

International Meeting – Session III
2022 World Conference against A & H Bombs

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I would like to first point out the danger of security policies being pursued by the Kishida administration and its complementary forces, including the Japan Innovation Party.

The Kishida administration has obstinately refused to sign or ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or even to join as an observer the First Meeting of State Parties to the TPNW. Meanwhile, it is calling more strongly than ever for the strengthening of the U.S. policy on the use of nuclear weapons.

This was symbolically demonstrated by the Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue, which took place at the nuclear-powered submarine base Kings Bay in Georgia, U.S. on June 21 and 22, when the TPNW state parties' meeting was being held. In the dialogue, Japanese and U.S. diplomatic and defense officials confirmed that the U.S. will use nuclear weapons in the event of an emergency.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry's press release emphasized that the event was held in response to the Japan-U.S. summit meeting in May this year. In its joint statement, the summit meeting announced, "President Biden reiterated the U.S. commitment to the defense of Japan under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, backed by the full range of capabilities, including nuclear." In other words, it announced that the U.S. will use nuclear weapons in case of an emergency. It also said, "The two leaders affirmed the critical importance of ensuring that U.S. extended deterrence remains credible and resilient. They reiterated the significance of enhancing bilateral discussions on extended deterrence." The latest bilateral dialogue was held based on this summit meeting. Also in the dialogue, "The U.S. side provided a briefing on the current state of U.S. nuclear capabilities, including the posture and modernization program of its nuclear triad, as well as its declaratory policy, based on the recently completed Nuclear Posture Review."

The Foreign Ministry's press release states, "As part of the EDD, the delegations visited the Ohio-class submarine USS Maryland." The EDD event in the U.S. has always been held at nuclear weapons-related facilities and, as Prime Minister Kishida boasts in his book "Toward a Nuclear Weapons-Free World", it has "given us a firsthand look at realities of submarine-launched ballistic missiles, strategic bombers, and ICBMs so that their credibility can be maintained." Such visits were rarely announced in the past. This time, however, it was openly stated. This submarine can carry 24 ballistic missiles. Together with at least four 100-kiloton nuclear warheads,

this one submarine can inflict more than 600 Hiroshima catastrophes. The talks to inspect such a submarine and confirm the assurance of the use of nuclear weapons were held on the same day as the TPNW state parties' meeting where people from around the world were earnestly discussing the ban and abolition of nuclear weapons. I cannot contain my anger at how much this goes against the world trend.

The call for a stronger U.S. posture on the use of nuclear weapons has been intensified by taking advantage of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its nuclear intimidation. Leading advocates of the call were former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, who was recently killed by an assassin's bullet, and the Japan Innovation Party. They have insisted that "nuclear sharing" should be discussed. Nuclear sharing would allow Japan's Self-Defense Forces to share U.S. nuclear weapons and to use them to attack, under U.S. approval, in case of an emergency. Baba Nobuyuki, co-leader of the Japan Innovation Party, which included this topic in its platform for the House of Councilors election, said the following on a TV program. Asked by a moderator, "Do you think we can make such a decision to share responsibility with the U.S. for launching a missile capable of killing hundreds of thousands of people?" he answered, "I believe that when the time comes, politicians will put their lives on the line in the true sense of the word and make a decision." The question is whether we can entrust the future of Japan to politicians who can make such a "decision" without hesitation.

Those who seek to strengthen the posture on the use of nuclear weapons are now jointly demanding ground-based intermediate-range ballistic missiles, which the U.S. has developed and is promoting their deployment in the Nansei Islands and other islands in Japan. The Research Institute for Peace and Security, which has a strong influence on the government, issued a proposal in July that stated, "The U.S. is planning to deploy ground-based medium-range missiles aimed at China in order to hold back China's maritime expansion by restoring military balance inside the first island line and to ensure stability in the East China Sea and the South China Sea. ... Japan should accept the deployment." It also said, "As the issue of deploying nuclear missiles seems inevitable in the future, we should reach a conclusion on the issue of bringing in nuclear weapons from the perspective of stronger nuclear deterrence."

The Kishida administration, with the cooperation of the Japan Innovation Party, plans to set forth by the end of this year a military expansion policy to develop "enemy base attack capability," which is aimed at enabling the SDF to launch an all-out attack on an enemy base together with U.S. strike power. To this end, the administration is trying to double Japan's military spending and make it the world's third largest military power. In order to promote this policy without restrictions, it is also trying to revise Article 9 of the Constitution, which renounces war and war potential.

We must say that it is a path of destruction that would bring Japan and Asia into extreme danger of nuclear war and that would destroy people's livelihoods through military expansion.

We must stop this path at all costs. In recent opinion polls, 77% of respondents say that Japan's Three Non-Nuclear Principles should be maintained, and more than 70% say that Japan should join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This deep-rooted anti-nuclear sentiment shown in these results has been created by the long-standing movement against nuclear weapons led by Hibakusha. It is possible to rely on this to create a huge nationwide campaign. I would like to express my determination to work hard to create a Japan that will join the TPNW and make Asia nuclear-free as well as lead an effort to build an inclusive security regime involving all East Asian countries, as stipulated in Article 9, rather than strengthening military alliances. Let us work together.