed in Büchel, we will at least once a year demand withdrawal and accession to the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear weapons through appeals and action.
- As long as nuclear weapons are being upgraded and kept ready to use, we will protest against such investments and avoid any involvement as best as possible.
- As long as nuclear weapons threaten life on Earth, we will participate in delegations and international meetings in order to promote a different approach to security politics and the rigorous implementation of disarmament treaties under international law.

This year’s Nobel Peace Prize for ICAN encourages us to continue our active engagement for a nuclear-weapons-free world without compromise.

Mutlangen, December 5, 2017

Klaus Pavel, District Administrator, Ostalbkreis

Stephanie Eßwein, Mayor, Mutlangen

Dr. Joachim Bläse, Deputy Mayor, Schwäbisch Gmünd

Wolfgang Schlupp Hauck, Chair, Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen

Volker Nick, Chair, Friedens- und Begegnungsstätte Mutlangen

