

2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs



**With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon - Free,
Peaceful and Just World —for the
Future of the Humankind and Our Planet**

Organizing Committee
World Conference against A and H Bombs

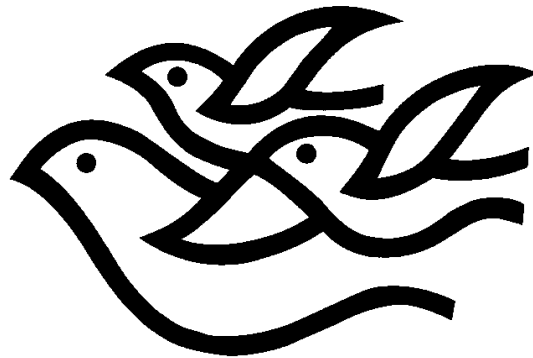
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2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 4-9, 2022

Main Theme:

*With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-Free,
Peaceful and Just World – for the
Future of the Humankind and Our Planet*



Organizing Committee
World Conference against A and H Bombs

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The 2022 World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs

Hiroshima Declaration

It is now the 77th year of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States. The human race is now facing a new danger of the use of nuclear weapons. Carrying on the aggression against Ukraine, President Putin of Russia is repeating a nuclear threat. Along with Russia, the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are maintaining and consolidating their “nuclear deterrents.” From Hiroshima which suffered the indescribable damage of the nuclear weapons and with Hibakusha we appeal to the world: nuclear weapons are “weapons of absolute evil”; they are designed exclusively to cause human extinction, which will not allow humanity to live humanly lives or to die humanly deaths. We should never ever allow the threat or use of these weapons. The only way to end this danger is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. With fresh determination, we move forward toward achieving a “nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world.”

Overcoming the present crises, international politics is moving forward. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is the first treaty in history totally banning nuclear weapons and has entered into force. Support and the number of participating states keep increasing (66 ratification, 86 signing). The first Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on June 21-23 in Vienna adopted by consensus the political declaration entitled “Our Commitment to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons” (Vienna Declaration), sending out a hopeful and powerful message for a “world without nuclear weapons.” It made an unrelenting criticism against the nuclear deterrence doctrine, saying, “This highlights now more than ever the fallacy of nuclear deterrence doctrines, which are based and rely on the threat of the actual use of nuclear weapons and, hence, the risks of the destruction of countless lives, of societies, of nations, and of inflicting global catastrophic consequences.”-“Vienna Action Plan”, another adopted document, elaborated on the assistance for the Hibakusha and nuclear test victims, the modality for the nuclear possessing states to join the treaty and other details to implement the treaty. It is now an undeniable reality that the TPNW is established as international law, supported by the majority of the countries in the world. If we further develop our cooperation between civil society and governments, building on the TPNW, it will be possible to open a prospect of a “world without nuclear weapons.”

The fact that Russia, a nuclear superpower, openly threatened to use nuclear weapons and even put its nuclear forces on special alert without regard for the sacrifice of its own people revealed that the concept of “nuclear deterrence,” that nuclear weapons “deter the use of nuclear weapons,” can no longer work. It has become also clear that the “nuclear deterrence” is a means to invade another country and rule it by the force of nuclear threat. The “nuclear deterrence” doctrine rests on the premise of claiming countless human lives, destroying cities and their environments and causing catastrophic consequences. It leads humanity to the brink of extinction. It is time to overcome the nuclear deterrence doctrine.

The 10th NPT Review Conference is in session in New York on Aug. 1 through 26. We call on it, in which Nuclear Five participate, to contain the danger of the use of nuclear weapons and to open a prospect for a world without nuclear weapons. The NPT includes the obligation to negotiate on nuclear disarmament (Article 6), and its review conferences have so far agreed on an “unequivocal undertaking” to achieve the “complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals,” on achieving a “world without nuclear weapons,” on “making special effort” to establish “framework” for the nuclear weapon-free world,

“establishing nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East.” Yet, not only have the nuclear weapon-states turned their back on their obligation to implement them, but even “modernization” of nuclear arsenals and consolidation of the policy to use them are being promoted. We demand that the nuclear weapon states should end those insincere attitudes, reconfirm their treaty obligations and the past agreements and implement them in good faith. The TPNW is a treaty that helps implement Article 6 of the NPT and they complement each other.

Japan is intensely called on to play a role commensurate with being the only A-bombed country in war. But the Japanese government is deepening its dependence on the US “nuclear umbrella,” opposing the TPNW, and keeps turning its back on the desire of its own people, as well as the major trend of the world. Calling for discussions about “nuclear sharing” is also a serious problem. These actions simply accelerate the vicious cycle of nuclear arms versus nuclear arms in North East Asia. We call on the Japanese government to do away with “nuclear deterrence” doctrine, and to support and express its willingness to join in the TPNW.

Russia’s aggression against Ukraine is a sheer violation of the UN Charter. We demand the withdrawal of the Russian forces and the end of all their military actions, including attacks and occupations of nuclear power plants in Ukraine. The international community should unite for the restoration of the world order based on the common rule of the UN Charter. Even if there are differences in position related to Russia, it is important to note that the first MSP to the TPNW unanimously “condemn(ed) unequivocally any and all nuclear threats.” We call for the resolution of all international conflicts by diplomacy. The problems of North Korea’s nuclear and missile development, or China’s attempt to change status quo by force in South China Sea or in East China Sea should also be addressed through dialogs and negotiations based on international law and not by military force.

We firmly oppose any move to strengthen and expand military alliances or build-up military arsenals, taking advantage of the aggression against Ukraine. It is a serious concern that the NATO at its summit conference on June 29 in Madrid adopted a new Strategic Concept to strengthen it as nuclear military alliance, greatly expand crisis response forces, and that in the Asia-Pacific region the US and others are moving to expand bilateral and multilateral military cooperation. We oppose the remolding of Japan into a war-prepared country under the Japan-US military alliance with plans for the Constitutional revision, massive military build-up and development of “enemy base attack capability”. The role to be played by the Japanese people’s movement to counter these moves is of decisive importance.

Gender perspectives need to be carried through in the nuclear disarmament process. The disproportionate impact from the use of nuclear weapons on women, and the low proportion of women in disarmament negotiations show that this is an urgent problem to be addressed. This perspective should consciously be addressed by the anti-nuclear peace movement. It is also urgent to divert resources spent for war or military build-up to address climate crisis, resolution of poverty and disparity, and protection of human rights and dignity. Achieving a “nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world” is now urgently required.

The decisive factor to determine the future course is the movement of the people and their opinion. We propose to lead in the following actions aimed at a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world:

- To initiate campaigns to make known the A-bomb damage of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and other inhumane consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, encouraging testimonies of the Hibakusha or nuclear test victims, A-bomb photo-panel exhibitions and many other forms of action; Let us

thus build up opinion opposing any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; Let us ask the United Nations and member states governments to promote or support these activities;

- Let us build broadest public opinion in support of the promotion of, the support to and/or participation in the TPNW and of the elimination of nuclear weapons. In the countries possessing nuclear weapons or dependent on “nuclear umbrella” in particular, let us strengthen the movement to press their governments to join the treaty;
- Let us bring success to the international joint action “Peace Wave” for the elimination of nuclear weapons as one common objective (launched on August 4 through 9, 2022);
- On such important occasions as the opening of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly, the new round of the NPT Review process, the next MSP to the TPNW, let us promote cooperation between the governments and civil society movements to reach the common goal;
- Let us develop joint actions for the reduction of military expenditures, dismantling foreign military bases, dissolution of military alliances, compensation and support for the Agent Orange and other war victims and eradication of their suffering, promotion of peace education and for other tasks for peace against war;
- Let us further broaden the movement for “a world without nuclear weapons” by extending solidarity to many other movements of various strata and generations of people such as: for lives and livelihood, human rights, Zero nuclear power plants, break of climate crisis, gender equality, and peace and democracy.
- We reiterate our determination that together with Hibakusha and with young generation on whom our future will depend, we will stand in the forefront of these actions.

No More Hiroshimas! No More Nagasakis!
No More Hibakusha! Abolish Nuclear Weapons!

August 6, 2022
The 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs

2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs Nagasaki Day Rally

Call from Nagasaki

We have no illusions about the challenges and obstacles that lie before us in realizing the aims of this Treaty. But we move ahead with optimism and resolve..... We will not rest until the last state has joined the Treaty, the last warhead has been dismantled and destroyed and nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated from the Earth.

(“Vienna Declaration”, the 1st Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons)

Seventy-seven years have passed since the atomic bomb was dropped by the United States on Nagasaki. The world is facing a new danger of nuclear weapons being actually used, in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and President Putin’s nuclear intimidation. The use or even the threat of use of nuclear weapons, the ultimate inhumane weapons, should never ever be allowed to happen. The only way to root out this danger is to completely eliminate these weapons. In support of the “Hiroshima Declaration” adopted on August 6 by the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs, we call for immediate actions for it.

The “Vienna Declaration” adopted unanimously by the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) made unrelenting criticism against the “nuclear deterrence” doctrine, and confirmed the powerful determination for the elimination of nuclear weapons. It is clear now that the “nuclear deterrence” is no other than a means to invade and rule another country under the nuclear threat. With the TPNW as our strength and by widening cooperation between grassroots movements, civil society and many governments, we must overcome present crises.

Let us call on the government of every country to support and join the TPNW. Let us make known the damage of the A-bombings and denounce the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons; Organize A-bomb photo exhibitions and meetings to hear Hibakusha stories; Strengthen support and solidarity with the Hibakusha in their demand for the drastic improvement of the A-bomb disease recognition system and the establishment of the State compensation; and Demand from the State the relief of the sufferers of the “Black Rain” in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let us build up cooperation between grassroots and civil society movements and governments that stand for nuclear disarmament, using as an opportunity the 10th NPT Review Conference (August 1-26), the 77th General Assembly of the U.N. and the Second Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW.

Japan must play a role commensurate with being the sole A-bombed country in war. Prime Minister Kishida refused to speak even a word about the TPNW or Article 6 of the NPT at the current NPT Review Conference or at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, thus turning his back on Hibakusha’s desire. We urge the Japanese government to break away with the “nuclear deterrence” doctrine and sign and ratify the TPNW. Let us strengthen our signature campaign, dialog and the campaign to urge local governments to request Japan’s participation in the TPNW. For the break from the “nuclear umbrella”, let us demand the abrogation of the Japan-US secret nuclear arrangements and the strict observance and the legislation of the Three Non-nuclear Principles.

We must firmly block every move to consolidate the military alliance and build up armament taking advantage of “threats” from Russia, China or North Korea. The revision of Article 9 of the Constitution, Development of “Enemy base attack capability”, massive military expansion, arguments for “nuclear-sharing” and all other actions to “make Japan ‘war-prepared’ under the Japan-US military alliance are the real threat to peace and security of North East Asia, which Japan must not choose to adopt. We demand that the Japanese government should refuse a dangerous response by “strength” against “strength”, and by “nukes” against “nukes”, and that it should actively use diplomacy, making the best of Article 9.

Let us prevent the attempted revision of Article 9, oppose the build-up of “enemy base attack capability”, doubling military expenditures or any other move for a major military expansion and consolidation of the Japan-US military alliance, and get the war legislations repealed. In solidarity with the struggle of the “All-Okinawa” coalition, let us make the construction of a new Marine base at Henoko reversed while winning the immediate return of the Futenma base. Let us win the Okinawa gubernatorial election in coming September. We call for an active diplomacy based on the Constitution to help realize denuclearization of Korean Peninsula and peace building in East Asia. Let us reinforce solidarity between citizens between Japan and Korea and other countries in East Asia for peace. Let us strengthen the fund-raising for the relief of the Agent Orange victims in Vietnam.

We will build a huge cooperation for human dignity, reaching hand in hand with movements for Zero nuclear power plants, stop the climate crisis, overcoming poverty and inequality, reduction of military expenditures and improvement of living, welfare and education, gender equality and expansion of rights for the LGBT community, and for all other demands for more humanly lives and livings. Let us open the future together with the Hibakusha and young generations of people.

No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, No More Hibakusha, No More Wars! Let us make Nagasaki remain the last place of the A-bomb suffering.

August 9, 2022
Nagasaki Day Rally, 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Opening Plenary 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs - Hiroshima (August 4)



Organizer's Keynote Report:

Noguchi Kunikazu
Steering Committee Co-Chair,
Organizing Committee of the World
Conference against A & H Bombs



Dear friends who are attending the 2022 World Conference in-person or online, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my hearty greetings of welcome and solidarity to you on behalf of the organizers.

This conference takes place from August 4 to 9 under the main theme of “With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapons-Free, Peaceful and Just World -- for the Future of Humankind and Our Planet”. Because of COVID-19, the previous two World Conferences were held mainly online. This year, we are again meeting online, but, in parallel, for the first time in 3 years, these meetings are also taking place in-person in the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let us congratulate ourselves for this.

We will have among us governmental representatives from Austria, Mexico and Malaysia, countries working at the forefront of the promotion of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Representatives of peace movements from the Asia-Pacific region, South Korea in particular, striving to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and build a peace regime, are also participating in the conference. Peace movement representatives as well as dedicated grassroots activists who are playing significant roles at the forefront of the struggle for the elimination of nuclear weapons are also coming from Europe and North America. And we will hear a representative from the Ukrainian peace

movement fighting the invaders in very difficult conditions.

From around Japan, we will have a variety of people who are active on different fronts, including the Hibakusha, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, people working on the petition calling on the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW, those who oppose increases in military spending and revision of Article 9 of the Constitution, those leading the struggles against nuclear power plants, against US military bases and for their removal, and those who suffered the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident.

According to the Ministry of Health and Labor, the average age of Hibakusha who are holders of the A-bomb Survivor's Certificate is 84.53 years (as of March 2022), exceeding 84 years for the first time, while the number of the Hibakusha who are still living (ditto) is 118,935, going below 120,000 for the first time. The Hibakusha are growing old rapidly. My sincere respects to you Hibakusha, for your tireless work in and out of Japan to make the public understand the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. Please, take good care of yourselves, dear Hibakusha.

This year, the 77th since the atomic bombing, we must once again embrace the demand of Hibakusha to see nuclear weapons abolished while they are alive. And for this, we need more than ever to massively disseminate facts and knowledge about the atomic bombing, to strengthen and expand public opinion and the movement to get the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW and commit to a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Throughout the world, five hundred and 80 million people have contracted COVID-19 and 6.4 million of them have died. The damage inflicted by the pandemic is particularly serious among the poor, migrants, refugees, indigenous people and other socially vulnerable groups. Destruction of the natural environment, poverty and socio-economic gaps, severe cuts in public services – including health care, social services, education etc. – testify to the collapse of neoliberal policies. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute estimates that the world's total military spending in 2021 amounted to 2 trillion 113 billion dollars. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that increases in armaments are useless for preventing contagion.

It is astonishing that despite the serious blow the world economy sustained because of COVID-19, nuclear powers such as the US, China, India, UK, Russia and France, have continued to increase their arsenals. These countries should instead understand that the money they spend on weapons,

including funds they use for modernizing these weapons, is preventing the improvement of living conditions and employment of their peoples, as well as healthcare, social welfare, education and other public services. If human resources used in military research and development were re-allocated to and used for non-military research and development, our living would be far better than now.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a savage crime that tramples on the U.N. Charter and international humanitarian law. The urgent special session of the U.N. General Assembly convened twice last March adopted on the 2nd of that month a resolution calling for an immediate withdrawal of Russian troops (141 countries voting in favor) and another resolution on the 24th calling for complete implementation of the GA resolution, observance of international humanitarian law and solution of the humanitarian crisis (140 countries voting in favor).

It is also extremely serious that President Putin and others are threatening the countries supporting Ukraine and their populations with potential use of nuclear weapons. The TPNW, which entered into force in January 2021, prohibits the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. The threat of use made by President Putin has vividly shown the danger of nuclear deterrence logic and, at the same time, it has made clear that the only guaranteed way for humankind to escape the catastrophic use of nuclear weapons is to ban and eliminate these weapons.

There are 13,000 nuclear warheads in the world of which 2,000 are placed on "high alert status", ready to be fired toward the target within minutes. Ms. Setsuko Thurlow, a Hibakusha of Hiroshima living in Canada, said that nuclear weapons have not been used for 77 years since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, merely because luck was on the side of the nuclear abolition movement.

In the current highly computerized nuclear weapons system, a nuclear explosion or a nuclear war could occur by accident or by mishandling. The risk of cyberattack is also increasing. Scientists warn that even a limited use of small nuclear weapons could bring about major climate change and cause global famine, threatening the survival of humanity. We cannot count on our good fortune anymore to ensure our security.

Over 80 countries and regions participated in the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW, held in June in Vienna. They adopted the "Vienna Declaration" and the "Vienna Program of Action" for achieving "a world without nuclear weapons".

The Declaration says: "Far from preserving

peace and security, nuclear weapons are used as instruments of policy, linked to coercion, intimidation and heightening of tensions.” It thus expresses the determination of participants, saying, “We will not rest until the last state has joined the Treaty, the last warhead has been dismantled and destroyed and nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated from the Earth.” We find here the world’s mainstream. Currently, the 10th NPT Review Conference is being held at the UN Headquarters in New York from August 1 to 26.

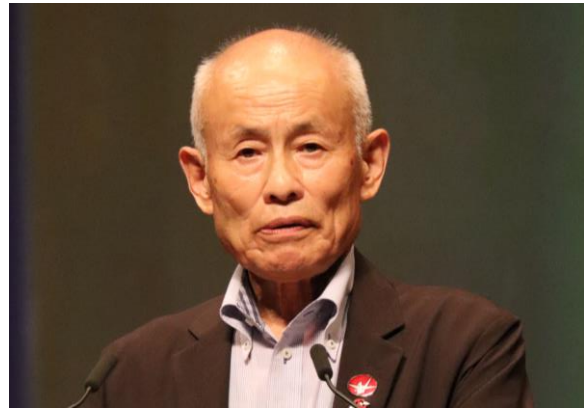
The NPT Review Conference should be developed and made a forum for building an international public opinion strong enough to press for the implementation of the measures agreed upon, including the Article 6 obligation on nuclear disarmament and the “unequivocal undertaking ... to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament” by both the nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states. In order to attain this goal, we need to push more strongly to promote cooperation and joint efforts among the UN, national governments and grassroots civil society.

The true players that make international politics advance are not a small number of big countries, but the governments and grassroots civil societies of a large number of countries. It is therefore important to build and strengthen public opinion and the movement in each of these countries. Let us stop Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and restore the order of peace based on the UN Charter. Let us work to quickly bring an end to COVID-19 and allocate money spent on armaments to the wellbeing of the people. Let us develop solidarity and cooperation worldwide to realize a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Let me conclude by expressing my wish that the World Conference which starts today will accelerate the tide towards the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and contribute to the goal of denuclearization and establishment of a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, and that it will be a groundbreaking meeting that proposes a concrete direction that will engage broad sectors of people to press the Japanese government to join the TPNW and make full use of our country’s Constitution to implement diplomacy for peace.

Greetings on behalf of the Hibakusha:

Mimaki Toshiyuki
Co-Chairperson, Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations
(Nihon Hidankyo)



My name is Mimaki Toshiyuki. I am a hibakusha living in Hiroshima.

I wonder what was in the minds of those in the Japanese Army when they decided to launch a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 8, 1941. Without the awareness of the Japanese people, a handful of politicians and military officials drove Japan into a war. Many people lost their lives and properties in a war that continued until August 15, 1945. The decisive blow that brutally ended that war, which had been initiated by the State leadership, was the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today, as we look back, we realize the massive extent and immeasurable gravity of the crimes the Japanese military committed.

Little children and infants, whose birth was celebrated by their families, could only enjoy two or three years of life before they were killed. As for those so-called “A-bomb orphans”, I can hardly imagine how they managed to survive in the harsh postwar world without their parents’ protection. Under the militarist ideology that prevailed 80 years ago, precious human lives were sacrificed without any hesitation.

