Most of the UN member states adopted this Friday a historic treaty banning nuclear weapons. The resolution was adopted by consensus with 122 votes in favor, the vote against the Netherlands and abstention of Singapore.

The text agreed by 129 countries that negotiated the instrument indicates that the treaty covers the wide range of nuclear weapons and such activities.

It bans the development, testing, production, acquisition, and possession of nuclear arsenals or explosives.

The negotiations, which began in March, were the responsibility of the Conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to ban such weapons and to achieve their eventual total elimination, convened by the General Assembly.

The president of that Conference is Costa Rica’s ambassador to the UN, Elayne Whyte Gómez. “Allow me with a great emotion to confirm the vote result. Votes in favor 122, votes against one, abstentions one”, said the diplomat.
The treaty will be opened for signature on September 20, 2017, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and will enter into force 90 days after 50 nations ratify it.

However, many countries did not participate in the negotiations of this treaty, among them the nine with nuclear capability: The United States, Russia, The United Kingdom, France, China, North Korea, India, India, Pakistan, and Israel.

The Delegation of Nicaragua represented the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

“The treaty, among other things, recognizes the ethical imperatives of nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining the world free of nuclear weapons, which is a public good of the first order, serving both national and collective security interests. Consequently, the adoption of this treaty represents a breach of the status quo, the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and the promoting disarmament”, the delegate said.

After the adoption of the Treaty, those countries that have expressed their opposition to it argue that the reality concerning to the maintenance of international security is not being taken into account, and the issue is increasingly worrying particularly by the danger that represents the current North Korea´s missile development and the possibility that these weapons fall into the wrong hands. These countries emphasize the necessary deterrent effect of their weapons against a possible nuclear attack.

Despite this situation, the treaty does not lose its relevance, being a humanitarian advance, taking into account the impact and the catastrophic consequences of a nuclear war. Also, it is necessary to take into account that these states that have not participated continue anyway committed to the reduction of nuclear arms and nonproliferation.

Both parties, participants or not, treat international security from various angles, but it cannot be denied that the fear of a nuclear disaster becomes increasingly evident and necessary a firm consensus to avoid future losses.
UN adopts first Legally Binding Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons