



REJECTING RISK

101 Policies against
nuclear weapons



Executive Summary

Utrecht, January 2022

There remains a marked lack of official information available in the public domain about the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of nuclear weapons, as well as about investments in companies that produce nuclear weapons. We have strived to achieve the highest level of accuracy in reporting. The information in this report reflects official information available in the public domain. We welcome comments, clarifications, and corrections from governments, companies, financial institutions and others, in the spirit of dialogue, and in the common search for accurate and reliable information on this subject. If you believe you have found an inaccuracy, or if you can provide additional information, please contact: info@icanw.org

PRINCIPAL AUTHOR:

Susi Snyder

RESEARCHERS:

Maaïke Beenes, Roelien Donker, Nora Nijboer, Susi Snyder and Jeroen Walstra.

Special thanks to Quit Nukes (Australia)

DESIGN:

Isabela Vargas

PUBLISHED JANUARY 2022

About PAX

PAX means peace. Together with people in conflict areas and concerned citizens worldwide, PAX works to build just and peaceful societies across the globe. PAX brings together people who have the courage to stand for peace. Everyone who believes in peace can contribute. We believe that all these steps, whether small or large, truly matter and will contribute to a just and peaceful world. More information at www.PaxforPeace.nl

ICAN is a global campaign coalition working to mobilize people in all countries to inspire, persuade and pressure their governments to sign and ratify the nuclear prohibition treaty banning nuclear weapons. ICAN is comprised of more than 600 partner organisations in over 100 countries. More information about ICAN can be found at: www.ICANw.org

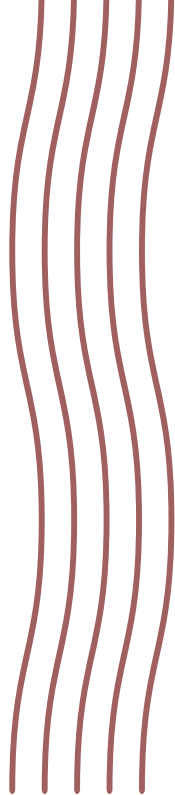
About ICAN

About Profundo

Profundo is an economic research consultancy analysing commodity chains, financial institutions and corporate social responsibility issues. It works predominantly for environmental, human rights and development organisations in the Netherlands and abroad. www.profundo.nl

Permission is granted for non-commercial reproduction, copying, distribution, and transmission of this publication or parts thereof so long as full credit is given to the coordinating project organization, editor, and relevant authors; the text is not altered, transformed, or built upon; and for any reuse or distribution, these terms are made clear to others.

DISCLAIMER This report has been developed using publicly listed corporate reporting. The information in this report should not be interpreted as investment or legal advice and is provided for general information purposes only.



THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS NARRATIVE IS CHANGING

— *Introduction*

The implicit permission to make weapons of mass destruction is getting revoked by governments, parliamentarians, cities and the financial sector.



Executive Summary



101 financial institutions exclude nuclear weapon producers

101 financial institutions are profiled in this report with policies that restrict investments in the companies involved in the manufacture, development, deployment, stockpiling, testing or use of nuclear weapons. This is an increase of 24 compared to previously published research. Of these, 59 institutions have comprehensive policies in place. They are listed in the Hall of Fame. 42 institutions have a policy that is not all-inclusive. These are listed in the Runners-Up.

The numbers are growing, and many financial institutions are citing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as part of the justification for these exclusions in their policies. There is a correlation between the growing understanding of the private sector's involvement in nuclear weapons programmes, and the number of policies excluding the companies involved. There were 54 policies included in the 2016 Don't Bank on the Bomb report before the TPNW was negotiated. After the treaty was adopted, the number rose to 77. Since the TPNW went into effect, the number of known policies has increased to over 100.

The growing numbers of financial institutions listed in this report provides a snapshot of the emerging norm within the financial sector to avoid companies contributing to existential risks. In addition to the increase in identified policies, the application of these policies is becoming more comprehensive, illustrating financial institutional recognition of their role in not condoning the production of inhumane weapons.

Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame profiles financial institutions that have adopted, implemented and published a policy that comprehensively prevents any financial involvement in nuclear weapon producing companies. 59 financial institutions have a public policy that is comprehensive in scope and application. The financial institutions in the Hall of Fame are based in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and the United States.

The total number of financial institutions in the Hall of Fame went from 36 in the 2019 report to 59 in this report, of these 17 are completely new to the report:

Active Super (Australia)

- AIB Group plc (Ireland)
- AIMCo (Canada)
- Aktia (Finland)
- Bank of Ireland (Ireland)
- Banorte (Mexico)
- Christian Super (Australia)
- Crescent Wealth (Australia)
- Elo (Finland)
- Harrington Investments, Inc (United States)
- Ilmarinen Mutual Pension Insurance Company (Finland)
- J. Safra Sarasin Group (Switzerland)
- Kiwi Wealth (Aotearoa/ New Zealand)
- Publica (Switzerland)
- SUSI Partners (Switzerland)
- U Ethical (Australia)
- Verve Super (Australia)

5 institutions have moved up from the Runners-Up. These institutions were moved up after they updated their policies, or an implementation check found they no longer have any financial relations with identified nuclear weapon producers.