For those of us living in Hiroshima, to look at the A-bomb Dome and bow our heads before the cenotaph became part of our daily routine. The US B-29 Bomber, Enola Gay, dropped the atomic bomb Little Boy slightly to the east of the A-Bomb Dome at 8:15 in the morning of August 6, 1945. The bomb exploded in mid-air, around 600 meters above the ground. Heat rays of 3,000 degrees, blasts of several hundred thousand atmospheric pressures, and fires assaulted people and buildings. People were killed instantly or burnt to death under

the collapsed buildings. When it exploded, the bomb emitted intense heat rays and radiation in all directions and produced ultrahigh atmospheric pressure. The air around the bomb expanded to form the blast. The combined effects of these three factors were tremendous and caused catastrophic damage. Many people died in the following few days. In fact, after the bombing, many people who went into Hiroshima from the suburbs for rescue operations were exposed to invisible radiation. By the end of that year, 140,000 people had died in Hiroshima. With their chromosome structures destroyed by radioactive rays, those who barely escaped instantaneous death passed away during the months that followed. Today, seventy-seven years later, many people are still hospitalized suffering from aftereffects of the A-bomb radiation. The use of nuclear weapons is cruel and has tragic consequences. It produces nothing good. It only produces unspeakable anger in people's hearts.

It can be said with no exaggeration that 1945 was the year Japan committed another in a succession of blunders over its long history since ancient times. The US Great Air Raid Campaign on Tokyo on March 10, 1945 is said to have killed 100,000 people within one single night. At the time, I was living in Tokyo's Itabashi Ward with my parents. We were safe because we were away from the air raid area. If the Japanese generals and politicians had decided to accept surrender at that point, there would have been no air raids on other major cities and no ground battles would have taken place in Okinawa, like those that took the lives of 200,000 people of all ages, accounting for one-fourth of the Okinawan population. War is cruel and tragic, and we gain nothing from anger or outrage.

In order not to repeat these mistakes, we Hibakusha must pass on to future generations our stories about the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, the average age of the Hibakusha now exceeds 84 years.

In 2017, the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and it came into force last year.

Conscientious efforts must be made to prevent the memories of the A-bombing from fading away. To that end, I hope that all politicians of each country in the world draw lessons from the tragedies that took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 77 years ago. The events are not "old stories" or "folkloric tales."

Right now, about 13,000 nuclear weapons exist in the world. The preamble of the TPNW refers to Hibakusha in the following terms: "Mindful of the unacceptable suffering of and

harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons (hibakusha)." The TPNW is a groundbreaking treaty because it prohibits the development, the possession, the use and the threat of use of nuclear weapons. More than 60 countries have ratified the treaty, but nuclear weapon states and their non-nuclear allies under their nuclear umbrella, including Japan, have not signed or ratified it.

Friends around the world, please imagine what would have happened to you if you had been in Hiroshima on August 6, 77 years ago. If we want the human race to last indefinitely, nuclear weapons, the most dangerous threat to our survival, should be totally eradicated from the earth. There is no other way.

If those who died could be brought back to life, I would wish for every single person who died in the A-bombing to be revived and come back to Hiroshima. The love between parents and children, the love between husband and wife, opportunities for children to learn, and family bonds were mercilessly taken away. When I think about it, I am filled with so much pain and sadness that I cannot help crying.

Friends around the world, for the sake of humanity, let us continue to cry out loud the call for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Guest Speaker:

**Ambassador Alexander Kmentt
Director, Disarmament, Arms Control
and Nonproliferation Department,
Federal Ministry for European and
International Affairs, Austria**



It is a pleasure to send greetings to the participants of the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs and would like to thank the

organisers for inviting me to speak to you. It is a great honour for me.

I came to Hiroshima in person in 2014 and addressed this conference. Being in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and speaking to many Hibakusha left a profound impression on me. Back then, I was preparing the 2014 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. At this conference in December 2014, as you may know, the Austrian Foreign Minister presented the Austrian – later the Humanitarian – Pledge. It was subsequently supported by more than 130 states and paved the way for the negotiations of the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Today, 8 years later, I have the pleasure of speaking to you again at this conference. The TPNW is now a treaty in force and its States Parties have just last month had their first Meeting of states parties. I had the great honour of presiding over this historic conference and facilitating its preparations.

The very first time that states Parties come together is a very important moment for any a new treaty. It is the moment where the new norm must be established and consolidated and the implementation of the treaty put on the right path.

If States Parties get things wrong at the 1st MSP it is much harder to correct it later.

For the TPNW, this 1st Conference was even more important. Firstly, because Nuclear weapons and the TPNW are very contested issues. Secondly, and more importantly, because virtually every aspect regarding nuclear weapons is pointing in the wrong direction and the overall trends are very disconcerting:

- We have seen explicit threats of using NWs by Russia, a depository state of the NPT, in the context of an invasion against a NNWS
- Partly as a result of this, We see a worrying re-focus in some states on the belief in nuclear deterrence theory;
- We have seen nuclear threats being made also in other contexts
- We have seen already for several years – massive nuclear modernisation programs and also the developments of new nuclear weapons and delivery systems
- There is increasingly dangerous and strident nuclear rhetoric, including about the “usability” of tactical nuclear weapons. Such irresponsible talk undermines the taboo against the use of NWs
- Nuclear Proliferation drivers are getting stronger and more dangerous
- We have seen legal instruments and arms control agreements not implemented and some of them terminated
- The nuclear disarmament process in the NPT

and so-called step-by-step approach has lost much of its credibility

- And geopolitical tensions are on the rise
All this results in and fuels highly disconcerting arms race dynamics and – as far as nuclear weapons are concerned – we are unfortunately already in such an arms race.

So, we are confronted with these trends that all point in a very dangerous direction – except for the TPNW.

It is the one development in the nuclear weapons field that gives rise to hope.

In this treaty – where States Parties and civil society are working together – with a great sense of responsibility - to establish an alternative way forward on nuclear weapons. This is what makes the TPNW so precious and so important. It points the way out of the precarious trap of nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence and tries to build global support for the urgency of nuclear disarmament and for a security approach that is not based on the threat of mass destruction.

The 1MSP was a very successful, substantive and important conference.

Firstly, the conference demonstrated the seriousness of the TPNW and its arguments. We prepared all our decisions diligently and cooperatively.

We took important decisions to put the implementation of the treaty on a very good track. We adopted, for example, an action plan with concrete steps to work on victim assistance and environmental remediation. These are ground-breaking steps that were never before included into a nuclear weapons related treaty.

We also took decisions of how to promote the universalisation of the treaty. One aspect is how to get more states to join this treaty. The second aspect is how to promote the cogent arguments on the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons which underpin the TPNW and how to engage with those states that so far do not support this treaty.

We took decisions on how to further develop verification provisions.

We took decisions on harnessing scientific advice for the TPNW and its implementation.

And we established innovative and flexible formats of cooperation on how states parties will work on the implementation of the treaty.

Very importantly, TPNW agreed on a strong political declaration. I believe it is the strongest multilateral document on nuclear disarmament ever. It clearly sets out the arguments in favour of the TPNW, the urgency for progress on nuclear disarmament and it is the most unequivocal repudiation of nuclear threats and of the precarious

theory of nuclear deterrence.

I am convinced that the Vienna declaration – represents the position on nuclear weapons that is shared by the 150 States that reject nuclear weapons and an approach to international security that is based on the permanent threat of mass destruction.

With the TPNW we now have a legal framework that allows the majority of non-nuclear states to express their positions and reject the legitimacy of the nuclear status quo. This is more important today than probably ever before.

Due to the negative developments that outlined before, I believe that we are at a threshold moment when it comes to nuclear weapons.

We will either see a slide into a nuclear arms race dynamic. This would be very dangerous and to the detriment of our common security and would potentially put our very existence at stake.

If we do not take urgent action and change course, this is where we are heading right now.

Or, we use this dangerous moment as a collective wakeup call to take credible and directional steps away from the nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence and mass destruction paradigm.

We will never achieve real progress on nuclear disarmament as long as some actors believe that these weapons are indispensable, that they provide security and status.

Nuclear disarmament will be possible once all stakeholders understand that the permanent threat of mass destruction cannot be a sustainable basis for an international security system; that these weapons pose unacceptable risks to all humanity and the entire planet and that nuclear deterrence is thus not a responsible policy and needs to be overcome.

It is simply naïve to believe that the permanent threat with nuclear weapons will always remain a threat only and that these weapons will not be used.

We see the precariousness of this approach right in front of our eyes and it is getting more dangerous the longer this situation persists.

It is no doubt difficult to extract oneself from the seemingly convincing logic of nuclear deterrence but it is an existential necessity.

The TPNW and the scientific and empirically demonstrable conclusions on the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons provide the arguments that can help the international community to take the necessary steps away from nuclear weapons.

This is the rationale of the TPNW and, at the same time, its strength and transformational potential.

These arguments need to be made more

forcefully and by more and more stakeholders and whenever and wherever possible.

The NPT Review Conference that is taking place right now is one important moment to do this, even though or maybe especially because the global security context is so difficult.

But of course, the commemoration of the atomic bomb explosions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is the most pertinent place to highlight the need for a profound change on the nuclear weapons issue.

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In the past 77 years – we have failed to remove the existential threat of nuclear weapons.

We have not sufficiently listened to the warnings and experiences of Hibakusha and victims of nuclear weapons testing.

We have failed to heed the declared wish of the UN General Assembly as expressed already in its very 1st resolution in early 1946.

How different would the situation be today if at this moment after WWII, different decisions would have been taken.

Instead almost 80 years later the existential danger of nuclear weapons is still there and it is getting more precarious every day.

The risks of nuclear conflict – or of accidents and miscalculation – is higher today than it has been in decades.

Since 1945, 3 generations have tried but failed to solve this issue and we now know how often we were saved essentially by luck in these past decades.

We cannot continue to postpone the solution to this issue to an undefined future and burden generation after generation to living with this existential threat.

But let me end on a more optimistic note. We have the solution to this issue in front of us.

With the TPNW, we have the legal and argumentative basis to move away from nuclear weapons.

I am optimistic - because I believe in the power of arguments and the possibility of change. I am optimistic because of the strength of the Treaty's arguments and the evidence on the humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons – and – frankly – because we do not really have a choice if we do not want to continue to live in permanence with the threat of nuclear war – and potential global destruction looming over our heads.

What we do not yet have, is the political will in those states that still think they must rely on these weapons.

It will be up to civil society and through a much broader societal engagement on this existential issue to make sure that this changes.

It will require people who look at the world from a global – from a common security – perspective, who understand how interconnected we are and who do not accept the “threat of global annihilation” logic as a foundation of security.

Let me quote Albert Einstein from a letter to the EMERGENCY COMMITTEE of ATOMIC SCIENTISTS on January 1947.

I quote: “Through the release of atomic energy, our generation has brought into the world the most revolutionary force since prehistoric man's discovery of fire. This basic power of the universe cannot be fitted into the outmoded concept of narrow nationalisms. For there is no secret and there is no defense; there is no possibility of control except through the aroused understanding and insistence of the peoples of the world.” (end of quote)

The “insistence of the peoples of the World” is what forms the basis of the TPNW and what I hope civil society and the next generation will accomplish.

Let me salute civil society in Japan for your engagement and your commitment.

And for your support for the TPNW.

Thank you.

Greetings of Solidarity:

Hama Noriko
Economist, Professor at Doshisha
Business School



I feel grateful and honored to be given this opportunity to speak today.

Thank goodness that the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs exists. This is how I feel at this time. For, as Ambassador Kmentt said, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has made the threat of nuclear warfare a real and

present danger. And that is not all. The Japanese government is cynically trying to make use of this danger to bulldoze through increases in the military budget. The financing for this looks set to come from even more government bond issues.

The very idea of taking advantage of the horrific suffering of the Ukrainian people and using it as an excuse for an arms buildup is so bizarre and of such a low level that one cannot but be stunned. And the government is trying to achieve this by accumulating even more debt. It has treated the Bank of Japan as its subsidiary for money providing purposes and is stepping up to ensure such a status of the BOJ.

It was early June that the late Prime Minister Abe Shinzo professed that the BOJ was the government's subsidiary, which proved the long-standing attitude of the Japanese government. And Prime Minister Kishida, who actually hails from Hiroshima, is to host next year's G7 Summit in this city. Yet he refuses even to refer to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The purpose for existence of the government ought to be to serve the people. Its most essential mission is to relieve the vulnerable. To give a helping hand to people in distress should be the fundamental role, or the *raison d'être* of any government. However, successive LDP governments since Abe's time have ignored this mission and gone forth in the relentless pursuit of a growth strategy aimed at creating a large and strong economy. And this situation is getting worse and worse, both in Japan and internationally.

We will not turn a blind eye to this dire situation. We will never allow the use of nuclear weapons to happen. This powerful voice is about to spread from this World Conference against A and H Bombs to every nook and cranny of the globe. I am thankful for this voice and find it greatly reassuring.

Moreover this voice is being raised this year from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the two victim cities of nuclear bombings. This voice has a particularly powerful force and can be likened to that “voice of one crying out in the wilderness” of Biblical renown.

As a Catholic, I draw a variety of inspiration from the Bible. That was really the case this time as well. That “voice in the wilderness” is the voice of the prophet. It is the voice that brings the message of God to people on earth. It is the voice that is addressed to those within from without. It is the voice that brings warning and encouragement to those trapped within walls – walls that make people blind to tense realities. This voice is the voice of all of you assembled for this year's Conference. Yours is the modern day “voice of one

crying out in the wilderness". You are the modern-day prophets. Glory to you!

Declaration to launch the "Peace Wave 2022":

Obata Masako
President, National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren)

At the conclusion of today's Opening Plenary, I hereby declare the launching of the "Peace Wave" action, which the Organizing Committee of the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs has called for worldwide.

The "Peace Wave" is a joint grassroots action that will encircle the globe from today, August 4 to 9, with Hiroshima and Nagasaki as its starting points, upholding the common goal of abolishing nuclear weapons. It is a wave of grassroots actions held around the world to deliver people's voices, "Don't use nuclear weapons" and "Keep your

promise to achieve a world without nuclear weapons" to the NPT Review Conference now taking place in New York City.

In response to our calls, a variety of actions are being planned throughout the world, including an A-bomb exhibition in Germany, commemorative rallies on Hiroshima and Nagasaki days in France, anti-nuclear rallies in London and Manchester, U.K., a candlelight vigil in New York State, Hiroshima-Nagasaki day ceremonies in Massachusetts, USA, and an online rally in Canada. In Japan, many kind of actions are being planned throughout the country, including exhibitions of A-bomb photos and A-bomb paintings by high school students, signature drives and public information events, standing actions with placards, meetings to listen to Hibakusha's testimonies, ringing of the peace bells, peace talks, and peace concerts. As of yesterday, nearly 200 action plans have been received from 20 prefectures.

Dear friends, let's expand the "Peace Wave" actions and spread the message of "Don't use nuclear arms; Eliminate nuclear weapons" to every prefecture in Japan and all over the world until the 9th of August.

Messages from Heads/Leaders of National Governments and International Organizations

Michael D. Higgins
President
Ireland

May I send my best wishes to all those participating in the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

This year's World Conference takes place after the first Meeting of States Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna. Ireland was encouraged and inspired by the energetic engagement of civil society, including representatives of *hibakusha* at the TPNW. The Meeting demonstrated the will of the international community for urgent progress on nuclear disarmament and cemented the TPNW firmly as part of the international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture.

Almost eighty years now separate us from the catastrophic atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, the consequences of those terrible events continue to cast their long shadow,

reminding us of our collective responsibility to ensure they are never repeated.

In this time of starkly heightened nuclear risk, and dangerous nuclear rhetoric, let us remember the testimonies of the hibakusha who have made such a generous and courageous contribution to global efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. As we remember those stories, that speak so starkly of the frightening inhumanity that was unleashed at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let us reaffirm our commitment to work together to address the challenge of nuclear disarmament.

Now, more than ever, the threat of nuclear weapons looms large. It is vital that all nations stand shoulder to shoulder, working in solidarity to eliminate all risk of nuclear attack. It is only by working together, as one committed international community, that our hope for a world free of all threats posed by nuclear weapons can become a lived reality.

I join you in recommitting to this collective endeavour and wish you a most successful Conference.

Thongloun Sisoulith
President
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, would like to extend my warm greetings and sincere congratulations to the Organizing Committee and all participants attending the 2022 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs on 04-09 August 2022 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

The year of 2022 is a significant milestone for international community to further strengthen global efforts to ensure lasting peace and a nuclear-free world for the future of humankind, in particular the convening of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on 21-23 June 2022, in Vienna, Austria, following the entry into force of the TPNW on 22 January 2021, the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) currently held in New York, USA, from 01-26 August 2022, and the 2022 World Conference in Japan.

I am confident that the 2022 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs will continue to provide an important platform for all participants to exchange views in a frank and constructive manner in order to contribute to promoting the cooperation of international community in addressing this global issue, as well as seeking appropriate measures and actions to prevent the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs that would endanger all people in the world while promoting the settlement of international conflicts by peaceful means.

I wish the 2022 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs great success.

Nguyen Xuan Phuc
President
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

I am very glad to know that the 2022 World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs will be held in Japan after more than two years under COVID-19 pandemic impact. On behalf of the State and the People of Vietnam and in my own name, I would like to extend our respectful and cordial greetings to all participants in the Conference.

Over the past nearly seventy years, the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs,

along with other peace movements in Japan and throughout the world, have made tireless endeavors for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons. Thanks to those and other efforts, the world has registered positive progress with the adoption of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1968, the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2017 and the TPNW's entry into force in 2021.

Nevertheless, the world has been witnessing utterly complicated developments due to major powers' strategic competition, rising great-power politics, militarization and arms race, unilateral actions in the use or threat of force, leading to an accelerated nuclear arms race and a potential danger of nuclear war. We are all well aware that world peace and nations' security can only be built on the basis of respect for and compliance with the principles of international law, including the United Nations Charter, particularly principles governing respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs of states, settlement of disputes by peaceful means, no use or threat of force, as well as on the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation and with sincerity, trust and responsibility.

Being a responsible member of the international community, Vietnam has always been supporting and making active contributions to nuclear disarmament efforts. We call on all nations, peace movements and every person on Earth to continue joining hands in the struggle for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, for preventing wars and conflicts in the future.

I believe that the 2022 World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, along with the outcomes of the First Meeting of the TPNW's States Parties and the Tenth NPT Review Conference, will generate an important impetus, contributing to building a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

On behalf of the State and the People of Vietnam, once more, I would like to express our solidarity with and support for the victims of atomic bombs, Agent Orange victims and all other war victims. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to peace organizations and movements, as well as peace-loving people in Japan and around the world for the support they reserved to Vietnam's past struggles for national independence as well as present efforts in national construction and defense.

On this occasion, I would like to express my sincere feelings of friendship and best wishes to the people of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and all over Japan.

May I wish all participants in the Conference

good health, peacefulness, happiness and success.
(Unofficial translation)

Peter Maurer
President
International Committee of the Red Cross
(ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) extends its deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) for its long-standing efforts to preserve and uphold the testimonies and memory of the Hibakusha and other victims of the atomic bombings in 1945 and to provide assistance to survivors.

We, at the ICRC and the Japanese Red Cross Society, witnessed first-hand the suffering and devastation brought upon ordinary citizens – women, men, boys and girls – of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as we tried, in near-impossible conditions, to assist the dying and injured. We, along with so many others, have since been saying “never again”.

Today, after decades of persistence and determination, a treaty establishing a global, unequivocal, comprehensive prohibition of nuclear weapons – the most catastrophic weapons ever created – is a reality. We owe this reality largely to the unwavering courage and hope of survivors of nuclear weapons use and testing, who drove our efforts since the beginning and who never cease to inspire us.

