

2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs  
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### **International rules for peace and prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons -- Role of peace movement**

I warmly welcome all of you to the International Meeting of the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs.

This year's World Conference is taking place at a time when the risk of nuclear weapons being used is higher than ever before, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, President Putin's threats to use nuclear weapons, and the strengthening by US-led NATO of its nuclear posture under the pretext of "deterrence".

In his message to the recent Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), UN Secretary-General Guterres warned that "Today, the terrifying lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are fading from memory. The once unthinkable prospect of nuclear conflict is now back within the realm of possibility." He then concluded, "Let's eliminate these weapons before they eliminate us."

The primary task for this conference is to develop the collaboration between the United Nations, governments, and civil society – collaboration built by the World Conference – to overcome the crisis humanity is facing, and to present a vision for achieving a "peaceful and just world without nuclear weapons."

#### **Defeating the Fallacy of Nuclear Deterrence Logic**

The First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW was held in Vienna, the capital of Austria, from June 21 to 23. It achieved a great success. An important outcome was that the Meeting rejected the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and severely criticized the theory of "nuclear deterrence".

The Vienna Declaration it adopted says, "Far from preserving peace and security,

nuclear weapons are used as instruments of policy, linked to coercion, intimidation and heightening of tensions” and made a strong criticism of “nuclear deterrence” theory, pointing out that “it puts into relief now more clearly than ever the fallacy of nuclear deterrence doctrines, which are based and rely on the threat of actual use of nuclear weapons and, hence, the risks of destroying countless lives, societies, states and causing global catastrophic consequences.”

The nuclear powers claim that their nuclear weapons are a "deterrent" and a "guarantee of safety" and continue to reject the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. However, Russia's attack on Ukraine shows that nuclear weapons are not for "deterrence" or "security". They are nothing but a dangerous tool for unilateral military action against other countries. NATO's policies of "extended nuclear deterrence" and "nuclear sharing" will not prevent aggression but, if implemented, will surely result in catastrophic consequences.

Let's build on the TPNW and greatly mobilize people especially in nuclear-armed countries and countries that are dependent on nuclear weapons to break through the "nuclear deterrence" myth and make them join the Treaty.

### **Message from the A-bombed City to the 10th NPT Review Conference**

The 10th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) is being held in New York in parallel with the World Conference. It is an important mission of this conference to send a clear message to the NPT Review Conference from the A-bombed city of Hiroshima.

The NPT allows the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to retain nuclear weapons while imposing non-proliferation obligation on other countries. It can function as a foundation for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation only when the five nuclear powers stop the nuclear arms race and faithfully fulfill their obligation to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. The NPT makes nuclear weapon states responsible for faithfully delivering on their Article 6 commitment.

So far, the U.S. and other nuclear powers have denounced the TPNW for being inconsistent with the NPT. However, at the recent meeting of the TPNW States Parties in Vienna, many countries stressed the importance of the NPT and pointed out that the TPNW represented the implementation of Article VI of the NPT, which provides for the obligation of nuclear disarmament negotiations. In fact, the two treaties complement each other rather than contradict each other. The TPNW States Parties reaffirmed that they will work constructively with all NPT members.

Let us urge all countries, especially those possessing nuclear weapons, to support the TPNW "framework" as a base for multilateral efforts to achieve a "world without nuclear weapons". Let us press them to begin considering signing and ratifying the treaty now!

### **Determination as a Movement of the A-bombed Country**

Finally, I would like to express our determination as a movement of the A-bombed nation.

The Kishida LDP administration has not fulfilled its obligations as the government of the A-bombed nation. It has actually abandoned them. At the recent meeting of the States Parties to TPNW, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and other NATO countries, as well as Australia, were present as observers while the Japanese government was absent, having boycotted the meeting.

Prime Minister Kishida subsequently attended the NATO summit in Spain, further deepening Japan's reliance on the U.S. nuclear deterrence or "nuclear umbrella." "Nuclear deterrence" is an extremely dangerous idea that can lead to the annihilation of the human race.

Our task is to unequivocally say no to the Kishida government, which clings to the nuclear deterrence myth and refuses to join the TPNW. We must change our country so that it will join the Treaty willingly. In the recent Upper House election, the forces for a ban on nuclear weapons lost some ground while the forces that seek a revision of the war-renouncing Article 9 of the Constitution secured the two-thirds of the seats needed to propose a constitutional change. These forces also support the preemptive use of military force, including "enemy base attack capability," and the "nuclear umbrella" or "nuclear sharing."

However, the Japanese people will not easily allow constitutional change and war, much less "nuclear sharing." If we can expose the danger of "nuclear deterrence" and make it clear that the abolition of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee to prevent nuclear catastrophe, the voices of the majority will be strong enough to transform the country and there are conditions for that change to happen.

According to public opinion polls, more than 70% of the Japanese people demand that Japan join the TPNW, and 640 municipalities, or about 40% of all local governments, have issued statements calling on the Japanese government to join the treaty.

Nineteen members of the Diet, including MPs of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, the Japanese Communist Party and the Wind of Okinawa, are

expected to attend our World Conference through video messages to disseminate the joint demand for Japan's participation in the TPNW. Three key factors for progress in this struggle are public opinion, mobilization of people and cooperation. I would like to conclude by expressing our resolve to take the lead in our effort to achieve Japan's participation in the TPNW, by expanding the signature campaign from the grassroots with the goal of gathering 10 million to 20 million signatures.