- Domini (U.S.)
- Folksam (Sweden)
- KBC (Belgium)
- Pensioenfonds Metalektro (PME) (the Netherlands)
- Sjunde AP-fonden AP7 (Sweden)

Each institution's policy profiled in the Hall of Fame undergoes a rigorous assessment. Only financial institutions with group level public policies are eligible for inclusion. Only when policies are applied to all types of nuclear weapon producers from all locations excluding them from all the institutions' financial services may an institution qualify for the Hall of Fame.

We hope the Hall of Fame will be inspirational to many more financial institutions.

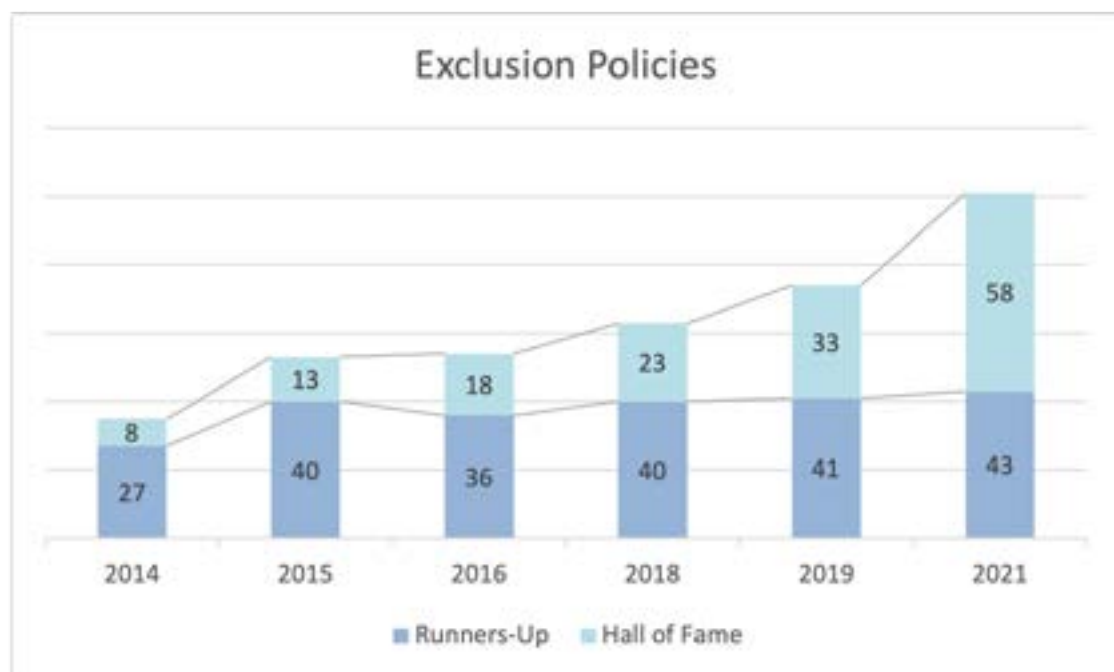
Runners-Up

The Runners-Up section highlights another 42 financial institutions that have taken the step to exclude nuclear weapon producers from their investments, but whose policy is not all-inclusive in preventing all types of financial involvement with nuclear weapon companies. The financial institutions in the Runners-Up are based in Aotearoa/ New Zealand, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Eight institutions: Aviva (UK), Bank of Ireland (Ireland), CIMB (Malaysia), DeGroof Petercam Asset Management (Belgium), Erste Group (Austria), Landesbank Baden-Württemberg (LBBW) (Germany), Parnassus Investments (U.S.), and Pictet (Switzerland) are new to the report with policies falling into the Runners-Up category.

The Runners-up category is necessarily broad. Financial institutions included range from those with policies nearly eligible for the Hall of Fame, to those with policies that still allow considerable sums of money to be invested in nuclear weapon producers. They are therefore ranked on a four-star scale to illustrate the comprehensiveness of their policies. One-star policies are included to demonstrate that there is a wide and ongoing debate among financial institutions when it comes to including nuclear weapons association criteria in their socially responsible investment standards. However diverse these policies, they all express a shared understanding that involvement in nuclear weapons production is controversial.

The identification of policies for inclusion in this report is based on peer recommendations. The report does not claim to represent an analysis of all financial institution policies on weapons, rather it provides a snapshot. Those in a position to recommend additional policies for inclusion are invited to do so. With a significant percentage of new wealth seeking investment in funds with strong environmental, social and governance criteria, along with the Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, it can be estimated that the number of policies excluding nuclear weapon producers will grow significantly.



Don't Bank on the Bomb



2021