The continued existence of nuclear weapons is one of the biggest threats for humanity. There are currently more than 13,000 of these weapons in the world, many on high alert status, ready to be launched at a moment’s notice. The risk that they may be used again is unacceptable. Such use would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences, capable of endangering the very survival of our planet.

If a nuclear weapon were to detonate in or near a populated area, no State or international body could adequately address the immediate humanitarian emergency nor the long-term consequences, nor provide sufficient assistance to victims.

At a time when, against the backdrop of the conflict in Ukraine, nuclear deterrence theories seem to be regaining vigour, it is critical to refocus

the debate on the human cost of nuclear weapons. This is the benchmark against which the moral, ethical and legal acceptability of a weapon is to be judged, and deterrence theories are to be evaluated.

Indeed, while the professed purpose of nuclear deterrence is to maintain national and regional security, the existence of nuclear weapons poses major risks to human security – including health and well-being, and environmental, food and economic security.

In light of these consequences, in the ICRC’s view, it is extremely doubtful that nuclear weapons could ever be used in accordance with the rules and principles of international humanitarian law. Moreover, any use of nuclear weapons would be abhorrent to the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience. Any threat to use nuclear weapons is in the ICRC’s view equally abhorrent because it implies the possibility of actually using them.

On 23 June 2022, the First Meeting of States Parties to the historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons took important decisions for the future implementation of the Treaty, including measures to assist the victims of nuclear weapons use and testing and to remediate the natural environment affected. The TPNW brings us one step closer to a nuclear-weapon-free-world, although the road ahead is still long. The ICRC calls on all States that have not yet done so to join the TPNW without delay.

Also, in June this year, the entire Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement reaffirmed its commitment to work towards the elimination of nuclear weapons through the adoption of a strong resolution and an ambitious multi-year action plan.

As the 10th Review Conference to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons unfolds, we call on States Parties to keep the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons at the centre of their deliberations and to urgently take concrete steps to implement their nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments. Nuclear-weapon States and their allies have a particular responsibility in this respect.

Eliminating nuclear weapons is an urgent humanitarian imperative. Keeping the experience and testimonies of the hibakusha alive, including through educating the younger generation, is crucial to achieve this goal.

I wish you every success for this conference and for your future work.

International Meeting 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs (August 4-5)

Main Theme:

With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World – for the Future of Humankind and Our Planet

Session I:

Inhumane nature of nuclear weapons

Introductory Speakers:

Kodama Michiko
Hibakusha of Hiroshima, Assistant
Secretary General, Nihon Hidankyo



Dear friends assembled in the International Meeting of the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak before you on behalf of the Hibakusha.

Seventy-seven years have passed since those days of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The first two atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. They destroyed the two cities instantly, claiming so many lives mercilessly. Those who miraculously survived the initial attacks have inscribed the hellish scenes, sounds, voices and smells in their memories, and quietly endured the economic hardship, prejudice and discrimination in the society through these years until today.

I was inside a wooden school building in Hiroshima. I was 7 years old and a second grader of a primary school. Suddenly I felt a blinding flash. The next moment, the ceiling of the building collapsed, and sharp splinters of windowpanes flew all around. Fortunately I suffered only minor injuries from broken glass.

On my way home, carried on the back of my father, who managed to come to the school to find me, I witnessed hell on earth: I saw many people with their skins burned heavily and peeled off; A mother was carrying a baby, who was burned-black like charcoal; She, too, was heavily burned all over her body; Some people, whose eyeballs were popped out or who were holding their protruding intestines in their hands, desperately tried to take refuge. Many people tried to cling on to us, saying, “Give me water, water, water...” But we just left them and hurried home, unable to give them any kind of help.

I should have lost my life that day. Until shortly before the bomb was dropped, my house was near the hypocenter, and I went to school about 350 meters from the hypocenter. But my family moved 3.5 km away from where the bomb was dropped, and I also changed schools. If we had not moved, my family and I would not have survived. I later heard that about 400 children and 11 teachers who were at the school that day were burned to death in an instant and their bones could not be found.

Those who barely survived the bombing died one after another of unknown causes: My female cousin, who was like my older sister, died in my arms. And my 10-year-old boy cousin, who was only slightly injured, died suddenly in front of my

eyes in early September, vomiting up a mass of blood. The cruel sight of my cousins those days remains etched in my mind. The atomic bomb did not allow people to die as humans or to live as humans. 77 years have passed, but "that day" has remained with me.

Both my mother and father died from cancer. In the midst of discrimination and prejudice, I got married. When I became pregnant, I was in agony and wondered if radiation would affect my daughter, whom I raised after making the decision to have her. In November 2010, she developed cancer and passed away in February following year. She was a cheerful and active daughter.

In 2017, they year when the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted, my youngest brother, who was born after the war, died in October from multiple myeloma. Another younger brother, who was 5 years old in 1945, died in December from multiple cancer. The atomic bomb killed my two brothers successively. I am filled with frustration and loneliness.

And every day, I am wondering if I will be the next to die. A-bomb survivors cannot escape the atomic bombing for the rest of their lives.

We the Hibakusha continue to convey the reality and aftereffects of the A-bomb damage to the people both in Japan and internationally, so that no one in the world should experience the same hellish suffering we have gone through.

However, the government of Japan, the only A-bombed country in the world, continues to turn its back on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Just because of this tragic experience, Japan must join the TPNW and take the lead in abolishing nuclear weapons.

But by refusing to participate as an observer in the TPNW Meeting of States Parties, the Japanese government has missed an important opportunity to act as a bridge builder between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states, which it always claimed to aim. This is truly regrettable.

I hope that Prime Minister Kishida, who is participating in the ongoing NPT Review Conference, will proactively call for the immediate implementation of "the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon states to achieve the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals," which was reaffirmed in 2010. The NPT, which entered into force in 1970, has passed long 50 years in 2020.

Whenever I see reports of Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, that day 77 years ago comes back to my mind, and I am filled with sadness and tears. For whom are they fighting a war in which families are being torn apart and the lives of children, the elderly, and other non-combatants are being lost one after another? Under the tense

situation of nuclear threats, we cannot allow the A-bomb hell to reappear, for whatever reason. The very existence of nuclear weapons on the earth itself is inhumane.

We call for a major step toward the abolition of nuclear weapons by shifting from a security policy based on nuclear deterrence to a security policy based on mutual trust. We, the A-bomb survivors, appeal to you from the bottom of our hearts. If nuclear war breaks out, the human race will be annihilated. The only way to save humanity from extinction is to abolish nuclear weapons.

We are at a crossroads, whether to leave a safe and secure blue earth to the next generations who will be the bearers of the future world, or whether to choose the path of destruction. I appeal once again to all of you gathered here. The only way to protect the lives and safety of the human beings is to abolish nuclear weapons. Civil society members of all nations and regions of the world, let us work together to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons. Hibakusha will continue to tell the reality of the A-bomb damage and appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons as long as we can.

Thank you very much.

Lee Gyu-yeol
President, Korean Atomic Bomb
Casualty Association
Republic of Korea



Do you know that there were more than 100,000 Koreans among the victims of the atomic bombings?

We Hibakusha do not fail to commemorate August 6 and 9, 1945 and humbly pray for the souls of those who died on those days so that they rest in peace.

Dear peace-loving citizens of the international community who are taking part in the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs for peace and a nuclear weapon-free world, I am very happy to see you. I extend my greetings of appreciation and encouragement to the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, Mr.

Tanaka Terumi and other fellow Hibakusha of Nihon Hidankyo as well as those involved in the organization of this World Conference for their hard work to make it possible.

As we look back, we see that 77 years have already passed since that day in 1945 where more than 100,000 Koreans were exposed to the atomic explosion. Some 50,000 of them were killed on the spot while 50,000 others survived. The survivors, however, were all wounded by the tremendous force of the bomb. Korean survivors in particular, even heavily hurt, were sometimes denied admission to hospitals only because they were Koreans. Those who returned to Korea with the joy of liberation, suffered from lingering wounds and aftereffects of the exposure to the bomb. Some of them, with nobody to turn to, sunk into despair while others died in terrible agony because of lack of food.

Our organization, the Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association, was formed by the Korean Hibakusha who suffered rather minor injuries and were able to go back home. We wanted to create our own organization and took contact with each other first on an individual basis and progressively established a nationwide network in South Korea. Through its fifty-five years of existence, the association has grown to have 2,000 members, and their descendants' association has about 3,000 members. Even now, many of our members are struggling with various illnesses whose causes are unknown.

Despite such circumstances, the Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association, thanks to the support and solidarity of many civil society organizations in Korea and Japan, has been constantly campaigning to promote the human rights and well-being of the Hibakusha and to realize a world free of nuclear weapons and peace.

In March of this year, as Russia began to invade Ukraine, Korean and Japanese Hibakusha joined with a diverse group of global nuclear victims' organizations, and sent a strong message of warning to Russia to criticize its threat of nuclear attack. We urge the governments of South Korea and Japan to immediately join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Hibakusha organizations in Korea and Japan are also sharing information necessary for the peace movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

Together with the Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (SPARK) and other Korean civic groups, our Association is working to organize a citizens' tribunal on the U.S. atomic bombings on the occasion of the 2025 NPT Review Conference. This project aims to hold the U.S. government and others accountable for criminal

as well as civil cases, and to demand an apology and compensation. In this context, we are deeply moved to see law professors, lawyers, and other legal experts, researchers, and civil society activists getting together to jointly work on that project.

Finally, I would like to once again express my gratitude and encouragement to you for your brave endeavor against all odds to abolish nuclear weapons on this earth and establish the universal values of humankind. I wish you all the best.

**Benetick Kabua Maddison
Marshallese Educational Initiative, Inc.,
Marshall Islands**



Iokwe aolep. Greetings to you all.

Immensely grateful to Yayoi for the opportunity to speak at today's event.

On March 7, 1946 – at the age of 2 – my paternal grandmother, Almina Lokiar Maddison, along with 166 other inhabitants of Bikini Atoll in the northern Marshall Islands, departed their homeland with all their belongings. US Navy Commodore Ben Wyatt told my people they were doing so for the “good of all mankind.” The exchange between Wyatt and the Bikinians was filmed and shown worldwide and portrayed as the US asking permission from the Bikini people. The American administration did not want to be accused of forcefully removing people from their ancestral land.

However, the decision had already been made in Washington weeks before, and with powerful warships anchored in the lagoon, my ancestors knew that “no” was not an acceptable answer. Many Bikinians trusted the United States and believed they would return home. That day on Bikini would be my grandmother's last in her ancestral homelands.

Between 1946 and 1958, the United States detonated 67 large-scale atomic and hydrogen weapons in the Marshall Islands, equivalent to

7,200 Hiroshima bombs. The combined destructive force of radiation contamination unleashed by these nuclear weapons vaporized several islands, forced communities to relocate, and rendered numerous islands and atolls unsuitable for human habitation. It also produced a litany of radiation-related illnesses: thyroid, stomach, liver cancer, and leukemia. Women had miscarriages or gave birth to severely deformed babies with translucent skin. Some women birthed what was described as clumps of grapes, or what they called jellyfish babies. Some babies had elongated heads.

Birth defects and cancers are still common in our community. And now, for people whose ancestors frequently lived into their 90s and 100s are dying in their 20s, 30s, and 40s due to illnesses like diabetes brought on by a drastically changed diet—a consequence of forced removal and changes in our traditional lifestyle.

The Marshallese story is much more than one of exploitation and victimization, though. The Marshallese story is also one of activism. We are activists and promoters of a nuclear-free world.

Marshallese have been addressing and raising awareness about the devastating consequences of nuclear testing in our islands since the testing period.

On March 1, 1954, the United States detonated its largest nuclear weapon, Castle Bravo, which rained down fallout on inhabited atolls. On 20 April, Marshallese leaders submitted a petition to the United Nations requesting a halt to nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands because of the increasing number of Marshallese who were removed from their lands and the growing number of those who suffered from radiation sickness. However, the United Nations allowed testing to proceed. A second petition from the Marshallese people in 1956 called for the discontinuation of the U.S. Nuclear Testing Program because of its impact on Marshallese bodies, environment, and culture. At that time, Marshallese were not passive

victims but sought the role of active agents of change, one that the youth of the Marshall Islands have taken up.

Since the late 1950s, the international community and the United Nations have played an important role in nuclear nonproliferation. The United States stopped testing in the Marshall Islands in 1958 due partly to public awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons testing. Despite test bans and treaties, we all continue to live with risk, not only through the threat of nuclear weapons use but due to the continued development of nuclear weapons, which disproportionately impacts communities of color.

My grandmother is still with us. But she will never be able to return to Bikini Atoll and be buried next to her ancestors. However, I hope she and all our Marshallese elders will see nuclear justice achieved in their lifetime.

But the Marshall Islands are faced with another threat: climate change. The country is at an average elevation of two meters above sea level and at risk of disappearing under the waves within this century. In the 1970s', the United States sent 8,000 U.S. servicemen and non-servicemen to construct a dome on Ānewetok Atoll, one of the two places in the country used for nuclear weapons testing, to store nuclear waste from the 67 tests. Environmental experts have warned the government and people of the Marshall Islands that if the country were underwater today, the structure would break open, releasing 3.1 million cubic feet of nuclear debris, including lethal amounts of plutonium, which would have further devastating consequences on the environment and people's health.

With all that in mind, let's continue to move forward in this crucial work by engaging and learning from each other through our work, stories, and efforts for nuclear justice, a nuclear-free world, and a livable planet for all.



Session II:

International rules for peace and prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons -- Role of peace movement

Part 1: Introductory Speakers:

Yurii Sheliashenko
Executive Director, Ukrainian Pacifist Movement
Ukraine



Dear friends, greetings from Kyiv, capital of Ukraine.

Some people could say that I live in wrong place to advocate abolition of atomic and hydrogen bombs. In the world of reckless arms race you can frequently hear that line of argument: Ukraine got rid of nukes and was attacked, therefore, giving up the nuclear weapons was a mistake. I don't think so, because ownership of nuclear weapons causes high risk to be engaged in nuclear war.

When Russia invaded to Ukraine, their missiles flied with horrible roar near my house and exploded in a distance of several kilometers; I am still alive during conventional war, being more lucky than thousands of compatriots; but I doubt I could survive atomic bombing of my city. As you know, it burns human flesh into dust in a moment at ground zero and makes a large area around uninhabitable for a century.

Even supposing, contrary to reality, that Ukraine after dissolution of Soviet Union could keep and maintain local nuclear arsenal, despite systems of control were in Russia, nevertheless that Ukrainian economy was unable to bear the huge burden of nuclear program, all efforts and sacrifices in pursuit of our very own doomsday machine could be in vain,

because mere fact of having nuclear weapons does not prevent war, as we see on example of India and Pakistan.

That's why a goal of general and complete nuclear disarmament is universally recognized norm of international law under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and that's why abolition of Ukrainian nuclear arsenal, third of largest in the world after Russia and United States, was globally celebrated in 1994 as a historical contribution to the world peace and security.

Great nuclear powers too after the end of the Cold War have done their homework for nuclear disarmament. In the 1980s the total stockpile of nukes threatening our planet with Armageddon was five times bigger than now.

Cynical nihilists may call international treaties mere pieces of paper, but Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START I, was palpably effective and resulted in the removal of about 80% of all strategic nuclear weapons in the world.

It was a miracle, like the humankind has removed a rock of uranium from its neck and changed its mind about throwing itself into the abyss.

But now we see that our hopes for historical change were premature. Great powers and their ambitions to rule the world threatening humankind with weapons of mass destruction remain the same. Instead of full elimination of nuclear arsenals, they launched so-called modernization investing in the extinction of humankind insane amounts of public funds desperately needed to sustain declining welfare and deal with climate change.

New arms race began when Russia perceived as a threat deployment of U.S. missile defense systems and NATO expansion in Europe, responding with production of hypersonic missiles able to penetrate the missile defense. The world again moved towards catastrophe accelerated by despicable and irresponsible greed for power and wealth among elites.

In rival radioactive empires, politicians gave in to temptation of cheap glory of superheroes mounting nuclear warheads, and military production complexes with their pocket lobbyists, think-tanks and media sailed the ocean of inflated money.

Militarized patriotism intoxicated societies preventing people from large protests like those of the Cold War epoch. But people are not stupid, they felt insanity of situation, people knew they are robbed. So, demonized images of the enemy were created on both sides to redirect popular anger: that's why the East is usually portrayed as empire of autocracy, and the West is portrayed as empire of lies. These fictional images of the enemy distort perception of reality on both sides creating wrong feeling that negotiations and mutually beneficial agreements with so-called enemy are allegedly impossible, shifting decision-making towards fear and threats instead of hope and encouragement, sacrifices and destruction instead of preservation and development.

During thirty years after the end of Cold War the global conflict between the East and West escalated from economic to military fight for spheres of influence between the United States and Russia.

My country was torn apart in this great power struggle, when society was divided to pro-Western and pro-Russian camps during Orange Revolution in 2004 and ten years later, when United States supported Revolution of Dignity and Russia instigated Russian Spring, both were violent seizures of power by militant nationalists with foreign backing in Center and Western Ukraine, on the one side, and in Donbas and Crimea, on another side. Donbas war started in 2014, took near 15 000 of lives; Minsk II accords approved by UN Security Council in 2015 were not led to reconciliation because of all-or-nothing militarist policies and permanent ceasefire violations on both sides during eight years.

Threatening military maneuvers and drills with nuclear component by Russian and NATO forces in 2021-2022 as well as Ukrainian threat to reconsider non-proliferation commitment because of Russian aggression preceded lethal intensification of ceasefire violations on both sides of the frontline in Donbas (reported by OSCE) and subsequent Russian invasion of Ukraine with internationally condemned announcement of decision to increase the readiness of Russian nuclear forces. If these mad threats will be carried out, millions of people could die.

Even conventional war between Russia and Ukraine already took more than 50 000 lives, more than 8 000 of them civilians, and when the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recently revealed inconvenient truth about war crimes on both sides, the belligerents in chorus protested against such lack of respect to their supposedly heroic crusades.

It is a fact that any war violates human rights, for that reason peaceful resolution of international disputes is prescribed by the United Nations Charter.

Nuclear weapons and mutually assured destruction doctrine represent the utter absurdity of

militarism wrongly justifying the war as a supposedly legitimate instrument of conflict management even if such an instrument is intended to turn whole cities into graveyards, as the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki shows, which is obvious war crime.

While the nuclear warheads threaten to kill all life on our planet, nobody could feel safe, therefore, common security of humankind demands complete removal of this threat to our survival. All sane people in the world should support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which came into force in 2021, but instead we hear from the Nuclear Five states that they refuse to recognize the new norm of international law.

Russian officials say that national security is more important than humanitarian concerns, and U.S. officials basically say that prohibition of nuclear weapons obstructs their enterprise of gathering all free-market nations under U.S. nuclear umbrella, in exchange for great profits of U.S. corporations on these free markets, of course.

I believe it is obvious that such sort of arguments are immoral and nonsensical. No nation, alliance or corporation could benefit from self-destruction of humankind in nuclear war, but irresponsible politicians and merchants of death could easily benefit from deceptive nuclear blackmail if the people allow to intimidate them and turn into slaves of the war machine.

We should not succumb to the tyranny of nukes, it would be disgrace for humanity and disrespect for sufferings of Hibakusha.

Human life is universally valued higher than power and profits, the goal of full disarmament is envisaged by the Non-Proliferation Treaty, so the law and morality is on our side of nuclear abolitionism, as well as realist thinking, because intensive post-Cold-War nuclear disarmament shows that nuclear zero is possible.

Peoples of the world are committed to nuclear disarmament, and Ukraine too committed to nuclear disarmament in the 1990 declaration of sovereignty, so our leaders should respect these commitments instead of undermining them, and if the leaders could not deliver, civil society should raise millions of voices and took the streets to save our lives from provocations of nuclear war.

