

# RESOLUTION 22R-10

To request the RI Board to consider endorsing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Delhi Humanity, District 3011, India  
Rotary Club of Madras, District 3232, India  
Rotary Club of Kolkata Urbana, District 3291, India  
District 4170, Mexico  
District 4560, Brazil  
District 4895, Argentina  
Rotary Club of International Peace, WE Rotary, District 5000, USA  
Rotary Club of Nakusp, District 5080, Canada  
Rotary Club of Sudbury, District 7010, Canada  
District 7080, Canada  
District 7810, Canada and USA  
Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin, District 9705, Australia

1 WHEREAS, Rotary is committed to promoting world peace, and

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3 WHEREAS, there can be no peace as long as there is the threat of nuclear war,  
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) prohibits  
7 the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use, and  
8 threat of use of nuclear weapons, with the ultimate goal being their total  
9 elimination, and

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11 WHEREAS, 89 countries are signatories to the TPNW and are looking for  
12 leadership to get it endorsed worldwide – and Rotary is a leader when it comes to  
13 peace, and

14

15 WHEREAS, 70-80 percent of people surveyed in countries around the world  
16 (including Rotarians) support the elimination of nuclear weapons and are looking  
17 for leadership to make this happen – and Rotary is a leader when it comes to  
18 peace, and

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20 WHEREAS, speaking recently at an international summit on nuclear  
21 disarmament (Eliminating the Existential Threat of Nuclear Weapons, 30  
22 September 2021, online), 2021-22 RI President Shekhar Mehta said, “We fully  
23 encourage our members to get involved in efforts to raise awareness and to  
24 inform fellow Rotarians of the scientific facts in support of nuclear  
25 disarmament....so we can reach [that goal].” He further noted that, “We can take

1 stronger positions for nuclear disarmament, as organizations like the Red Cross  
2 have already done.” (The International Red Cross has endorsed the TPNW.), and

3  
4 WHEREAS, RI has already taken a stand against nuclear weapons with The  
5 Rotary Foundation’s Responsible Investment Policy (April 2021), in which it  
6 commits to avoiding investment “in companies that derive significant revenue  
7 from producing, distributing, or marketing nuclear explosives.”

8  
9 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
10 International consider endorsing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear  
11 Weapons, encouraging countries to sign and support the treaty, as well as  
12 encouraging Rotarians, Rotaractors, and their clubs to work to persuade their  
13 governments to sign and support the treaty.

(End of Text)

### **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

14 Rotary could work for worldwide endorsement of the TPNW by simply following  
15 the same effective political (but not partisan) strategies used to eradicate polio in  
16 Africa:

- 17 • Rotary partners negotiated truces and military protection.
- 18 • Rotary advocated with government leaders and educated the public to  
19 dispel persistent myths.
- 20 • Rotary coordinated campaigns with surrounding nations.
- 21 • Rotarians used their status as respected members of society to advocate  
22 for their governments to become involved.

23  
24 Deterrence is fear-based and does not work against accidents, miscalculations, or  
25 terrorists. It prevents even negative peace (the absence of the threat of violence)  
26 and makes positive peace impossible.

27  
28 Despite the enactment of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear  
29 Weapons over 50 years ago, there are still about 13,500 nuclear weapons. There  
30 is an increase in spending on these weapons and an increase in the number of  
31 countries with access to them.

32  
33 We have comprehensive bans for chemical weapons, biological weapons,  
34 landmines, and cluster bombs. Nuclear weapons are exponentially more  
35 dangerous, could result in the death of billions of people and could destroy our  
36 planet. We must ensure the TPNW is endorsed worldwide.

37  
38 Rotary would like to increase membership. Standing for an important peace  
39 initiative that represents the wishes of 70-80 percent of the world’s population  
40 will be viewed as a compelling reason to become a member.

1 Rotary has the knowledge and experience to tackle this issue. Hundreds of  
2 Rotarians are authors, educators, speakers, and acknowledged experts on nuclear  
3 weapons. In 2016, a Rotarian chaired the session on the humanitarian impact of  
4 nuclear war at the United Nations' Open-ended Working Group meeting that led  
5 to negotiations for the TPNW. Rotarians hold leadership positions in  
6 International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the  
7 International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Both organizations  
8 are recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

9 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot  
10 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of  
11 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.

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13 Currently, Rotary as an organization does not have the knowledge or the  
14 expertise to speak with accuracy or authority on nuclear risks.