

# Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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Agenda item 15

## Consideration and adoption of the final document of the Meeting

### Interpretative statement of the delegation of the Holy See

1. The Holy See reiterates its full commitment to and support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and welcomes most of the work undertaken in implementation of the Treaty during the intersessional period and this second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, especially with regard to advancing discussions regarding the establishment of an international trust fund for victim assistance and environmental remediation.

2. Despite this, my delegation reaffirms the concerns expressed in its interpretive statement issued during the first Meeting of States Parties as document [TPNW/MSP/2022/5](#), and wishes yet again to express its serious concerns at the introduction of divisive terminology in the report of the gender focal point, which departs from the original spirit of the Treaty and has no basis in its provisions. My delegation notes that it has relayed these concerns to the Presidency and the gender focal point on previous occasions. As expressed during its intervention under agenda item 11 (f) (iv), the Holy See cannot support the conclusions or recommendations found in the report of the gender focal point and does not associate with the report in any way.

3. With this in mind, the Holy See emphasizes the understanding that the reports produced during the intersessional period and referenced in decision 1 (c) do not represent the views of States parties but rather solely those of the States that submitted them in their capacities as co-chairs of the informal working groups, the informal facilitators and the gender focal point. My delegation notes the deliberate intent of this Meeting of States Parties to not formally adopt these reports and would like to make its position clear that if reports or guidelines that contain such divisive terminology are proposed for adoption in the future, the Holy See will be obliged to oppose them.