But make no mistake, we could not get rid of nukes and wars without big changes in our societies. It is impossible to hoard nukes without eventually exploding them, and it is impossible to hoard armies and weapons without bloodshed.

We used to tolerate violent governance and militarized borders that divide us, but one day we must change this attitude, in other case the war system will

remain and will always threaten to cause nuclear war. Big historical changes for worse are already happening in the world, so we need to advocate big historical changes for better to reverse this tendency and to prevent it from happening again.

After all, these big changes for better are already happening, there is invisible worldwide shift from archaic cultural violence towards progressive nonviolent culture of peace. People learn nonviolent conflict resolution from educators, media and practitioners, activists and journalists all the time ask belligerent leaders when they will try seriously to end their barbaric wars, and officers under pressure of international humanitarian law command soldiers to avoid targeting civilians, at least publicly, and it works to some degree, numbers of civilian casualties in Russo-Ukrainian war is lesser than number of military casualties. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is also a big change for a better world. We need to support and develop such big changes.

We need to advocate universal ceasefire in all tens of current wars throughout the world, including the war in Ukraine.

We need serious and comprehensive peace talks to achieve reconciliation not only between Russia and Ukraine but also between the East and West, because with economic rear of United States and European Union on Ukrainian side, with rear of China and Eurasian Economic Union on Russian side belligerents could prolong the bloodshed in Ukraine forever which is horrible scenario for my country and my people. It should not happen.

We need powerful advocacy of peace in civil society and serious peace talks among national leaders to ensure big changes for nonviolent society, more just and peaceful planetary social contract based on abolition of nuclear weapons and full respect for the sacred value of human life.

Omnipresent human rights movements and peace movements done a great job together in 1980s-1990s successfully pressing governments for peace talks and nuclear disarmament, and now when the war machine went out of democratic control almost everywhere, when it tortures common sense and tramples human rights with disgusting and nonsensical apologetics of nuclear war, with helpless complicity of political leaders, it is on us peace-loving people of the world lies a great responsibility to stop this madness.

We should stop the war machine. We should act now, telling the truth loudly, shifting blame from deceptive enemy images to the political and economic system of nuclear militarism, educating people for basics of peace and nonviolent action, upholding our right to refuse to kill, resisting wars with wide variety of well-known peaceful methods, stopping all wars

and building peace.

Now it is time for new solidarity of civilian humankind and collective action in the name of life and hope for future generations.

Let's abolish nukes and build peace on Earth together!

Oleg Bodrov
**North-West Russia Peace Movement/
Public Council of the South Coast of the
Gulf of Finland**
Russia



Dear participants of the conference!

Thanks, Gensuikyo for the excellent organization and the opportunity to discuss our plans for common future without nuclear threats!

I greet you from the Russian side of the Baltic Sea. It is 7,500 km from Hiroshima and 1,000 km from Kiev, Ukraine.

In Ukraine, according to many politicians with whom I agree, there is a confrontation between Russia and NATO. Therefore, this has global consequences, and not only for 41 million Ukrainians and 145 million Russians.

I have many friends in this wonderful country. My wife is 50% Ukrainian. My father was wounded in 1944 during the Second World War and was hospitalized in Ukraine. Ukraine has become my pain which I have been experiencing daily for the last 5 months. To me it looks as if my right hand is attacking my left hand and trying to break it. It's absurd and insane!

Now, after 77 years, the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki could be repeated in Europe. It is difficult for us to imagine its consequences. Russian atomic scientists are proud to say that back in 1961 they tested a thermonuclear bomb with a yield of over 58 Megatons. This is 10 times the total yield of all the

explosives used by all nations in World War II, including the atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Many countries today possess nuclear weapons capable of destroying human civilization many times over. And this scenario is more real than ever.

The geopolitical situation has changed radically since the invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops. In April, the Baltic Peace Movement, including our and about 10 Russian NGOs sent an appeal to the President, Parliament, and Government of Finland. We asked to organize an International Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2025 in the spirit of a similar Helsinki conference in 1975. We suggested too, that Finland should not join NATO until the results of such a conference are summed up in 2025. But our initiative was not heard.

Neutral Finland and Sweden, neighboring Russia, have decided to become members of NATO. This means that the whole Baltic Sea region has become a confrontation zone between NATO and Russia. About 100 million people live here in 11 countries.

So far, the military is only discussing what type of nuclear weapons and under what scenario could be used in the Baltic region. But in fact, on March 4 Russia already used a new type of nuclear weapon in Ukraine. For the first time in world history, the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant was seized with the support of heavy military equipment. Such actions are forbidden by the Geneva Convention and IAEA resolutions, but this is today's reality!

Zaporozhye NPP is the largest NPP in Europe with 6 reactors of total capacity of 6 GW. Dozens of tons of plutonium-239 is contained in spent nuclear fuel on the territory of this nuclear power plant. If extracted, it can be used to make several thousand bombs like those dropped on Nagasaki. But there is no need to retrieve this plutonium! Destroying such a nuclear power plant, even with a non-nuclear weapon, means detonating a dirty atomic bomb. Plutonium with a half-life of 24 thousand years and other long-lived radionuclides could contaminate many thousands square in Europe.

The Zaporozhye NPP is now run by Ukrainian specialists under the control of the Russian military. The International Atomic Energy Agency confirms that it is impossible to guarantee its safety under such conditions. Zaporozhye NPP has effectively become a Russian military base that cannot be attacked because of the dangers of its destruction.

What happened in Ukraine means that countries that have nuclear power plants on their territory can become nuclear victims in a military conflict with countries that do not have nuclear weapons.

The main conclusion from this story is that there is no distinction between so-called military and

peaceful nuclear technologies. They are all dangerous.

So, I support the main message of the conference with a small but important addition: "*Together with Hibakusha, let's create a just and safe world free of nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants.*"

Unfortunately, in Russia right now, civil society cannot influence the military escalation.

In the first weeks of aggression in Ukraine more than 1 million 200 thousand citizens of Russia signed the petition "AGAINST WAR". Students, professors, and graduates of Russian universities spoke out against the war. In many major cities there were numerous protests in the streets. In the same time the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow, the developer of the first Soviet atomic bomb, supported the "special military operation in Ukraine" on March 4.

But within a few weeks the situation changed radically:

- All Russian independent media have been shut down.
- Total propaganda of the war is on state TV channels.
- New laws have been passed that prohibit public criticism of the war (including by MPs); violators must pay hefty fines or/and go to prison.
- There is no independent judiciary; the courts are politically biased.
- The judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are not implemented; the President of Russia has signed a decree to this effect.
- Facebook and some other social networks are blocked.
- Men aged 20-60 are in my city invited to sign a contract to take part in a so-called "*special military operation*" in Ukraine; the monthly fee is 300,000 yen or 2,200 US dollars. This is three times the salary of schoolteachers.
- representatives of non-governmental organizations cooperating with partners from other countries are given the status of "foreign agent" and they are deprived of some of the civil rights provided for in the Russian Constitution.

Dear conference participants!

To fight effectively, peace activists should unite with Hibakusha, as well as with environmental, human rights, climate change, and other organizations. We have a common goal - to preserve our living planet!

To fight more effectively, it is advisable for the Peace Movement to unite with Hibakusha, as well as with environmental, human rights, climate, and other NGOs. We have a common goal - to preserve our living planet!

And last, but not least: at present politicians in Russia and Western countries are forming an image of an enemy in the countries of their political opponents.

They see in it an opportunity to consolidate the society inside the country. But can we in Japan, Ukraine, Russia, and other countries be enemies? We are neighbors on our common planet Earth.

Let us hold hands and act together for the health of our living planet!

Part 2: Introductory Speakers

Joseph Gerson

**President, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security
U.S.A.**



Friends,

Let me begin with an apology. I so wanted to join this year's World Conference in person. After the pandemic hiatus, I was eager to reengage with Hiroshima, its most profound lessons for humanity, and with the people, energy and spirit of the World Conference. Unfortunately, having recently had covid, I remain grounded in the United States. But I am with you fully in spirit and I cannot stress enough how important Gensuikyō's commitments and initiatives are to our global struggle to create a nuclear-free world.

Vladimir Putin's brutal and illegal invasion of Ukraine triggered the most tumultuous and potentially dangerous transformation of the geopolitical disorder since the imposition of the Cold War. With nuclear, cyber, AI weapons and the rise of autocracies, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists'* Doomsday Clock warns that humanity is 100 seconds from midnight. Even before Putin's invasion of Ukraine, with the collapse of the ABM, INF, CFE, and Open Skies Treaties, the nuclear powers had plunged into unrestrained nuclear and high-tech arms races.

While we celebrate the successes of the First Meeting of the States Parties of the TPNW, we cannot

ignore the danger of nuclear war growing out of the Ukraine War. Ukraine is fighting to keep Russia from taking all of Donetsk & Luhansk and to block a Russian advance toward Odessa. President Zelensky speaks in terms of status quo ante, ousting Russia from Donbass and there are growing pressures here in the United States to send ever more offensive weapons to Kyiv. Meanwhile Russia is moving to integrate its 2014 and 2022 conquests. And, President Biden and General Austin speak in terms of defeating and weakening Russia, increasing the danger of escalation.

Russian nuclear doctrine calls for the use of nuclear weapons if and when the Russian state is in jeopardy. Were this to become an extended war that threatens to bleed Russian resources and power, or were Russian forces unexpectedly to face possible military defeat, Putin could launch one or more tactical nuclear weapons to terrorize Kyiv into suing for peace. U.S. doctrine mandates possible use of nuclear weapons when its vital interests and those of its allies *and partners* are threatened. Russia's use of tactical nuclear weapons could thus trigger a cataclysmic nuclear exchange.

The imperative is to win a ceasefire and negotiated settlement.

To the East, China is the power that Washington warns is challenging its "rules based order," the global systems and arrangements the U.S. imposed at the dawn of the Cold War when China was an impoverished and marginalized nation. We should not be surprised that China, in the tradition of rising powers, is pursuing what its elite believes to be in its national interests, sometimes, as in the cases of East and South China Seas, with little regard for the rights and interests of others.

U.S. National Defense Strategy commits the U.S. to maintain its U.S. competitive advantage and to ensure that U.S. military capabilities can defeat China in a war. The administration's Indo-Pacific Strategy warns that the U.S. is "determined to strengthen our long-term position and commitment to the Indo-Pacific" by shaping the "strategic environment." This includes increased funding for new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, massive investments in cutting edge technologies, the QUAD and AUKUS alliances. It also explains why the militaries of 26 nations, led by the United States, are now engaged in the massive RIMPAC "exercises" that are being conducted to prepare for war against China.

The Chinese government is no innocent power - witness its actions in Hong Kong, Xinjiang, inner Mongolia, the East and South China Seas and its military provocations in the Taiwan Strait. But this does not justify the Biden Administration's provocative "freedom of navigation" operations or its assault on the One China policy, long the foundation

of Northeast Asian stability. Following Trump weakening the Taiwan “strategic ambiguity” doctrine, Biden has moved to “strategic clarity.” The Washington establishment is now determined to bring Taiwan fully into the U.S. sphere to reinforce China’s containment. U.S. warships and warplanes have been repeatedly dispatched to the Taiwan Strait. Biden declared a U.S. military commitment to defend Taiwan and has massively increased arms sales to Taipei. More, the State Department removed statements from its webpage that the U.S. “does not support independence” for Taiwan and that “Taiwan is part of China”.

This is extremely dangerous. Taiwan cannot be militarily defended. This helps to explain Biden’s reaffirmation of the Pentagon’s nuclear first-strike war fighting doctrine. Only by threatening nuclear cataclysm, they believe, can they ensure that Beijing refrains from taking military action to reunify what Beijing believes to be its “renegade” province. Japan’s LDP leaders have also signaled that the SDF would join a fight for Taiwan and is moving to double Tokyo’s military spending and to develop conventional first-strike capabilities.

The combination of Taiwan’s geostrategic value as the hinge of U.S. East Asian and western Pacific power and U.S. military commitments to defend Taiwan make the island today’s geopolitical center of the struggle for world power. Were the U.S. to fail to defend Taiwan, that would call into question Washington’s Asian, Pacific, and European alliances and thus its global primacy.

Finally, even as we condemn Putin’s nuclear threats, as dangerous as they are, we need to acknowledge that they did not break new ground. On at least thirty occasions during international crises and wars since the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombings, the U.S. has prepared and/or threatened to initiate such genocidal attacks and maintains its first-strike doctrine. Each of the other nuclear powers has also done so at least once. The rationale is not nuclear deterrence but to create so-called ‘maneuver space’ for so-called conventional and very deadly military operations.

Today all this takes place midst increasingly unrestrained nuclear arms races in flagrant violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. That is why the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was negotiated. We must be clear eyed, imaginative, and courageous. We cannot blink away the reality that humanity continues to face the existential nuclear threats, as well as climate change.

June’s First Meeting of States Parties of the TPNW in Vienna condemned first-strike nuclear threats. It further stigmatized the use of nuclear weapons by focusing on their humanitarian consequences. It gained ratifications of three

additional small nations. And it deepened the Treaty’s institutionalization. But this is hardly enough to prevent nuclear war or to move us toward a nuclear weapons free world. That will only come when our movements make it impossible for nuclear umbrella states like Japan to persist in opposing the TPNW and disregarding the nuclear powers’ refusal to fulfill Article VI of the NPT. And the reality is that those of us who live in the nuclear weapons states have yet to fulfill our moral and historic responsibilities to transform the international environment into one where successful nuclear weapons abolition negotiations can take place, to reduce and eliminate our nation’s reliance on nuclear weapons, and to create the nuclear weapons-free future that our children and grandchildren deserve.

Again, I am so sorry that I cannot be with you. On the evening of August 6 I will be joining friends and neighbors here in my home community outside of Boston, where we will recall the crimes of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombings and rededicate ourselves to the struggle to create a nuclear weapons-free, peaceful and just world.

No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis! No more Hibakusha! And No More War!

Kate Hudson
Secretary General
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)
U.K.



Greetings to this important conference. We renew today our commitment to you all – that our work for nuclear abolition will continue until victory.

For many years after the cold war, it almost seemed as if nuclear weapons had gone away. The danger receded; the threat became almost abstract. Our movements continued to raise awareness of the

nuclear arsenals, the risk of accidents, of proliferation, the massive waste of money and the falseness of so-called deterrence theory. But our voices were not always heard. We continued our struggle for global nuclear abolition, but the imminent threat that was felt so acutely at times in previous decades: the Cuban missile crisis, the 1980s with cruise and Pershing missiles coming to Europe, that time of danger seemed to many people to be over. How wrong they were.

The global situation has changed, and changed more rapidly than anyone could have imagined, to the extent that nuclear war is once again a real possibility. Indeed, I would say that we are in a uniquely dangerous situation; because never before has the world been at such great risk of nuclear war. And I don't believe I am overstating the case.

When the US used two atom bombs in 1945, on Hiroshima and on Nagasaki, an estimated 340,000 people died as a result. That was a catastrophe, and an unnecessary catastrophe, because Japan was already trying to surrender. But at that time only the US had nuclear weapons. There was no possibility of a nuclear war breaking out.

And then think about the Cuban Missile Crisis when it seemed that the world was on the brink of disaster; the two leaders, Kennedy and Khrushchev had the wisdom to negotiate to bring about a solution which dealt with the security concerns of both sides. Wisdom and dialogue prevailed and nuclear war was averted.

But look at the situation now: what are the unique factors that make nuclear war so much more likely? Firstly, there is a terrible and brutal war taking place in Ukraine, people are dying, homes and infrastructure torn apart. A war like this is the context in which nuclear weapons could become the next stage in military escalation.

Secondly, where are the calls for peace, the negotiation, the concern for saving every human life, that we should be hearing from our leaders? It's just not there. What we've been hearing, even when it was still possible to prevent this war, is bellicose rhetoric, followed by escalatory movements of troops, weaponry and munitions that can only make matters infinitely worse. We've seen the most heartbreaking coverage of the sufferings of the Ukrainian people, and at the same time we have wall to wall coverage promoting warfare, even encouraging people to go and fight. Every single death is a tragedy and the media and politicians who suggest otherwise and pursue policies that will lead to more slaughter should be ashamed of themselves.

This is the reality of war and it has to stop. But we know that the reality of nuclear war would be so many times worse. The bomb dropped on Hiroshima was actually a small nuclear bomb in today's terms.

Can you imagine what today's bombs would do to our cities across the world? The mayor of London recently said that London is well-prepared if Putin launches a nuclear attack. There is no way to be prepared for a nuclear attack. You have to stop it happening.

That is our most urgent task as a movement, because it is in this time of escalating war, with nuclear arsenals on both sides – that we have to do everything possible to prevent nuclear use.

And of course, the recent policies of nuclear weapons states are not making it easy. For some decades we had seen gradual reductions in nuclear weapons, but now we are seeing modernisation programmes on all sides – like Britain's Trident replacement. In some cases we are even seeing increases – like Boris Johnson's nuclear arsenal increase last year with an increase in the number of nuclear warheads of over 40%. At the same time he declared an increased number of scenarios in which he would consider using nuclear weapons, even against non-nuclear states. And this year he has agreed to the US bringing nuclear its nuclear bombs back to Britain under the guise of NATO. Now we are truly on the front line in a US/Russia nuclear war.

Worst of all is the sanitizing of the idea of nuclear use. Former president Trump had a lot to answer for this: he not only talked of so-called 'usable' nuclear weapons, he also produced them and deployed them in his last year of office. So now the idea that they will never be used – the mutually assured destruction theory of the cold war – has gone. We hear of tactical nuclear weapons, as if you could use a small one on a battlefield and everything would be fine elsewhere. This is complete nonsense – and criminally dangerous nonsense.

So, what can our leaders be thinking?

There are 12,000 nuclear weapons, held by NATO states, US, France and UK, and Russia. With delivery systems capable of intercontinental delivery, these can be focused on Ukraine, but within minutes they can also fire on London, New York, Paris, Moscow and indeed pretty much anywhere else. The one thing we can be sure of, is that having nuclear weapons makes you a target.

So, what can we do?

We must build pressure on governments to change course. We must make people aware of the consequences of nuclear war, the existential threat that we face. We must get out on the streets and shout it out, people need to hear this, whether or not they want to.

We must build the peace movement here and internationally – there are huge protests taking place for ending this war and there can be huge protests again against nuclear weapons: we must have the courage and confidence to do this again, and succeed,

as we did in the 1980s.

All our work, all our actions in these terrible days, must be to secure a future for humanity, for all peoples.

It is truly now, above all else, the time to Protest and Survive.

No more Hiroshimas – No more Nagasakis!

Ludo De Brabander

Vrede vzw

Belgium



Stop the nuclear MADness

There is a growing consensus that we must address climate issues if we are to save the planet. We know how important it is to take on this challenge. But there's also this other planetary threat that, with enough political will and common sense, could be eradicated fairly easily: Nuclear weapons. Like climate, the elimination of nuclear weapons must be a global political priority. More than 12,000 nuclear weapons are deployed worldwide. In the context of increasing economic and geostrategic competition among the major powers, nuclear weapons are once again playing a dangerously important role.

A few days after the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, President Vladimir Putin announced that he had ordered nuclear weapons to be placed on 'special alert' status. Russia has a large arsenal of tactical nuclear weapons that are designed to be used on the battlefield, against troops or military installations.

Regardless of whether president Putin is playing bluff poker and the risk of nuclear war has actually increased, his multiple nuclear threats are an illustration of how dependent we are on the whims of a small group of rulers, their missteps, miscalculations and emotions in times of crisis. In the summer of 2017, president Trump also threatened to launch a nuclear

attack to "completely destroy North Korea". These threats are confirmations of the weaknesses of the idea of 'deterrence' attached to most nuclear doctrines. Deterrence is based on the concept of 'Mutual Assured Destruction' often referred to by the acronym MAD. But it's not only an acronym. Nuclear arms are MADness. Nevertheless deterrence was and still remains the main argument in the US/NATO doctrine for maintaining and upgrading nuclear arsenals.

