

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Austria to host third meeting of new international process on nuclear weapons**

*Campaigners say discussions on humanitarian impact should lead to negotiations for a ban*

**WHAT:** The Austrian government is holding the third international conference of a new international process on nuclear weapons, on 8-9 December 2014.

This follows conferences held by governments of Norway and Mexico in the last two years, to discuss the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is calling on governments to seize this historic opportunity and announce negotiations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

**WHY:** If a nuclear weapon was detonated, either as a result of intentional use or by accident, the consequences would be catastrophic. International relief organizations have assessed their own preparedness if a nuclear bomb were to detonate. The International Red Cross said nuclear explosions are ‘a disaster we cannot prepare for’.

Yet nuclear weapons currently remain the only weapon of mass destruction that have not been outlawed.

**WHO:** Delegates from more than 100 states as well as several UN organisations, the International Committee of the Red Cross / Crescent (ICRC) and more than 200 campaigners are expected to participate in the conference.

**WHEN:  The government conference is on** 8-9 December 2014

**WHERE:** The government conference will take place in The Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria.

**REGISTRATION FOR PRESS:**

To register for the government conference, contact Helene Spitzer, helene.spitzer@bmeia.gv.at

**About ICAN:** The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a global campaign coalition working to mobilize people in all countries to inspire, persuade and pressure their governments to initiate negotiations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons. It has 380 partner organizations in 93 countries, and was launched in 2007.