

2021 World Conference against A and H Bombs – Nagasaki Day Rally

Melba Pria, Ambassador to Japan, Mexico

- I would like first of all to thank the Organizing Committee of the **2021 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs**, under the theme *“With the Hibakusha, Let us achieve a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World for the Future of the Humankind of the Planet”*, for extending an invitation to Mexico to participate in the **Nagasaki Day Rally** today, August 9, 2021.
- Mexico pays tribute to the Japanese people, particularly to the survivors of the atomic bombs, who raising their voices and sharing their testimony have played a key role in the efforts to raise awareness on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.
- Hibakushas’ testimonies constitute a historical legacy that is a clear call for promoting peace and securing a world free of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we have to ensure that their thoughts, their voices and their enlightening stories are available for present and future generations.
- The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has shown that nuclear weapons do not make any distinction between combatants and

civilians; they do not differentiate gender, age, religion, social condition, ideology or nationality. Their effects are indiscriminate.

- It has also shown that beyond the immediate death and destruction caused by a detonation, socio-economic development will be hampered, and the environment will be damaged. Radiation exposure could result in short and long-term negative effects in every organ of the human body and would increase cancer risks and future hereditary pathologies. Thus, it is imperative to ensure that such a calamity will never happen again.
- Unfortunately, the risk of nuclear weapons use (intentional or accidental) has been increasing globally, because of several factors: proliferation, the vulnerability of nuclear command and control networks to cyber-attacks and to human error, as well as potential access to nuclear weapons by non-state actors.
- It is a fact that no State or international organization has the capacity to provide the short -and long- term humanitarian assistance nor the protection needed in case of an eventual nuclear weapon explosion.

- The wide range of damage and catastrophic consequence in the likelihood of a nuclear explosion, as well as the enormous economic resources allocated globally to maintain and modernize nuclear arsenals, make the mere existence of these weapons absurd and contrary to human dignity.
- For those reasons, Mexico has been actively promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is not only a diplomatic conviction, but also a commitment with international peace and security.
- Therefore, since the first nuclear detonation, Mexico unilaterally adopted the decision to never develop or allow the deployment of any nuclear weapons of another country in its territory.
- Latin America and the Caribbean played a key role in raising awareness on nuclear disarmament. Its commitment to this common objective was materialized with the entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, best known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
- In this regard, Mexico is proud to belong to the first nuclear-weapons-free-zone in a densely populated area and to have

contributed to the establishment of other four nuclear-weapons-free-zones.

- Mexico believes that, in order to achieve nuclear disarmament, all the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) -the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime- must commit and exert all efforts to guarantee its effective implementation, including taking forward multilateral negotiations on the matter.
- In this context, Mexico celebrates the recent entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on January 22th, 2021. The TPNW reinforce the NPT, as it is consistent with the obligation enshrined in article VI of the NPT.
- Mexico acknowledges that the testimony of atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki played a very important role during the processes of adoption and entry into force of the TPNW.
- However, the entry into force of TPNW is not the final goal, is just the beginning of the process towards its universalization. In this regard, Mexico will continue promoting and encouraging all States that are committed to the elimination of all nuclear

weapons, including the overwhelming number of States that supported the adoption of the TPNW, to ratify or adhere the Treaty as soon as possible.

- Also, Mexico will actively participate in first Conference of the TPNW, planned to be held on January 2022, in Vienna. During this international conference TPNW States parties will define the roadmap to promote universalization of the treaty as well as the necessary steps for its implementation. In this context, hibakusha's voices, testimonies and wisdom are needed to promote and ensure the universalization of the TPNW.
- I would like to conclude by reaffirming that it is our responsibility to make sure that a nuclear weapon detonation, like those which sadly took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, never happen again. Therefore, Mexico will continue striving for the construction of a safer world based on the rule of international law, international cooperation and peaceful settlement of international disputes.
- Today, more than ever, the world needs the Hibakusha spirit for a peaceful coexistence of humanity.