As long as nuclear weapons exist, their use is possible. Since the horrific attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, humanity has escaped nuclear war or accidental deployment of nuclear weapons dozens of times. Before fortune fails us, we must get rid of these planet-threatening weapons of mass destruction!

The various nuclear threats from Moscow are irresponsible and must be condemned. But they also make it clear that the war must not escalate further. They show the importance of diplomacy, of serious negotiations. Europe must not go along with the US military strategy aimed at weakening Russia. A wounded animal can strike unexpectedly.

The war is causing tremendous human suffering. But it is also used by the military industrial complex to militarise Europe to levels unimaginable just a few months ago. Military budgets are skyrocketing. NATO was last year responsible for more than half of world-wide military spending, 17 times more than Russia. Soon it will be may be 25 times Russia's military spending. So, let us have no illusions. The militarisation is not intended to serve our security or to defend us, but to prepare and expand hegemonic combat, with what NATO calls systemic rivals.

The new arms race has also a nuclear component. The United Kingdom announced in March 2021, that it will expand its arsenal to 260 nuclear warheads. France conducted tests of new nuclear-capable air-to-surface missiles in March of this year. The US will also deploy new nuclear B 61-12 bombs at the British base in Lakenheath to make the UK part of NATO's nuclear sharing policy. Poland, too, has already made it known that it wants to deploy nuclear weapons if asked so. NATO's expansion to include Finland and Sweden or the deployment of nuclear weapons in Poland could lead to new Russian nuclear weapons being deployed in the Baltic Sea area.

Already, in spring this year, Belarus has lifted its nuclear-weapon-free zone status and threatened that it may well open its territory to new nuclear weapons from Russia. End of June this year, Russia announced it will provide nuclear-capable Iskander-M missiles to Belarus and upgrade the country's fighter jets to allow them to carry tactical atomic weapons. The move is apparently intended to mirror nuclear sharing arrangements the United States has with five NATO allies — Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy,

and Turkey.

That nuclear weapons are regaining prominence in military strategies is reflected in the fact - according to a new ICAN report - that the nine nuclear-weapon states invested \$82.4 billion in their nuclear arsenals last year, \$6.5 billion more than the year before. The United States accounted for more than half of that.

If the UK joins the NATO nuclear sharing countries there will be six of them. The US atomic bombs in today's countries will be replaced by new B61-12 bombs in the coming years. These nuclear bombs are equipped with an electronic tail kit that can guide the bomb to its target. They have also lower yield options. The mixture of both, precision and lower yield options make them very dangerous. They could be seen by war planners as more 'useable'. In none of these countries the parliaments have authorized the deployment of nuclear bombs more than half a century ago. Officially, we are not allowed to know that these nuclear weapons exist in our countries. The deployment of new B61-12 bombs is happening in secret, without any parliamentary or public debate or approval. However, they endanger the population because the NATO "nuclear sharing" countries can be the first target of a nuclear attack.

Moreover, our countries are complicit in the organization of a nuclear war. After all, it is Belgian, German, Italian and Dutch fighter planes that have to use these nuclear bombs in war time as part of NATO's nuclear sharing. Every fall, these NATO member states practice the use of nuclear weapons in "Steadfast Noon" manoeuvres.

The new B61-12 bombs will increase the danger of a war with nuclear weapons eroding the concept of 'deterrence' even more. So it is MADness that we'll have to stop.

In every crisis there is an opportunity. The recent nuclear threats may set people in motion for nuclear disarmament and pressure those in power. According to several opinion polls, the European population is opposed to nuclear weapons in Europe. It's the challenge for the peace movement to rebuild the large anti-nuclear movement of the '80s when many hundreds of people took the streets. We have international law on our side. As of January 2021, the treaty banning nuclear weapons (TPNW) entered into force. The treaty is complementary to the NPT, which is both to stop the further spread of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear weapon states and that puts an obligation on the part of Nuclear Weapon States for nuclear disarmament. At the meeting, for the first time, there was a small symbolic breach in nuclear solidarity. Under pressure from the peace movement, Norway, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands participated at the meeting of state parties of the TPNW in Vienna, last June, despite pressure from NATO and the United

States. NATO and member state governments claim falsely that the TPNW is incompatible with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and that it even undermines it. It is important to recall that a key motivation of the states that negotiated the TPNW was to take forward the implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligations of article VI of the NPT. The real reason is that NATO sees the treaty as a threat to the organisation's political unity over its nuclear strategy. According to NATO: "Nuclear weapons are a core component of NATO's overall capabilities for deterrence and defence, alongside conventional and missile defence forces. NATO is committed to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, but as long as nuclear weapons exist, it will remain a nuclear alliance."

However, NATO only defined itself as a 'nuclear alliance' since the NATO summit in Lisbon in 2010.

Europe's political world needs to reflect on lessons learned. One of these lesson's should be that we need to get rid of the threat of a nuclear armageddon. As Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias, former President of Costa Rica proposed, NATO could even use the removal of nuclear weapons in the European sharing countries as a bargaining chip to get president Putin on the negotiation table to end the war in Ukraine.

That's why we as a peace movement should insist that the re-establishment of a constructive political environment is needed in which negotiations towards European nuclear disarmament are possible for all nuclear weapon systems in Europe. This is achievable if Europe rebuilds relations with Russia, based on mutual respect for each other's security interests and confidential building measures. Common indivisible security and disarmament is the path towards a peaceful and secure future. Europe should become a nuclear weapon free zone as soon as possible, which could be a next step towards a nuclear weapon free world!!!



Yasui Masakazu
Secretary General, Japan Council against
A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)



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 pre-emptive 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.



Session III:

Prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, peace and security of Asia

Introductory Speakers:

Lee Jun Kyu
Senior Researcher, Institute for Unification and Peace Policy, Hanshin University
Republic of Korea



Peace in East Asia and Korean Peninsula in the Context of Power Politics among Big Powers

Thank you for inviting me to speak at the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs. It has been 3 years since we have met in person face to face, but during these three years the world has undergone profound changes through the Covid-19 pandemic, US-China confrontation and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Henry Kissinger, ideologue of the liberal international order led by the United States of America, has expressed concern that the pandemic would be followed by an “era of walled city”. His concern has been concretized in the form of bloc confrontation by the Russian aggressive war against Ukraine waged on the pretext of NATO’s expansion and security threats. While it is unclear how this division of the world order into blocs among the US, China and Russia will evolve, it is already obvious that the liberal international order with the US on top is being shaken strongly.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a process in which a nuclear power invades another country,

occupies and annexes its territory. It has reversed the course of world history to return to what it was a century ago. In addition, the belligerent Russia’s threats to use nuclear weapons could have the effect of lowering the hurdle for their actual use. Looking back on history, we note that the US referred to the use of nuclear weapons many times during the Korean War, forward-deployed these weapons in Guam and Okinawa and undertook drills simulating nuclear attacks.

After the collapse of the Cold War, successive US governments pursued nuclear arms buildup in the name of “modernization”. As we can see in the “Nuclear Posture Reviews” adopted from the Bush (Jr.) administration to the present Biden administration, they maintain the same nuclear strategy that includes “preemptive nuclear strike.” Nuclear powers such as the US, Russia, UK, France and China, instead of implementing their obligation to pursue disarmament negotiations prescribed by Article 6 of the NPT, are promoting a nuclear arms race and repeating nuclear threats. This contradiction in the non-proliferation regime is in turn causing further nuclear proliferation. This must not be overlooked.

In that sense, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) needs to be established as a solid international norm in order to stop the nuclear arms race and achieve nuclear disarmament. The First Conference of States Parties, held in June in Vienna, demonstrated that civil society and States are capable of building together in a timely manner a solidarity front to cope with the world’s pressing issues. According to former Austrian ambassador Tomas Hajnoczi, the TPNW “deprives nuclear armed states that have obstructed every attempt to bring multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations forward, their monopoly for nuclear disarmament”. This means that the TPNW will allow civil society throughout the world and non-nuclear states working against nuclear weapons and for peace to take the initiative of banning and abolishing all nuclear weapons.

East Asia is at the forefront of the US-China confrontation and the theater for intricate arms race and nuclear proliferation. This is an area with a number of flash points: in Diaoyu Dao or Senkaku where, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, not only

accidental military clashes but also expansionist war and its escalation are to be feared, as well as in the East and South China Seas.

Recently, NATO is becoming more and more obviously a “Global NATO” with its expansion into the Asia-Pacific. As proof, the South Korean President and the Japanese Prime Minister were invited to the NATO Summit held in June this year. The division of the Korean Peninsula is a Cold War legacy and the armistice line is called the “last dividing line of the Cold War”. This dividing line is now about to cross the entire East Asia region.

Since the US-North Korea summit talks in February 2019 and the breakup of US-North Korea practical consultations in October of the same year, the road has been closed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and establishment of a peace regime. Nevertheless, there are some points that draw our attention regarding the moves of North Korea in the last two or three years. One is the refusal of North Korea to engage in any dialogue with South Korea. Within the previous Moon administration, as well as in a corner of South Korean civil society, we frequently heard the view that the North-South axis could be restored through humanitarian exchanges for Covid-19 prevention. However, North Korea has made it clear that it has no intention of engaging in a dialogue on “non-essential issues”.

Another point is that the “self-relying rehabilitation” policy that North Korea has embraced totally since the negotiations with the US and also with South Korea stalled has made some real progress. It seems therefore that the forecast that North Korea will not be able to stand much longer due to the closure of national borders and sanctions, or due to Covid-19 is wrong. It is also true that US-China confrontation and Russian aggression in Ukraine have put into relief the confrontation of the two blocs, and provide an international environment that is not all that bad for North Korea.

Above all, the most important thing is the bellicose twist of North Korean “nuclear doctrine”. The statement by Deputy director of the Workers’ Party of Korea Kim Yojong, the speech by President Kim Jong-un on April 26 at the military inspection ceremony and another one on April 30 at the celebration of the creation of Korean People’s Revolutionary Army, openly said that North Korea can “pre-emptively” use nuclear forces not only for “war prevention mission” but also for “basic interests”, or against “all dangerous attempts and threats”, and that South Korea could be the target of such use.

There is a view that the logic of “pre-emptive strike” on North Korea emerged in the period of the presidential election and administration change in South Korea, and also that Biden’s “Nuclear Posture Review”, which followed the usual nuclear strategic

line, including pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons, influenced North Korea’s change of attitude. However, North Korea declared “strengthening of nuclear forces” at the 8th Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea in 2021 and announced a five-year plan for increasing defense capabilities. I believe that we need to look at such change from the perspective of long-term strategy.

On the other hand, the Biden administration set out last year a policy targeted at North Korea called “coordinated practical approach”. This policy is now turning into a second version of “strategic patience” policy. In fact, the Biden administration, while trying to manage or maintain the current status of the Korean Peninsula, seems to give priority to dragging South Korea and Japan into the multilateral framework against China and Russia. However, the status quo is not possible on the Korean Peninsula when North Korea is expected to conduct a 7th nuclear test. It would be a repetition of the failure of the Obama administration.

Even more serious is the fact that we cannot expect the South Korean government of Yoon Suk-yeol to come up with ideas, or to take the initiative for getting out of the deadlock of the process for a denuclearized peaceful Korean Peninsula. The present administration has made clear that it will observe the principle of “dealing with nuclear issue with nuclear means”. It has in fact taken military measures such as forward deployment of US strategic weapons and full resumption of ROK-US joint military exercises that had been postponed or reduced in scale since 2018.

The new South Korean administration is also trying to enhance military partnership with the US and Japan by strengthening military cooperation with Japan, which is promoting the exercise of the right to collective self-defense, possession of capabilities for attacking enemy bases and increases in defense forces. It is easy to imagine that such moves will lead to consolidation of the nuclear confrontation scheme and heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula and in East Asia. The ROK conservative government is also using full prosecution powers to dig into and undermine all the policies related to North-South relations of the previous government. This would constitute a use of North-South relations for domestic politics. It is not an exaggeration to say that such moves represent the return to policies based on mutually assured destruction (MAD) and abandonment of the effort to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and establish a peace regime.

Today, in 2022, I believe that it is urgent to stop all military provocations, such as nuclear testing and ICBM launches by North Korea, ROK-US joint military exercises, forward deployment of US strategic weapons and large-scale multilateral joint military exercises, if we want to prevent the

intensification of military tensions and create conditions favorable for dialogue and diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula and the rest of the region.

It seems that the world order is changing from US-led unipolar to multipolar. However, a multipolar world at the mercy of power struggles among big powers and confrontation of blocs is far removed from an order of peace and symbiosis. The current situation of the world calls for the antinuclear peace movements and civil society around the globe to re-affirm the universal values on which we should be based, such as peace, antinuclear, human rights, and equality. It calls for us to resolutely stand in opposition to those forces and to moves that are contrary to these historic legacies and coordinates of humankind.

Thank you.

Tilman Ruff
ICAN Australia/ Co-President,
International Physicians for the Prevention
of Nuclear War (IPPNW)



Prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons,
peace and security of Asia - A perspective from
Australia

I thank Gensuikyo for the opportunity to speak with you on these crucial issues.

I speak today from the lands of the Muwinina people in nipaluna, or Hobart, honour them and their continuing custodianship of this unceded land.

I also pay my profound respects to hibakusha, whose courage and humanity continue to inspire and humble me.

Fittingly, the Vienna Declaration which came from the first meeting of TPNW States parties in Vienna drew attention to the failure of nuclear dependent states - like NATO members, Australia and Japan - to take any serious steps to reduce their reliance on nuclear weapons.

Shamefully, through the humanitarian initiative from which the TPNW emerged, Australia has been the most active of the states which came to be called

'weasels'.

Australia was arguably the most active state in seeking to undermine the development of the treaty, and the TPNW negotiations were the first multilateral disarmament negotiations Australia has ever boycotted. Australia's hostility to the TPNW stands in stark contrast to Australia's support and occasional leadership for the treaties which prohibit other types of indiscriminate and inhumane weapons.

Important for us to promote is the fact that joining the TPNW is entirely consistent with a continuing military alliance with a nuclear-armed state, provided nuclear weapons related activities are excluded. 56 former heads of government, defence and foreign ministers or nuclear dependent states and 2 former secretary generals of NATO have stated clearly that there is nothing in their respective defence pacts which precludes joining the TPNW. 11 of the then 17 "major non-NATO allies" of the US voted for treaty adoption and 3 have already ratified the treaty -Thailand, the Philippines and New Zealand, and 2 more have signed - with no disruption to their ongoing non-nuclear military cooperation with the US.

In order to join the treaty, Australia would need to renounce any role for nuclear weapons and the possibility of nuclear weapons being used on behalf of Australia. Ending visits by aircraft or ships carrying nuclear weapons would be straightforward. A larger negotiated program of work would be required to end Australia's assistance in possible use of US nuclear weapons through from military facilities involved in nuclear command, control and targeting. The facility in Australia currently in starkest violation of the treaty prohibition on assistance with prohibited activities is the Relay Ground Station at Pine Gap, a redundant add-on which could be readily decommissioned or dismantled without affecting ongoing surveillance and intelligence functions.

Since 21 May, Australia has a new government led by the Labor Party. In 2018 we worked hard for the Labor Party National Conference to adopt a policy committing Labor in government to sign and ratify the TPNW, after taking into account a number of considerations which in objective analysis should not be obstacles. This policy was moved by current Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and adopted unanimously. The policy was re-affirmed last year.

A number of tools have been helpful in achieving this policy commitment by the party now holding government, and these and continued advocacy inside and outside the party and in the Parliament will be key to the ongoing work to ensure that this commitment is implemented.

We currently have 100 members of the federal parliament having joined ICAN's Parliamentary Pledge which includes 80% of Labor members, with broad cross factional support and including two thirds

of cabinet members.

Repeated opinion polls have shown that despite the previous government's strident opposition to the treaty 70 to 80% of the public want Australia to join this treaty, and only 6% are opposed.

39 local governments, as well as the peak Australian Local Government Association unanimously, support Australia joining the treaty, as do a very broad range of civil society organisations, including most of the trade union movement, an important base of support for Labor.

Divestment work is also bearing fruit and helping to promote the ban and stigmatise nuclear weapons and those who profit from making them. While investments in nuclear weapons manufacturers are large and widespread in our financial sector, we have been able to convince so far 9 financial institutions including one bank and eight pension funds to exclude investing in nuclear weapons producers. From this year, the Responsible Investment Association of Australia, which certifies all financial products in Australia claiming to be ethical or socially responsible, will require all such products to exclude nuclear weapons investments.

We believe that there are real prospects that Australia can be the first nuclear dependent state to join the TPNW. There have been some modest early signs so far of new winds blowing in Canberra, but our work is needed as much as ever. Please help us!

I thank you.

[\(Download PowerPoint Slides here.\)](#)

Nguyen Thi Thu Hien
Multilateral Affairs Department, Vietnam
Union of Friendship Organizations
Vietnam



Distinguished guests, esteemed activists and friends,

At the outset, I would like to extend to all participants in the Conference the warmest greetings

and sincerest sentiments of friendship from the Vietnam Peace Committee and the Vietnamese people. I also would like to thank the Organising Committee to invite me to attend and address this year's Conference.

For nearly 70 years, the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs along with peace movements around the world, have spared no effort for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons. Many positive progress of nuclear disarmament has been attained, especially the adoption of important treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The TPNW is an important milestone in prevention and reverse of a potential danger of nuclear war. It comprehensively prohibits nuclear weapons as a necessary first step towards their elimination. The First Meeting of the TPNW's States Parties in June established a framework for its effective implementation, broader nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation architecture.

I hope that the Tenth NPT Review Conference which occurs in parallel with our Conference will be concluded with positive outcomes, thus contributing, along with other efforts including today's World Conference, to create a new impetus to building a world without nuclear weapons.

In Asia-Pacific, ASEAN countries held a meeting in June to review the five-year implementation of the Action Plan of the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) and prepare for its next five-year extension. ASEAN countries have reaffirmed their commitment to preserving Southeast Asia as a region free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

Being a responsible member of the international community, Vietnam has consistently advocated and made active contributions to nuclear disarmament efforts. Vietnam is one of the first countries to sign, ratify and implement the TPNW. Vietnam also has actively called on all countries, especially those possessing nuclear weapons to support, sign and ratify the TPNW.

Friends,

The world is still facing the more trying time than ever. Major powers' strategic competition, rising great-power politics, militarization, unilateral actions in the use or threat of force are generating a lot of potential dangers, including a nuclear war. Major powers have shown their neglect of international law, especially the basic principles such as respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty and have intensified their hostility to international dispute resolution.

In addition, the Ukraine crisis deepens confrontation of nuclear powers, accelerates nuclear arms race, strengthens nuclear deterrence and military

build-up in Asia and Pacific region.

On top of that, non-traditional security challenges, such as climate change, energy, water, food, etc. are still developing in complex ways and affecting global peace and security. Meanwhile, the existence, use and test of nuclear weapons have caused and aggravated environmental and ecological disasters as well as a legacy of serious health and catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

As you know, Asia is surrounded by nuclear weapon states. The region is witnessing geopolitical developments which have further deepened the nuclear danger in the region, including US-China hegemonic rivalries, deadlock of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, potential conflicts in the East Sea (internationally known as the South China Sea) and East China Sea and the risks of escalation among nuclear-armed states in Southern Asia.

Against this backdrop, many treaties and agreements on reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons risk to be dismantled. Accordingly, all efforts that the international community has put into in the past decades risk to go down the drain.

Friends,

It is high time that we strengthened our effort to abolish nuclear weapons and promote a new era of dialogue, trust and peace for all. There is still a lot of work ahead, however, hope is offered to us with the TPNW's entry into force last year and the outcomes of the First Meeting of the TPNW's States Parties.

