

2022 WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMBS
NAGASAKI DAY RALLY

Venue: Cultural Hall, Nagasaki Shimin Kaikan
Time: 10:30-13:00, Tuesday 9th August 2022

Speech by Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hien
Member of the Vietnam Peace Committee

Distinguished guests, esteemed activists,

Friends,

It is my great privilege to be here today and speak at the Nagasaki Day Rally. First of all, I would like to extend to all participants in the Rally the warmest greetings and sincerest sentiments of friendship from the Vietnam Peace Committee and the Vietnamese people.

This is my first visit to Japan and I am deeply touched and strongly inspired by meeting in-person and hearing testimonies from Hibakushas, their appeals and calls from all Japanese and international participants in the 2022 World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

It is seventy seven years since the atomic bombing of the two cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but all sad memories of this disaster should never be allowed to be forgotten.

The Vietnam Peace Committee share the deepest sympathies with the Japanese people, particularly to the survivors and victims of the atomic bombs over huge losses they have been suffering. We truly hope that not any more nation will have to bear similar sufferings in the future.

The Vietnam Peace Committee also pays tribute to the survivors and victims of the atomic bombs, whose voices and testimonies have played a key role in the efforts of nuclear disarmament and elimination.

Friends,

Unfortunately, the world continues to live in fear of a possible nuclear disaster despite unceasing efforts of the international community.

While the world is struggling to recover from COVID-19, the risk of using nuclear weapons has been increasing globally. That risk stems from many factors, particularly major powers' strategic competition and neglect of international law, rising great-power politics, militarization, unilateral actions in the use or threat of force, escalation among nuclear-armed states, unresolved conflicts/disputes and various crises.

At this turning point of the world, today's choice will shape our future. And we have a very clear choice. It is a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

To that end, the international community need to exert all efforts for total elimination of nuclear weapons. These efforts, from my point of view, should focus on the followings:

First, demand non-participating countries, especially the nuclear powers and non-nuclear allied countries support, sign and ratify the TPNW as a matter of course, as well as uphold and promote all nuclear commitments, particularly in UN fora;

Second, call on countries, especially major powers to build trust, bolster cooperation, pursue peaceful measures to settle all disputes/conflicts, stop the use or threat of force and fully respect the United Nations Charter and international law;

Third, strengthen international cooperation in support to Hibakushas and Agent Orange/Dioxin victims as well as environmental remediation.

We echoe the appeal of Hibakushas and Agent Orange/Dioxin victims. Their message has been very simple, clear and consistent: **No more HIROSHIMA! No more NAGASAKI! No more WAR! No more HIBAKUSHA!**

In concluding, on behalf of the Vietnam Peace Committee, I would like to express our sincere and profound gratitude to Japanese and international friends, peace organizations, movements around the world for your support to Vietnam. The Vietnamese people will always stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you in our common endeavor for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

I wish all Nagasaki people, Japanese and international friends participating in the Rally and the World Conference good health, happiness and success.

Thank you very much!