

Statement

## **We Protest the NATO Summit Communiqué**

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The NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Summit held in Vilnius, Lithuania, adopted the "Vilnius Summit Communiqué" on July 11, declaring that "Nuclear weapons are unique," that "strategic nuclear forces are the supreme guarantee of the security" and that "As long as nuclear weapons exist, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance." This is an outrageous declaration that, in effect, makes the possession of nuclear weapons permanent, and we firmly protest against it.

At a time of heightened international tensions, the world should strive for the sincere implementation of the agreements reached in the past NPT Review Conferences, including the obligation to pursue negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament (Article VI of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT]), the total elimination of nuclear arsenals by the nuclear weapon states (2000) and the achievement of "the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons" (2010).

The Communiqué must also be harshly criticized for its explicitly hostile stance toward the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), saying that it "stands in opposition to the Alliance's nuclear deterrence policy," and "risks undermining the NPT."

The fact that nuclear weapons cannot prevent aggression, protect the security of the world's people, or prevent nuclear threats has been clearly demonstrated by the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine, President Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons, and the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus. "Nuclear deterrence" does not "deter nuclear war," but is nothing more than a means to invade and dominate other nations under the threat of nuclear use.

At the 78th session of the UN General Assembly last December, two-thirds of UN member states voted in favor of a resolution calling for support and ratification of the TPNW, and the number of countries that have signed and ratified the TPNW, which entered into force on January 22, 2021, continues to increase to 92 and 68, respectively. The majority trend in the world is for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, and we strongly urge NATO member states to break away from the "nuclear deterrence" theory and support and join the TPNW.

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan attended this NATO summit. At the first summit he attended last year, Kishida announced the formulation of a national security strategy and a doubling of military spending, and this time he announced the further strengthening of military collaboration with NATO in the Indo-Pacific region. The role of the prime minister is merely a pawn in the U.S. Biden administration, as seen in U.S. President Joe Biden's unusual compliment to Kishida's participation.

What is required of the Japanese government is to conduct peaceful diplomacy to prevent war based on Article 9 of the Constitution, and as the A-bombed nation, to take the initiative in joining the TPNW and stand in the forefront in the efforts to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. Once again, we strongly urge the Japanese government to do so.