Along with this, we will continue to make our voice heard and make our actions realize a peaceful Asia and a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

To that end, it is essential to uphold and demand for respect and adherence to international law, including the United Nations Charter, in particular the respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of states, non-interference in internal affairs of states, no use or threat of force and settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

It is very important for all state parties to respect and implement all past nuclear agreements, especially the NPT and the TPNW. It also requires stronger efforts and unity of all peace and progressive forces around the world.

Chisaka Jun

Secretary General, Japan Peace Committee



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.

2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs: Forums on Different Themes (August 5)

Forum III: Nuclear-Free, peaceful and foreign bases-free Asia and the Pacific: Role of peace movement

Joseph Gerson
**Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and
Common Security, U.S.A.**

I want to thank the World Conference organizers and Cora Fabros for inviting me to join this very important workshop. I am sorry not to be with you in person. Having recently had covid, I am well, but I remain grounded in the U.S. due to Japanese regulations. That said, I am with you fully in spirit and wish that I could hear the other presentations that are being made.

Last Saturday, on the eve of the NPT Review Conference the Peace & Planet Network organized an international conference subtitled “The Fierce Urgency of Now!” These are indeed perilous times, described as the earliest and potentially most dangerous period of Cold War 2.0 or “acute great power confrontation” between the U.S. and China and the U.S. and Russia. It does not have to be this way. There are Common Security and disarmament alternatives to the U.S., Chinese and Russian campaigns to reinforce and to expand their very different empires.

To underline the seriousness of the moment, let me quote from Monday’s *New York Times*:

“On Sunday, a spokesman for the Chinese air force said...that the country’s fighter jets would fly around Taiwan to demonstrate its ability to defend its territory. That raised the possibility that the exercise would be timed to meet the US Air Force plane that Ms. Pelosi and her delegation are taking to Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, part of a series of efforts to reassure those nations that the United States is still committed to its ‘pivot to the Indo-Pacific.’” That was before the Wall Street Journal confirmed that the United States’ third highest ranking official, Representative Pelosi, would also visit Taiwan.

The Times continued, “they say it is possible that China’s planes will ‘escort’ Ms. Pelosi’s plane, as a demonstration of control over the air routes. That sets up the possibility, officials fear, of an accident – akin to the kind that happened two decades ago when a Chinese air force plane collided

with, and brought down, an American spy plane, leading to an early crisis in the George W. Bush administration.”

As Kevin Rudd, the China scholar and former Prime Minister of Australia, and others have warned, the U.S.-Chinese rivalry is what is termed the Thucydides Trap, the inevitable tensions between rising and declining powers that have frequently – but not always – resulted in catastrophic wars. That happened twice in the 20th century when the U.S. and Britain, failed to integrate the rising Japanese and German powers into the world system, and millions died in catastrophic world Wars. The Second World War ended with the criminal and catastrophic atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but today an omnicidal nuclear exchange could follow almost immediately after an accident, incident or miscalculation triggered the great power war.

Another way of looking at the increasingly dangerous global disorder, independent of the existential threat of the climate emergency, is to consider the disturbing parallels between 2022 and the years leading up to the First World War. In each period we have had increasing tensions between rising and declining powers, arms races with new technologies, intense nationalism, complex alliance structures (now including the QUAD, AUKUS and Global NATO), economic integration and competition, territorial disputes, more than a few authoritarian governments, and wild card actors.

Let me say a few words about the dangers inherent the Ukraine War and then turn back to the Indo-Pacific region.

Vladimir Putin’s brutal and illegal invasion of Ukraine triggered the potentially most dangerous transformation of the geopolitical disorder since the imposition of the Cold War. Even before the invasion, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’* Doomsday Clock warned that humanity is 100 seconds from midnight with the collapse of the ABM, INF, CFE, and Open Skies Treaties, the nuclear powers’ increasingly unrestrained nuclear and high-tech arms races.

While we celebrate the successes of the First

Meeting of the States Parties of the TPNW, we cannot ignore the danger of nuclear war growing out of the Ukraine War. Ukraine is fighting to keep Russia from taking all of Donetsk & Luhansk and to block Russia from seizing all of the northern coast of the Black Sea, which some think is essential for Ukrainian national survival. President Zelensky speaks in terms of ousting Russia from Donbass. There are growing pressures in the United States to send ever more devastating offensive weapons to Kyiv. And, President Biden and General Austin speak in terms of weakening, and even defeating Russia, increasing the danger of escalation.

Friends, Russian nuclear doctrine calls for the use of nuclear weapons if and when the Russian state is in jeopardy. Were Ukraine to become an extended war that threatens to bleed Russian resources and power, or were Russian forces unexpectedly to face possible military defeat, Putin could launch one or more tactical nuclear weapons to terrorize Kyiv into suing for peace. U.S. doctrine mandates possible use of nuclear weapons when its vital interests and those of its allies *and partners* are threatened. Russia's use of tactical nuclear weapons could thus trigger a cataclysmic nuclear exchange. And I am sorry to have to report that in an off the record conversation with one of the most powerful members of the U.S. Congress last week, he repeatedly stated that he is willing to risk nuclear war to ensure that Ukraine can regain full control over its southern Black Sea coast.

The imperative is to win a ceasefire and negotiated settlement.

To the East, China is the power that Washington warns is challenging its "rules based order," the global systems and arrangements launched with the 19th century annexation of Hawaii and conquests of the Philippines, Guam, Samoa – to serve as fueling stations and military bases in pursuit of the holy grail of capitalism – the China Market, as well as Cuba and Puerto Rico. While World War II in Europe was fought to defeat Nazi totalitarianism, in the Asia-Pacific it was a war between contending empires: Japan, the U.S. and Britain. It left the Pacific Ocean an American Lake and the U.S. as the region's hegemonic power with hundreds of foreign military bases. The so-called Bretton Woods system was imposed at the dawn of the Cold War when China was an impoverished and marginalized nation. We should thus not be surprised that China, in the tradition of rising powers, is pursuing what its elite believes to be in its national interests, sometimes, as in the cases of East and South China/West Philippine Seas, with little regard for the rights and interests of other nations.

U.S. National Defense Strategy commits the U.S. to maintain its U.S. competitive advantage and to ensure that U.S. military capabilities can defeat China in a war. The administration's Indo-Pacific Strategy warns that the U.S. is "determined to strengthen our long-term position and commitment to the Indo-Pacific" by shaping the "strategic environment." This includes increased funding for new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, the consolidation and expansion of military alliances including the QUAD and nuclear AUKUS, and massive investments in cutting edge technologies. It also explains why the militaries of twenty-six nations, led by the United States, are now engaged in the massive RIMPAC "exercises" being conducted to prepare for war against China.

The Chinese government is no innocent - witness its actions in Hong Kong, Xinjiang, inner Mongolia, the East and South China/West Philippine Seas and its military provocations in the Taiwan Strait. But this does not justify the Biden Administration's provocative "freedom of navigation" operations or its assault on the One China policy, long the foundation of Northeast Asian stability. Following Trump's weakening of the Taiwan "strategic ambiguity" doctrine, Biden has moved to "strategic clarity." The Washington establishment is determined to bring Taiwan fully into the U.S. sphere to reinforce China's containment. U.S. warships and warplanes have been repeatedly dispatched to the Taiwan Strait. Biden has repeatedly declared a U.S. military commitment to defend Taiwan, and he has massively increased arms sales to Taipei. More, the State Department removed statements from its webpage that the U.S. "does not support independence" for Taiwan and that "Taiwan is part of China."

This is extremely dangerous. Taiwan cannot be militarily defended. This helps to explain the Biden Administration's reaffirmation of the Pentagon's nuclear first-strike war fighting doctrine. Only by threatening nuclear cataclysm, they believe, can they ensure that Beijing refrains from taking military action to reunify what Beijing believes to be its "renegade" province. Japan's LDP leaders have also signaled that the SDF would join a fight for Taiwan and are moving to double Tokyo's military spending and to develop conventional first-strike capabilities. While, having been separated from China for 125 years and having developed a relatively democratic society, Taiwanese have rights that must be protected. But there are also profound issues of Chinese identity, and when President Xi says that those who play with fire die by fire, we need to take his words seriously and strive for Common Security, win-win, alternatives

to what would be a catastrophic and potentially nuclear, war.

To underline the seriousness of the moment, we need to recognize that Taiwan has become the hinge or keystone of the U.S. imperial system, followed closely by the East and South China/West Philippine Seas. Were the U.S. to fail to defend Taiwan, that would call into question Washington's Asian, Pacific, and European alliances and thus its global primacy.

There are, of course, alternatives and the agency of our popular movements and conscientious and responsible government officials. Tensions between great powers are inevitable, but wars are not. Kevin Rudd, has written a very important book, *The Avoidable War*, in which he describes the many ways that we may all be consumed in the U.S.-Chinese Thucydides trap, but he also outlines numerous steps that each side can take to engage in competition, not conflict. This begins with what many of us would term Common Security diplomacy, building bridges between these two great nations, establishing guard rails to ensure that competition doesn't become war, and addressing the two greatest existential threats to humanity: nuclear weapons and the climate emergency.

Friends, I wish I could be with you today. I look forward to our collaborations for a nuclear weapons-free, peaceful, just, and sustainable world in the days, weeks, months, and years to come.

Hannah Middleton
Independent and Peaceful Australia
Network /Sydney Anti AUKUS Campaign
Australia



Dear Peace Friends,

I acknowledge that I am speaking from the land of the Gadigal people. I pay my respects to their elders, past, present, and I acknowledge that this is Aboriginal land – always was, always will be.

I pay my deepest respects to the memory of the men, women and children who have died as a result of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to the survivors (hibakusha) who work so hard to win a nuclear free world.

Today the peace movement in Australia faces a complex and contradictory situation.

With a newly elected Labor (social democratic) government, it seems possible that the government will sign the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). At the same time it is following an aggressive and dangerous policy of purchasing nuclear powered submarines and collaborating with the United States on new weapons programs, interoperability and provocative military manoeuvres in the South Pacific.

New Zealand and nine South Pacific Forum countries have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Labor Party adopted a [resolution](#) in 2018 committing it to sign the TPNW. Most Labor and Greens members of Parliament have [pledged](#) to support Australia signing.

We can expect intense pressure from the US in opposition to the TPNW and as a result it is not clear if the new Labor government will implement its earlier promises.

There is well established and strong opposition to nuclear weapons in Australia. In recent opinion polls 76% of Australians want the government to sign the nuclear weapon ban treaty and 86% of Australians agree that it is not acceptable to threaten to use nuclear weapons.

One of the major tasks for the Australian peace movement is to campaign for the government to sign the TPNW.

It is only 2 months since the new government was elected but it seems that it will continue the policy of subservience to US interests established by previous Australian governments.

Labor's new Defence Minister Richard Marles has even said American and Australian defence forces are "interchangeable"

There is some indication of a shift to a gentler diplomatic tone towards China – our major trading partner – but no softening of subservience to the vested interests of a highly dangerous, degenerate imperial power, no move to remove US war fighting bases or US Marines from our territory, no move to cut current military spending of \$48.6 billion, or 2.11 % of GDP.

The Australian peace movement is arguing that buying more and more deadly weapons systems does not create peace or security. It has not worked in the past and it never will. Instead, it makes Australia poorer, not safer, and robs the funding need for environmental protection, health, housing,

education and other needs.

The Australian peace movement is deeply concerned that in its rage at losing its grip on world power, the US may be tempted to stake the entire fate of humanity on its continuing grip on global power – and that Australia is helping in this.

Prime Minister Albanese has said: “I want to build good relations with all countries, but we will stand up for Australia’s interests when we must”. This is fine – but in the peace movement we argue that it is not in Australia’s interest to serve as a pawn in the US armed competition with China.

The most concerning expression of this is AUKUS, the pact between Australia, the US and the UK. which envisages Australia acquiring 8 nuclear powered submarines at the cost of \$170 billion plus massive environmental dangers.

These nuclear-powered submarines signal an intent to act, with the United States, in a hostile manner toward China, rather than defend the waters around Australia.

The Australian peace movement is campaigning to close the loophole in IAEA safeguards that allows non-nuclear weapon states to take nuclear material out of safeguards for non-explosive military purposes.

AUKUS also covers advanced cyber, artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, quantum technologies, undersea capabilities, hypersonics, electronic warfare, space warfare, and information sharing.

Within just 5 days more than 100 submissions were made to the government about AUKUS. They were overwhelmingly against the proposal.

Australia is part of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with Japan, India and the US. It is widely accepted that the Quad will see greater military co-operation. Central to this is northern Australia.

Troop garrisons, land and air bases and other facilities in Australia’s north are getting significant investments and there is a commitment to continue this funding until the end of the decade.

Planning for long range submarine missions against Chinese targets assumes passage through the waters to Australia’s north –exposing Australian arrogance and disregard for its neighbours in the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and the area of the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

New Zealand and nine South Pacific Forum countries have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Australia’s so-called deputy sheriff’s role in the Pacific has been one of domination, exploitation, and callous disregard which Pacific states have resisted and protested for decades.

Now most Pacific nations feel betrayed by the

return of the nuclear threat to a region that has suffered the lasting damage of atomic testing.

Within days of the AUKUS announcement, the deep anti-nuclear sentiment was evident across the Pacific:

New Caledonia's President said that AUKUS has drastically destabilised the region. The Solomon Islands Prime Minister said his nation “would like to keep our region nuclear-free”. The Kiribati President said Australia developing nuclear powered submarines “puts the region at risk”. Malaysia has expressed concern. Fiji’s Prime Minister said, “Fiji will never stop working towards a global nuclear ban.” The Marshall Islands President said "no effort should be spared to move towards a world free of nuclear weapons."

The Australian peace movement faces multiple, linked issues – but these challenges are contributing to its growth in numbers and determination.

There is growing opposition to AUKUS with active national and local coalitions set up. Several trade unions and grass roots Labor Party branches have adopted resolutions condemning AUKUS. Actions include street protests, letters to papers, a submission to the IAEA, getting nuclear free cities declared and a petition which has 25,000 signatures.

Peace, trade union, women’s, student and environmental groups are calling on the government to commit to NOT joining the US in any military action against China. A large range of organisations protested against the recent RIMPAC war games.

Opposition to US military bases in Australia is long established and there is growing concern that US bases, especially Pine Gap, make Australia a nuclear target.

Work is developing through the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) and the Pacific Peace Network to build unity and mutual solidarity across our region.

We are committed to joining together and calling on governments around the world to cut military spending, and instead to invest in the true needs of the people and the planet to build a just and sustainable nuclear free and peaceful world.

Thank you.

Chisaka Jun, Secretary General Japan Peace Committee

Nuclear-Free, Peaceful Asia/Pacific and the Role of the Japanese Peace Movement

I would like to speak on the roles of Japan’s peace movement in achieving a nuclear-free and peaceful Asia and Pacific region. What Japan should make is a diplomatic effort proactively and

peacefully based on Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which pledges not to wage war, not to possess war potential, and to take the lead in realizing world peace.

First, we must raise voices against Russia's invasion in Japan and around the world and uphold the rules of peace stipulated in the UN Charter. As seen in a resolution that was approved by 70% of UN member states at the UN General Assembly's emergency special session, we must overwhelmingly increase our call demanding the defense of the UN Charter to stop the invasion. This will be a major force to prevent lawless acts in violation of the UN Charter in the Asia-Pacific region.

Second, Japan should take the lead in signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons so that it could encourage other Asia-Pacific countries, especially those possessing nuclear weapons or in military alliances with them, to join the Treaty. If Japan, the A-bombed country and ally of the U.S., joins the TPNW and calls on other countries to do so, it will certainly have a huge impact on the region. Such initiatives are needed to turn the vicious cycle of nuclear confrontation into a trend toward nuclear disarmament.

Third, efforts should be made to build a non-nuclear and peaceful regime in the increasingly-tense Korean Peninsula. To this end, what must be done is not unilaterally demanding denuclearization of North Korea but promoting negotiations for gradual and mutual denuclearization and establishment of a peace regime along with efforts to end the Korean War as outlined in the 2018 U.S.-North Korea Summit agreement.

Fourth, with regard to the growing tension over Taiwan, both the U.S. and Japan must respect the "one-China" principle as a common ground, which they confirmed when normalizing diplomatic relations with China, and urge both sides to refrain from proactive actions that could increase military tension, and make tenacious efforts for a peaceful resolution based on respect for the will of the people of Taiwan. Neglecting China's strong opposition, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan and met President Tsai Ing-wen while saying that the U.S. would not change the "one-China" position. Together with this, the U.S. military deployed an aircraft carrier, amphibious assault ship, and many aerial refueling aircraft and fighter jets to the Kadena Base of Okinawa and areas around Taiwan. China responded by unilaterally establishing a military exercise zone across Taiwan's territorial waters and Japan's exclusive economic zone and holding ballistic missile launch drills. These moves increase tensions in the region, and I urge both the U.S. and China to restrain from taking such actions.

Fifth, efforts must be made to prevent the Asia-Pacific from becoming a region where the U.S. and China compete for domination and increase military tensions. It is important in this regard to note that ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is striving to build a framework of peace for inclusive dialogue and cooperation involving those major powers as well as all countries with different positions. The "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific" adopted by the 2019 ASEAN Summit says, "[T]he rise of material powers, i.e. economic and military, requires avoiding the deepening of mistrust, miscalculation, and patterns of behavior based on a zero-sum game", and calls for "an Indo-Pacific region of dialogue and cooperation instead of rivalry". The cooperation emphasized here is not based on military power but for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Japan should join this effort as a country having Article 9 in its Constitution.

However, totally contrary to this direction, Japan's Kishida administration is now promoting policies to strengthen the Japan-U.S. nuclear military alliance. Devoted to creating a posture to strengthen the U.S. nuclear deterrence, Japan is pursuing policies that increase risks of nuclear war while refusing to sign or ratify the TPNW. With regard to Taiwan, instead of asking the U.S. and China to exercise self-restraint, the Japanese government at a Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee meeting on January 7, 2022 stressed "the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait" and clearly expressed its intention to "take action if necessary" jointly with the U.S. forces in the event of a military conflict between the U.S. and China. Repeatedly stating that "a Taiwan contingency is a Japan contingency," leaders of the national governments and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are compiling a Japan-U.S. joint operation plan for emergency situations and intensifying joint military exercises based on it. Nansei Islands, including Okinawa, are being turned into a military fortress with missile units for Japan and the U.S., and evacuation plans and shelters for residents in the event of war are loudly advocated. It is assumed that this region would be the first battlefield. That is why residents of the Nansei Islands are strongly campaigning against such moves, rejecting the return of the Battle of Okinawa, in which Okinawa was sacrificed for the defense of Japan's mainland and one in four Okinawans were killed.

Strengthening of the U.S.-Australia-Japan military posture, intensified joint military exercises between Japan's Self-Defense Forces and NATO countries, and increased cooperation in the "Quad" (U.S., Australia, India and Japan) and the "AUKUS"

(U.S.-U.K.-Australia) military alliances are all designed to militarily encircle China in the entire Asia-Pacific region. These would only intensify military buildup and tensions.

In order to stop this path and to fully utilize the Japanese Constitution, we are strengthening our efforts toward the Japan Peace Conference, “Let us Abrogate the Japan-U.S. Military Alliance and U.S. bases!” (November 26 and 27).

