

In March 132 countries met at the UN in New York to negotiate a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

A draft Treaty is being prepared and will be finalised at the next conference in June/July

The nuclear-armed states have boycotted the talks - the UK chair will be empty again in the summer

UK government say it wants step-by-step multilateral disarmament, but . .

The five countries with most of the nuclear weapons signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1970

Under the NPT they should have taken those steps to disarm by now, but . .

Nine countries still have 15,000 nuclear weapons between them

There's is a growing worldwide awareness of the catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons and the increasing risk that they will be used, and . .

The non-nuclear countries are fed up waiting and are negotiating a Ban Treaty like those on landmines and chemical weapons

The nuclear-armed states will not ratify the Treaty (at least to begin with) but it will have an impact on the deployment of nuclear weapons

The US has admitted that the Treaty will make it difficult for them to transport nuclear weapons and weapon material around the globe

The Treaty is a huge step towards confirming the abnormal and illegal nature of nuclear weapons.

An independent Scotland would sign the Ban Treaty which would make it simpler to remove Trident from Scotland.

Since Trident has nowhere else to go in the UK this would mean a nuke-free UK

This would also demonstrate the power of the new Treaty.