



# African Commission on Nuclear Energy

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## PRESS STATEMENT

The African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONe) has been informed with great pleasure about the deposit with the Secretary-General of the 50th instrument of ratification or accession of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and therefore, the meeting of the conditions for the entry into force of the Treaty, next 22 January 2021.

**The AFCONe takes this opportunity to congratulate the six African states that have ratified the Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), to encourage the twenty African states signatories to engage at the earliest the national ratification procedure, and calls on all the AU member states to develop every effort in order to build on this dynamic move towards regional and global peace and security, through the signature and ratification of the Pelindaba Treaty and the TNPW.**

- **On 15 July 2020**, at the 11<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Pelindaba Treaty Entry into Force, the AFCONe called upon African States to support the entry into force of the TPNW, seeing the TPNW as reinforcing to global disarmament and non-proliferation,
- **On 26 September 2019**, HE. Tijjane Muhammad-Bande, President of the UN General Assembly declared "We commend states that have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and urge those who have not done so to join in this vital action",
- **On 4 April 2019**, the African Union Peace and Security Council adopted a communique which states "Reaffirming the adoption of the TPNW, recalling the strong support of Member States to the process leading to its development, and recalling that the 4th Conference of States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba, held on **14-15 March 2018** in Addis Ababa, called upon AU Member States to speedily sign and ratify the TPNW, emphasizing that it advances international law on nuclear disarmament and that it is consistent with the goals of the Treaty of Pelindaba,
- **The 2015** African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap (APSA) 2016-2020, issued by the African Union Peace and Security Council, call in its strategic priority point 4.3 to "effectively implement instruments and policies to address WMD disarmament and non-proliferation."
- **At the 2014** Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons The African Group statement expressed deep concern at the lack of meaningful progress towards a nuclear weapons-free world and the waste of resources, which could be better used towards the Millennium Development Goals.

**The African Countries are proud to have played a leading role during the negotiations of the TPNW, together with a vast majority of states and members of civil society, contributing to the process and the adoption of this Treaty.**

26 October 2020