Okinawans’ struggles against the construction of a new U.S. base and for a “peaceful Okinawa without bases” in Okinawa which hosts 70% of all U.S. bases in Japan are extremely significant. Following the horrific Battle of Okinawa, Okinawa had been under the occupation by the U.S. military, which had violated residents’ human rights and turned their beautiful islands into their bases with nuclear weapons. That is why Okinawans carried out an islands-wide struggle and achieved Okinawa’s return to Japan 50 years ago. However, their wish for a “peaceful Okinawa without bases” has not been realized: a new U.S. military base in Henoko, Nago City, is being built forcibly in complete disregard of the will of the people of Okinawa, and the entire Okinawa is being turned into a military fortress against China, exposing

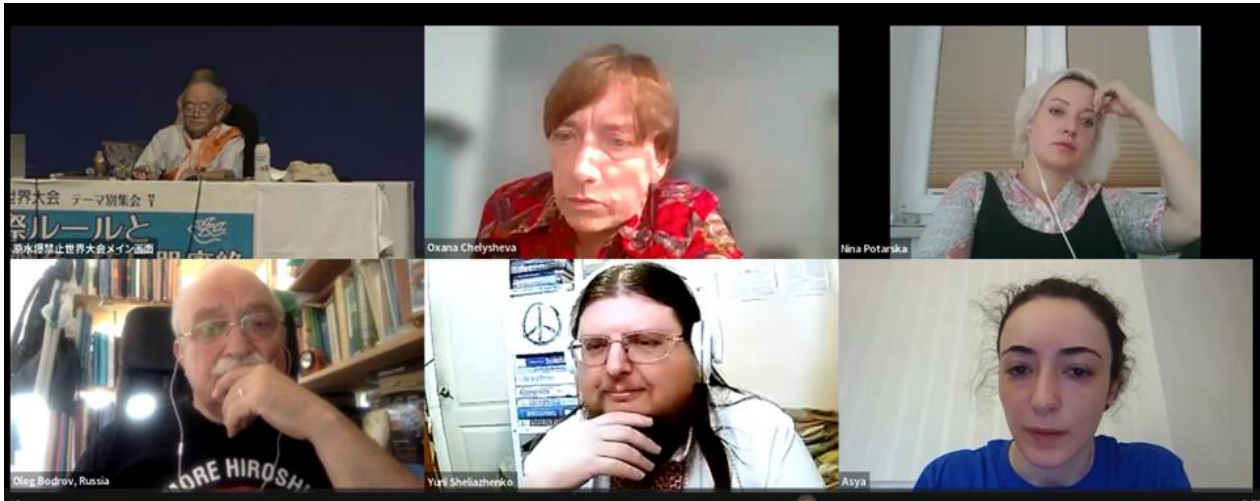
Okinawa to the danger of war. Waging an “all-Okinawa” struggle involving both conservative and progressive forces, the people of Okinawa have won gubernatorial elections since 2014. Okinawa Governor Tamaki Denny is bravely confronting the Henoko base construction and has disapproved the national government’s application for change in the design of the Henoko base construction.

In “New Proposal toward the Realization of a Peaceful and Prosperous Okinawa” he issued on the eve of the 50th anniversary of Okinawa’s return to Japan, Governor Tamaki called on the Japanese government to: “exert the utmost effort to prevent the negative outcomes caused by excessive tensions driven from deterrence by force in the Asia-Pacific region; contribute to create peace in the region by reducing tensions and building trust through peace diplomacy and dialogue; play an active role through these efforts to be a nation that we can take pride in”. This is the direction the Constitution aims to take.

In order to help further advance Okinawans’ struggles and create Japan where the Constitution is fully utilized, we are determined to make our utmost effort to win the victory in the Okinawa gubernatorial election on September 11.



Forum V: International rules for peace based on the UN charter and elimination of nuclear weapons: Discussion on the crisis in Ukraine



Yurii Sheliashenko Ukrainian Pacifist Movement Ukraine

Dear friends, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the situation in Ukraine and advocate peace by peaceful means.

Our government prohibited all men in age from 18 to 60 to leave Ukraine. It is enforcement of harsh military mobilization policies, many people call it serfdom, but President Zelenskyy denies to cancel it despite many petitions. So, my apologies for inability to join you in person.

I would also like to thank the Russian panelists for their courage and call for peace. Antiwar activists are harassed by warmongers in Russia as well as in Ukraine, but it is our duty to uphold human right to peace. Now, when the Doomsday Clock indicates only a hundred seconds to midnight, more than ever we need strong peace movements in every corner of the world raising popular voices for sanity, for disarmament, for peaceful resolution of international disputes, for a more just and nonviolent society and economy.

Discussing the current crisis in and around Ukraine, I will argue that this crisis illustrates systemic problem with a global radioactive militarist economy and we should not allow warmongering propaganda on all sides to advocate violent competition for power and profits between few stockholders, so-called great powers or rather their oligarchic elites, in cruel game with non-changing rules dangerous and harmful to the vast majority of the people on Earth, so the people

should resist the war system, not the fictional enemy images created by the propaganda of war. We are not small kids to believe in these fairy tales of Russian and Chinese propaganda about a hegemonic Western empire of lies and in fairy tales of Western propaganda about a few crazy dictators alone disrupting world order. We know from scientific conflictology that deceptive image of enemy is a product of ill imagination, which replaces real people with their sins and virtues with demonized creatures supposedly unable to negotiate in good faith or peacefully coexist, these false enemy images distort our collective perception of reality because of lack of rational self-control over pain and anger and makes us irresponsible, more and more willing to destroy ourselves and innocent bystanders to do maximum harm to these fictional enemies. So we should get rid of any images of enemies to behave responsibly and ensure responsible behavior of others, as well as accountability for misbehavior, without inflicting unnecessary harm to anyone. We need to build more fair, open and inclusive societies and economies without enemies, without armies and without nuclear weapons. Of course, it would mean that great power politics should give up its doomsday machines and step aside facing a massive demand of peace-loving people and markets of the world for big historical changes, universal transition to nonviolent governance and management.

My country was torn apart in the great power struggle between Russia and United States, when society was divided to pro-Western and pro-Russian camps during Orange Revolution in 2004 and ten

years later, when United States supported Revolution of Dignity and Russia instigated Russian Spring, both were violent seizures of power by militant Ukrainian and Russian nationalists with foreign backing in Center and Western Ukraine, on the one side, and in Donbas and Crimea, on another side. Donbas war started in 2014, took near 15 000 of lives; Minsk II accords approved by UN Security Council in 2015 were not led to reconciliation because of all-or-nothing militarist policies and permanent ceasefire violations on both sides during eight years. Threatening military maneuvers and drills with nuclear component by Russian and NATO forces in 2021-2022 as well as Ukrainian threat to reconsider non-proliferation commitment because of Russian aggression preceded lethal intensification of ceasefire violations on both sides of the frontline in Donbas reported by OSCE and subsequent Russian invasion of Ukraine with internationally condemned announcement of decision to increase the readiness of Russian nuclear forces. What was left without proper international condemnation, however, is serious plans in near-NATO circles to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine engaging in war with Russia and even using tactical warheads. We see that both great powers are inclined to nuclear brinkmanship dangerously lowering the threshold for nuclear weapons use.

I speak to you from Kyiv, capital of Ukraine. At the end of World War Two, in September 1945, Pentagon's memorandum on atomic bombs production suggested that United States should drop A-bombs on tens of Soviet cities. U.S. army assigned 6 atomic bombs for turning Kyiv into ruins and mass graveyard, six bombs of such sort that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Kyiv was lucky because these bombs were never exploded, though I am sure military contractors produced the bombs and got their profits. It is not wide-known fact, but my city lives a long time under a threat of nuclear strike. This memorandum I refer to was top secret for many decades before the United States declassified it. I don't know what secret plans of nuclear war Russia has, let's hope these plans will be never enacted, but President Putin in 2008 promised to target Ukraine with nuclear weapons if the United States stationed missile defenses in Ukraine, and this year in the first days of Russian invasion he ordered Russian nuclear forces to move to the heightened alert status explaining it is necessary to prevent NATO intervention on Ukrainian side.

NATO wisely refused to intervene, at least for now, but our President Zelenskyy continued to ask the alliance to enforce a no-fly zone over Ukraine, also he speculated that Putin could use tactical

nuclear weapons in his war against Ukraine. President Joe Biden said that any use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine would be completely unacceptable and entail severe consequences; according to The New York Times, Biden's administration has formed a tiger team of national security officials to plan U.S. response in that case. Apart from these threats to wage nuclear war in my country, we have a dangerous situation at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant turned by Russian occupiers into a military base and recklessly attacked by Ukrainian killer drones.

According to the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, at the public opinion poll, asked about dangers of war to the environment, more than half of Ukrainian respondents expressed concerns about the possibility of radiation contamination because of shelling of nuclear power plants. From the first weeks of invasion Russian army undermined security of Ukrainian nuclear power plants, and there was a time when some people in Kyiv were sitting in their homes with all windows closed reluctant to walk by the street into shelter during Russian bombing because it was known that Russian military vehicles in Chernobyl disaster zone near the city raised radioactive dust and slightly increased a level of radiation, though authorities assured level of radiation in Kyiv is normal. These horrible days thousands of people were killed by conventional weapons, our everyday life here under Russian shelling was a deadly lottery, and after the withdrawal of Russian troops from Kyiv region the same massacres are continuing in Eastern Ukrainian cities. In a case of nuclear war, millions could be killed. And scenarios of attrition warfare for indefinite time publicly announced on both sides of Russia-Ukraine conflict increase the risk of nuclear war, at least because Russian nuclear forces will presumably remain on alert.

Now we see that great powers turned the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference into a shameless blame game seeking deceptive justifications for the new nuclear arms race, and also they refused to recognize the new norm of international law established by the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. They say that nuclear weapons are needed for national security. I wonder what sort of "security" could threaten to kill all life on the planet for the sake of so-called sovereignty, in other words, arbitrary power of government over particular territory, this outdated concept which we inherited from dark ages when tyrants divided all lands into feudal kingdoms to oppress and prey on enslaved populations.

True democracy is not compatible with militarism and violently governed sovereignties, bloodshed for so-called sacred land which different

people and their leaders supposedly can't share interdependently because of some dumb old superstitions. Are these territories more precious than human lives? What is a nation, fellow humans which should be spared from burning into dust, or maybe a colony of viruses able to survive horror of atomic bombing? If a nation is essentially fellow humans, national security has nothing to do with nuclear weapons, because such "security" scares us, because no sane person in the world could feel safe until a last nuke will be scrapped. It is inconvenient truth for arms industry, but we should trust common sense, not these advertisers of so-called nuclear deterrence who shamelessly exploit conflict in Ukraine to convince governments to align with aggressive great powers foreign policy and hide under their nuclear umbrellas, to spend more on weapons and warheads instead of dealing with social and environmental injustice, food and energy crisis.

In my view, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a tragic mistake when in his infamous speech at Munich Security Conference he suggested that nuclear capability is a better security guarantee than international agreements and even dared to place in doubt non-proliferation commitments of Ukraine. It was a provocative and unwise speech five days before full-scale Russian invasion, and it poured oil on the fire of escalating conflict.

But he said these wrong things not because he is evil or dumb person, and also I doubt that Russian President Putin with all his nuclear saber-rattling is such evil and crazy person as Western media portrays him. Both the presidents are products of an archaic culture of war which is common in Ukraine and Russia. Both our countries preserved the Soviet system of military patriotic upbringing and conscription which, in my strong belief, should be prohibited by the international law to limit undemocratic powers of governments to mobilize populations for wars against popular will and to turn populations into obedient soldiers instead of empowering free peace-loving citizens.

This archaic culture of war is gradually replaced everywhere with progressive culture of peace. World is changed a lot since the second world war. For example, you can't imagine Stalin and Hitler being asked all the time by journalists and activists when they will end the war or being forced by the international community to form negotiation teams for peace talks and to limit their warfare to feed African countries, but Putin and Zelenskyy are in such a position. And this emerging culture of peace is a hope for better future of humankind, as well as a hope for peaceful resolution of conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which is needed

according to UN Charter, resolution of General Assembly and presidential statement of Security Council, but yet not pursued by warmongering leaders of Russia and Ukraine who bet on achieving their goals on the battlefield, not at the negotiation table. Peace movements should change it, demanding reconciliation and disarmament from helpless national leaders corrupted by the war industry.

Peace-loving people in all countries on all continents should support each other, all peace-loving people on Earth suffering from militarism and war everywhere, in all tens of current wars on the planet. When militarists are saying to you "Stand with Ukraine!" or "Stand with Russia!", it is bad advice. We should stand with peace-loving people, real victims of war, not with warmongering governments who continue the war because the archaic war economy incentivises them. We need big nonviolent changes and a new worldwide social contract for peace and nuclear disarmament, and we need peace education as well as peace media to disseminate practical knowledge about nonviolent way of life and existential dangers of radioactive militarism. Economy of peace should be better organized and financed than the economy of war. We must invest in diplomacy and peacebuilding ten times more resources and efforts than we invest in war.

Peace movement should focus on advocacy of human rights to peace and conscientious objection to military service, saying loudly that any kind of war, offensive or defensive, violates human rights and should be stopped.

Archaic ideas of victory and surrender will not bring us peace. Instead, we need immediate ceasefire, good-faith and inclusive multi-track peace talks and public peacebuilding dialogues to achieve reconciliation between the East and West as well as between Russia and Ukraine. And most of all we should recognize as our goal and concretize in serious realistic plans our further transition to future nonviolent society.

It is hard work, but we must do it to prevent nuclear war. And make no mistake, you can't avoid nuclear war between great powers without telling them that nobody sane should dare to be such a great power that could kill all life on the planet, and also you can't eliminate nukes without getting rid of conventional weapons.

Abolition of war and the build-up of future nonviolent society should be a common effort of all people of Earth. Nobody can be happy in isolated, armed to the teeth radioactive empire at the cost of death and suffering of others.

So, let's abolish nukes, stop all wars, and build perpetual peace together.

Oleg Bodrov, North-West Russia Peace Movement/ Public Council of the Southern Coast of the Gulf of Finland Russia

Dear participants of the conference!

Thanks, Gensuikyo for the excellent organization and the opportunity to discuss our plans for common future without nuclear threats!

I greet you from the Russian side of the Baltic Sea. It is 7,500 km from Hiroshima and 1,000 km from Kiev, Ukraine.

In Ukraine, according to many politicians with whom I agree, there is a confrontation between Russia and NATO. Therefore, this has global consequences, and not only for 41 million Ukrainians and 145 million Russians.

To me it looks as if my right hand is attacking my left hand and trying to break it. It's absurd and insane!

Now, after 77 years, the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki could be repeated in Europe. It is difficult for us to imagine its consequences. Russian atomic scientists are proud to say that back in 1961 they tested a thermonuclear bomb with a yield of over 58 Megatons. This is 10 times the total yield of all the explosives used by all nations in World War II, including the atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Many countries today possess nuclear weapons capable of destroying human civilization many times over. And this scenario is more real than ever.

The geopolitical situation has changed radically since the invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops. In April, the Baltic Peace Movement Network, including our NGO sent an appeal to the President, Parliament, and Government of Finland. We asked to organize an International Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2025 in the spirit of a similar Helsinki conference in 1975.

We suggested too, that Finland should not join NATO until the results of such a conference are summed up in 2025. But our initiative was not heard.

Neutral Finland and Sweden, neighboring Russia, have decided to become members of NATO. This means that the whole Baltic Sea region has become a confrontation zone between NATO and Russia. About 100 million people live here in 11 countries.

So far, NATO generals is only discussing what type of nuclear weapons and under what scenario could be used in the Baltic region. But in fact, on March 4 Russia already used a new type of nuclear weapon in Ukraine. For the first time in world history, the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant was captured with the support of heavy military

equipment. Such actions are forbidden by the Geneva Convention and IAEA resolutions, but this is today's reality!

Zaporozhye NPP is the largest NPP in Europe. Dozens of tons of plutonium-239 is contained in spent nuclear fuel on the territory of this NPP. If extracted, it can be used to make several thousand bombs like those dropped on Nagasaki. But there is no need to extract this plutonium! Destroying such a nuclear power plant, even with a non-nuclear weapon, means detonating a dirty atomic bomb. Plutonium with a half-life of 24 thousand years and other radionuclides could contaminate many thousands square km in Europe.

The Zaporozhye NPP is now run by Ukrainian specialists under the control of the Russian military. The International Atomic Energy Agency confirms that it is impossible to guarantee its safety under such conditions. Zaporozhye NPP has effectively become a Russian military base that cannot be attacked because of the dangers of its destruction.

What happened in Ukraine means that countries that have nuclear power plants on their territory can become nuclear victims in a military conflict with countries that do not have nuclear weapons.

The main conclusion from this story is that there is no distinction between so-called military and peaceful nuclear technologies. They are all dangerous.

So, I support the main message of the conference with a small but important addition: *"Together with Hibakusha, let's create a just and safe world free of nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants."*

Unfortunately, in Russia right now, civil society cannot influence the military escalation.

In the first weeks of aggression in Ukraine more than 1 million 200 thousand citizens of Russia signed the petition "AGAINST WAR". Students, professors, and graduates of Russian universities spoke out against the war. In many cities there were numerous protests in the streets. At the same time the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow, the developer of the first Soviet atomic bomb, supported the "special military operation in Ukraine" on March 4.

But within a few weeks after the beginning of Ukrainian war the situation changed radically:

- All Russian independent media have been shut down.
- Total propaganda of the war is on state TV channels.
- New laws have been passed that prohibit public criticism of the war (including by MPs); violators must pay hefty fines or go to prison.
- There is no independent judiciary; the courts are politically biased.

- The judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are not implemented; the President of Russia has signed a decree to this effect.

- Facebook and some other social networks are blocked.

- Men aged 20-60 are in my city invited to sign a contract to take part in a so-called “*special military operation*” in Ukraine; the monthly fee is 300,000 yen. This is three times the salary of schoolteachers.

- representatives of non-governmental organizations cooperating with partners from other countries are given the status of “foreign agent” and they are deprived of some of the civil rights provided for in the Russian Constitution.

Dear conference participants!

To fight effectively, peace activists should unite with Hibakusha, as well as with environmental, human rights, climate change, and other NGOs. We have a common goal - to protect our planet!

And last, but not least: at present politicians in Russia and Western countries are forming an image of an enemy in the countries of their political opponents.

They see in it an opportunity to consolidate the society inside the country. But can we be enemies in Japan, Ukraine, Russia, and other countries? We are neighbors on our common living planet Earth.

Let us hold hands and act together for the health of our living planet!

Asya Maruket Psychologist/ Women’s rights and peacebuilding activist Russia

Nice to see you, all the participants here. Before preparing my presentation, I had some questions and I’d like to read my answers to the questions.

First of all, I was asked about the actual situation in Russia, how people in general see the war in the government’s propaganda using the media to convince people that it is a “special military operation” to defend Russia from Ukraine’s neo-Nazi force.

There are different trends, some of them say most people in Russia support the special military operation, but according to closed polls, at least a third of Russians are in favor of an immediate end of the special operation.

The main groups of opponents of the special operation are young people and women. There is also an interdependence between the sources of information consumption and the attitude to the special operation. That is, the more people watch TV,

the more they support the war, and those who receive information from the Internet, they protest against it.

Also, several large, enduring anti-war movements have emerged, including women’s and youth anti-war movements, that continue to gather information, agitate against the war, support activists, and provide new ideas for resistance. The participants in these movements are partly in Russia risking their freedom and part of them are outside of Russia.

Also, along with the intensification of protest moods, punishments also increase and laws are tightened, according to which people face large sentences for expressing an anti-war position. There are laws on fakes, on discrediting the army, on high treason, which can include any assistance to the Ukrainian side, including volunteer, financial support, or some other support.

