

A Nation's Predilection towards the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Sri Lanka's Perspective

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This paper examines a nation's predilection toward the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Therefore, the research focuses on the draft of the treaty that was accepted by Sri Lanka, and it was expected that Sri Lanka would sign and ratify it to uphold its pledge to nuclear disarmament. However, four years later, Sri Lanka has not ratified the agreement and has not provided an official justification for the delay. To explore the research problem as problematized above, the research is guided by the core argument that, Sri Lanka has nothing to lose by ratifying the treaty, from a strategic standpoint. The objectives are how Sri Lanka is committed to eliminating the threat posed by nuclear weapons and how to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes by making all efforts to bring about nuclear disarmament. This research uses a hybrid approach based on qualitative methodology. Sri Lanka still adheres to the non-alignment principle when it comes to its foreign policy. None of the main nuclear-weapons states, nor any other formal defence alliances, include Sri Lanka in any type of extended nuclear deterrent plan. As a result, Sri Lanka does not have the same commitment as the nuclear umbrella nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), such as "nuclear-weapons sharing," which would bar it from ratifying the treaty. Finally, the paper analyses a nation's predilection toward the TPNW concerning, the structure, unique features, and state obligations under the Treaty, Sri Lanka's Foreign Policy and nuclear weapons, and reasons for ratifying the treaty. The researcher provides policy recommendations for Sri Lanka.

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