The question about how women react to the situation: Is there any space that women, including mothers of soldiers, can speak out? I know that last year the Committee of Mothers of Soldiers had some trouble with the security agencies and these days I can hardly find any information about their activities, but it doesn’t mean that they don’t do anything. One of the largest antiwar movements in Russia is founded by women, feminists of Russia. Feminist Antiwar Resistance has more than 30,000 followers and dozens of cells around the world in different cities and countries. FAR activities are gradually expanding and becoming more diverse. So, among their activities are:

- Antifund (<https://t.me/strikefund>) – a fund for free legal support for people who suffer at their workplaces because of their anti-war position. As the FAR says they were approached “by employees of various fields and enterprises, bring many of them together with journalists, achieve publicity and bring some cases to court”;
- Psychological support center with 45 specialists for anti-war activists and Ukrainian people insulted by the war;
- There are International FAR departments in 30 countries;
- Assistance to Ukrainian refugees, deportees and migrants. The FAR volunteers outside Russia participate in volunteer organizations like “Help to leave”, “Friends of Mariupol”, etc. Those of them who are in the Russian Federation travel with humanitarian aid to temporary accommodation, help people with information, with leaving the country and support humanitarian financial raising (<https://radial-caboc-40e.notion.site/a4d5d112aaec46b7b7f12811>)

[07db5a9b](#));

- Providing campaigns - mailings, postcards, stickers, leaflets, graffiti, banners, promotions. FAR participants produce all these in huge quantities and place it in urban spaces. Their anti-war postcards are gaining a total of millions of views;
- Anti-War Media. They publish new women's newspaper "Women's Truth", which performs the news function of conveying information to those who do not use the Internet. The newspaper is distributed secretly by volunteers in 23 Russian cities (<https://t.me/femagainstar/4069>);
- Helping to political prisoners and fined activists. One of the FAR activists founded a project "Black February" which is devoted to political prisoners (https://t.me/black_feb). In some cases FAR helps some people collect money for paying fines for their anti-war activities and financial assistance for their leaving the country;
- Decolonial direction, which is very important in the context of current politics in Russia. In these activities, activists from the different Russian ethnicities collect evidence about cases of Nazism and nationalism in the Russian Federation, talk about discrimination based on national identity, support national anti-war organizations.

At this time, there is no opportunity to openly express one's opinion, as people are being held accountable not only for actions, but even for hinting at any anti-war activity. For example, if a person dressed in blue and yellow clothes, for "like" in the internet, even for some words. There are cases when people were fined for even words, even points, "no war" for five points. For any signs which can be considered as protest against the war, people might be fined. We have cases of all these examples.

My views on how the war should end, and how people in other countries can help it: Unfortunately, I am not qualified enough to speak about the supposed scenario for the end of the war. However, like all people of the world, I wish it to stop as soon as possible, and not just stop, but serve as a lesson and a kind of guide for all of us on how to build our societies, our institutions and what to focus on so that our countries can live in peace and harmony with themselves and with other countries.

One of such factors determining the level of peacefulness is the level of gender equality and fairness, and gender justice. Studies show that there is a direct relationship between the level of peacefulness of the state in relation to other countries and the level of gender equality and justice in the country. Therefore, the answer for me

is obvious - invest in equity, justice, protection of vulnerable groups, so that our societies are strong, resilient and able to withstand internal and external tyranny. Because, as the rule of organizational psychology says, the strength of a group is determined by the strength of its weakest member.

In the context of what is happening and how countries can help, this is primarily by strengthening and building up international communication and contacts. Because war is what destroys not just cities and economies, war is what kills people's trust in each other, relationships, cultural exchange.

I believe that now it is very important to maintain an international dialogue, to look for opportunities for cooperation and strengthening peacekeeping initiatives and activism.

I'm against the cancel culture, because this is used as forceful...I'm against using as a forceful method this cancel culture, because the culture of cancellation makes unconscious people even more hostile, and they start to believe like that they are surrounded by enemies. This culture deprives conscious people of opportunities for dialogue, interaction and search for solutions.

There was also a question of my message to the Japanese activists who've been calling for Russia's immediate stop of military actions and withdrawal, and for urgent relief measures to assist Ukraine people both inside and outside the country and for a diplomatic resolution of the crisis.

First of all, I want to thank the Japanese activists for their courage, honesty, and perseverance. Activists do not always achieve their goals, but they always change the world for the better, step by step. No effort is in vain, in my opinion, no work of peace and love is superfluous. Therefore, I would like to express my admiration to my Japanese colleagues and friends and wish all of us success in achieving our goals.

In the context of what is happening, it seems to me very important to provide maximum support to refugees, create conditions for their comfortable living, and hold group therapeutic meetings to provide psychological assistance. Because I think now it is important to do everything so that the war does not go beyond its borders, so that it does not infect our hearts, our relationship with each other.

And I would like to end my speech with a poem by a Japanese feminist poet Yosano Akiko (1878-1942). She was a Japanese poet, educator, and anti-war and social critic.

O My Brother, You Must Not Die

O my young brother, I cry for you

Don't you understand you must not die!

You who were born the last of all

*Command a special store of parents' love
Would parents place a blade in children's hands
Teaching them to murder other men
Teaching them to kill and then to die?
Have you so learned and grown to twenty-four?
O my brother, you must not die!
Could it be the Emperor His Grace
Exposeth not to jeopardy of war
But urgeth men to spilling human blood
And dying in the way of wild beasts,
Calling such death the path to glory?
If His Grace possesseth noble heart
What must be the thoughts that linger there?*

Thank you.

**Nina Potarska
National Coordinator, Women's
International League for Peace and
Freedom (WILPF)
Ukraine**

Hello again to everyone. I'm happy to participate in this conference and I am really grateful for all participants who focus on this issue about Ukraine and all these very negative impacts from the conflict.

My name is Nina Potarska, and I am national coordinator for Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. I'm a feminist activist-researcher and my topics are related to human security, women's peace and security agenda, women's rights and conflict and opportunity for peaceful conflict resolution. And I'm also a member of women network for inclusive dialogues. It's a Ukrainian network, where we are focus on gender reforms, women's political participation and negative effect of militarization, gender and domestic violence and women's employment and economic security and women participation in the negotiation process and resolution of conflict, in Donbass and in Ukraine now.

Today we can observe these global processes in the world that are ruled of by a logic of force instead of cooperation, toxic masculinity instead of gender equality and absence of logic, which are related to future and ability to survive in this world. And our society is moving back to the time when the hopes for opportunity overcome this logic of force and power and violence. So we are becoming hostage of the game of muscles and we have seen the relation to around Taiwan between China and America and in Ukraine between Russia and NATO.

Now Ukraine is like a territory where Russia is so-cold defending their territory from NATO. While not paying attention to the fact that Ukraine is not

just a territory but is a place where people still living and they still not want to die and leaving poverty, fear, without future and even visualization of future, because every day people cannot plan just this day and maybe next and long-term future is impossible now. And despite the fact of our rulers are driven by primal instinct of power and authority, our society has managed technologically to research the point of creating a means of mass murder and other people and atomic energy which was promoted as "peaceful atom" during my childhood and has changed to become their main reason and main challenge for existence of humanity.

And many people in Ukraine remember what has happened in Chernobyl more than 30 years ago and has a memory. I have a mark on my neck because I had an operation 22 years ago also related to this. And Raphael Grossi (of the IAEA) last week told that the situation is becoming more dangerous because of Zaporizhia – Zaporizhia is also a Ukrainian city, which Russian troops captured in the early March. But all staff who service the atomic energy station are Ukrainian, so it is a paradoxical situation how it's called by Grossi, because the station is controlled by Russian but Ukrainian staff operate this nuclear station. So according to him, it leads to unpredictable problems with this station.

And there are other problems now and it's everyday dangerous because Nikopol, a city which is close to Zaporizhia but across the river, now Ukrainian side, but the situation is very dangerous because it's a cross-shelling between Energadar and Nikopol, which is just one road from Zaporizhia which is not blocked now because from the southeast and west the city is surrounded by Russian troops and Nicopol bombing from Energadar but Energadar is also a place for atomic energy station located so Ukrainian troops can respond to this side. According to the information from our sources, Energadar is surrounded by means so we expect everyday something can go wrong in this situation.

And there is a problem because I promoted this approach. How we can use traditional roles of women in our society and how we can make this bridge to peace through women's role in society like a glue on a horizontal level and everyday communication because women's gender roles in traditional societies are very related to horizontal communication through social infrastructure, for example in kindergartens, in parents groups, in schools and everyday communication in shops in horizontal level or in community organization, so they integrated more than men in this everyday horizontal communication between different groups.

But we have a lot of challenges now for these groups. First of all, it's physical safety. I visit Ukraine every month for a couple of weeks and in

different region and my body is used to freeze from loud sounds and I stop breathing during the shelling and this is just the background in which many people in Ukraine have to live and women can continue work, taking care of children and doing everyday woman duties. And another challenge is economical security because the economy in Ukraine is barely alive and many people are without jobs or sustainable income and many children do not go to school this year and we are afraid of the coming winter because it's already known that there will be no gas for heating and many cities in Ukraine are now evacuated not just because of the shelling and the bombing but also because it is impossible to go through autumn, winter and spring period and all these challenges and lack of the clear and positive ideas about the future certainly affect on psychological health. And we talked about how it affects women because now they are heads of households and many women are now displaced or refugees in other countries and for them its new roles of leading their household because as Yurii already mentioned that it's banned for men to move from Ukraine. But in the same time, there are women who left Ukraine. They also face with these challenges because many men were mobilized for army and also women faces new roles like leaders of communities, leaders of households, leaders of family but without any certain future and any guarantee with the lack of social infrastructure and any health infrastructure.

They do everyday care duties because women are traditionally performing functions of care in society. In addition, all these challenges affect the way how women can represent in political and economy because they do not have any support, as I mentioned already, and also that we pin our hopes for reconciliation and peacebuilding in every conflict affected society because we rely on women and their function in community like a glue and we believe that investing in women and their needs and the shift the focus from competition to solidarity and build this and create this spaces safe spaces for a woman. It's a way how we can build peace from very small society and to extend this experience and scale this experience on the whole society in this world. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the conference.

Oksana Chelysheva
Journalist/ Human rights defender
Russia (originally from Ukraine)

Thank you first and foremost. I want to express also my personal gratitude for organizing this event. I use this opportunity to express my deep sorrow of

all the losses of people from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These victims, they are still with us, because unfortunately, we haven't managed to prevent any tragedies like those from happening. So, accept my condolences.

The ongoing war in Ukraine is fraught with a broad range of imminent consequences. With its end still not being visible, it has affected various spheres of life in different countries, Ukraine and Russia, first and foremost. Both economically and politically. At that, its hybrid character influences domestic policies of other countries too. Because in quite many countries, those local authorities are misusing the rhetoric of war or supporting Ukraine in this war to curtail their own freedoms for their citizens.

Russia continues its offensive while Ukraine and the West vows revenge. My question is on whom their punishment will pull. Yesterday, in Donetsk, a girl of 12 was killed. It took me a while to establish her name. By the evening, I found out that the girl's name was Ekaterina Kotovaiva and she was dreaming to become a Ballet dancer. She was killed together with her Ballet teacher. Are these people the right target for the revenged? Nobody dares to push for the ceasefire. Most politicians enjoy describing themselves in terms of "freedom fighters," promising they would do what is right and necessary for Ukraine. However, they hesitate to ask Ukrainians once again. In their eyes the right thing is to provide ever more lethal weapons. Meanwhile politicians and journalists speak about their vision of establishing peace by "defeating not only Putin by now or any other kind of authoritarian regime already but Russia as such".

Instead, day in day out there is more shelling and bombing, with huge numbers of injuries, and many thousands continue to be killed. At that, it is not something which started out of the blue on February 24th. The tragedy had been developing fiercely during the previous eight years with just splashes of attention from the media. Each time the media serving the interests of this or that side of the conflict was very selective with regard to which of the tragedies to cover and which to not notice.

And I do understand the concerns that the respected host of this event expressed at the very beginning of the event that from the media it is very difficult to understand what is going on and first and foremost why this is going on. I myself am a journalist and I am a member of the union of journalist of Finland now. It is also difficult for me to work and to write in this environment. But I myself have worked out one principle in the atmosphere when it is very hard to verify the information, and unfortunately now the OSCE

SMM* stopped operating in Ukraine, so it is very difficult to find ways to get chances to check the information. I have worked out my own way, and this is never-ending communication with the monitoring mission. I was in communication with the OSCE SMM, I sent them facts for them to verify, because this is their task first and foremost, and now I've been doing it with the UN human rights monitoring mission. And still that's very important and still it's very difficult. Right now Amnesty International is on the spot for their most recent report on Ukrainian military endangering civilians by locating forces in residential areas. What is striking is that they have been attacked not because of the doubt that these facts are not provable. No, they have been attacked because they are just there to raise the issues. This is just a top of the huge spectrum of similar reports different journalists and I myself have been receiving all through the years, not only after February 24th of both sides, and very often Ukrainian army using civilian objects for military purposes.

Unfortunately, the most drastic prognosis from that time is now the reality with which everybody is afraid to deal with. The tension is that high that any tiny attempt to call for mediation or political solutions leads to nasty labels and accusations of being either "pro-Putin" or "pro-NATO". If you call for peace, you automatically are portrayed as someone wishing the defeat for Ukraine. This is not just utterly wrong. This is absolutely irresponsible towards millions of Ukrainians and also Russians whose victims can still be prevented. It is utterly irresponsible towards peace as such and the future of our civilisation and these are not just empty words.

I was thinking about what to tell, I was looking through different statements on the conflict, and all of a sudden I decided to remind you and to quote Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, the NATO's secretary general, who on August 4th actually told addressing the youth in Utøya Island, "In this conflict, NATO has two tasks. Support Ukraine. And prevent the conflict from spreading into a full-scale war between NATO and Russia." Actually, this is half confession. I agree whole-heartedly with the assessment made by Stoltenberg of this conflict to be the most dangerous conflict after the Second World War, but I can't agree with other part of the statement about NATO's striving to prevent the conflict in Ukraine from turning into a bigger war;

the reality and the facts are the opposite.

We are in the situation when all the previous calls to respect and implement the Minsk Agreements were disregarded and left without any attempt to truly demand its implementation from the sides of the conflict. I do not think that the Minsk Agreements as such were bound to fail. What caused its failure was mostly lack of interest to getting better understanding of the causes of the conflict, the refusal to consider such factors as its complex nature, the vague language of the agreements and utter refusal demonstrated by the sides to agree on the timing and sequence of the Minsk Agreements implementation. Russia and Ukraine had absolutely diverging views on the conflict's nature and causes, who should and who should not be present at the table as parties of the negotiations. All that blurred the main core of the negotiations which would be establishing peace respecting all the agreements including military provisions, including ceasefires, which lasted for a day, at best.

Unfortunately, back then the tensions between the short-term goals of stopping the fighting and long-term goals of reaching a lasting political settlement were far too apparent. The world society by then had got used to kind of enjoying "frozen conflicts" which were used as a soil to grow political ambitions and engage into a very profitable political ping-pong game. What the world was not prepared for is the reality of nowadays with its multiple once frozen conflicts being unwrapped and what is worse, all at once.

To conclude, I would like to ask all the participants to consider the ways how we the civil society, the responsible journalist community should demand from their sides to let access to the sites of tragedies to truly independent observers to enhance the possibilities of the UN human rights missions, because at the moment it is the only international observation mission which works sufficiently, although it is extremely difficult for them, and also to support such organizations as Amnesty International with their very attempt to raise very sensitive issues, which has nothing else but facts at the background. Thank you.

(*OSCE SMM: Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine)

2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs: Hiroshima Day Rally (August 6)



[Opening movie: Digest of the 2022 Nationwide Peace March“Grass-roots voices change the world” \(video\)](#)

Greetings by national government representative:

Ambassador Syed Mohamad Hasrin Aidid, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations



At the outset, may I express my gratitude to the organizing committee of the 2022 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs for inviting me to participate in this year's

conference.

I am participating in this conference only virtually due to my on-going responsibilities as Chair of Main Committee I of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), currently being held in New York until 26 August 2022.

I am deeply honoured to speak at this year's Hiroshima Day Rally, having participated in the Nagasaki Day Rally in 2021 and 2020.

The continued convening of this World Conference over the past few years, notwithstanding the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, is testament both to the importance of the issues discussed, and the resolve of the hibakusha and civil society to advance our shared efforts towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

The testimonies of the Hibakusha are indeed poignant, moving and profound. They serve as crucial reminders of the devastating horrors and unspeakable humanitarian catastrophe caused by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki more than seven decades ago.

Any threat or use of nuclear weapons is totally unacceptable, as such weapons are abhorrent and incompatible with basic ethical and security considerations.

Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

We should recall the seminal UN General Assembly resolution of 1946, in which the aspiration for a world free of nuclear weapons was articulated in the wake of the Second World War, and we must intensify our efforts to realise it in full.

The continued existence of approximately 13,000 nuclear weapons, the modernisation of nuclear arsenals, and the persistence of these weapons in the military and security doctrines of a small group of countries, reflect the danger they pose to the safety and security of all.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Its full and effective implementation is integral to international peace and security, as well as the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

All States Parties have the responsibility to implement their obligations under the NPT in a full, objective and balanced manner across the three (3) pillars of the Treaty.

Building on Malaysia's initiative in issuing a Joint Communiqué to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the NPT in 2020, a Joint Statement on the convening of the 10th NPT Review Conference was issued by 15 States Parties on 31 July 2022.

Through this statement, the States Parties concerned have reiterated long-standing principles which they subscribe to in the context of the NPT.

The Joint Statement was officially issued through the Permanent Missions of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna, and through social media platforms of the participating States.

We appreciate the positive feedback received on the Joint Communiqué, in particular from civil society, whose voice is crucial in moving forward our discourse and action on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

As a State Party to the TPNW, Malaysia welcomes the successful conclusion of its First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) in Vienna from 21 to 23 June 2022.

The MSP allowed States Parties to reaffirm our resolve to ensure the elimination of nuclear weapons, through a landmark instrument which we view as complementary to the NPT.

During the MSP, States' Parties heard testimony from hibakusha as well as representatives of communities harmed by the testing of nuclear weapons, which underlined the imperative of sustained progress on nuclear disarmament.

On this solemn occasion, as we remember the pain and suffering inflicted on the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let us remain steadfast in our resolve to herald the day when the entire world will constitute one unbroken nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Civil society and youth will undoubtedly play a crucial role in our efforts, and States should engage them as partners in dialogue and action, including in enhancing public awareness on the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Let us move forward in the spirit of solidarity, and concern for life and the future of our planet, which underpin our collective efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, in the common interest of peace, security and sustainable development for all.

Thank you.

Message from the Mayor of Hiroshima:

Matsui Kazumi Mayor of Hiroshima City (Delivered by Sakatani Yukiharu, Director of Civic Affairs Department)

On the occasion of the "Hiroshima Day Rally" of the 2022 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, I would like to extend a few words of greeting to you.

May I express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your continuous and active efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting peace in the world.

The single atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima 77 years ago not only turned the city into ashes in an instant and caused horrible deaths to many innocent people, but also left those who barely survived with deep physical and mental scars for the rest of their lives, including radiation damage, health concerns, and even hardships in their daily lives.

With the hope that "no one else should ever have to go through the same experiences", Hibakusha have shared their stories and conveyed the horror and inhumanity of nuclear weapons, as well as their desire for peace with compassion for others. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which came into effect in January last year, is the fruit of the wishes and actions of these

Hibakusha. From now on, the international community must make further efforts to render this treaty more effective and work towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

However, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the dangerous idea that violence by military force can only be contained by armed force is gaining momentum. As long as the idea of nuclear deterrence, which is premised on the rational judgment of policymakers, prevails, humanity will continue to be threatened by the danger of nuclear weapons. To prevent this from happening, we must truly understand the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and seek a fundamental solution by eliminating them, no matter how difficult that path may be.

The road to the abolition of nuclear weapons may not be smooth, but if each and every member of civil society holds the conviction that nuclear weapons should not exist and continues to communicate this conviction firmly, it will surely become a driving force to make the policymakers of each country decide to change their nuclear

deterrence policies. In this sense, it is truly meaningful that you are holding the "World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs" again this year and widely communicating your appeal for the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons to people in Japan and across the world. I would like to express my deep respect for your efforts.

Our city will continue to "preserve" the reality of the atomic bombings, "spread" it beyond national borders, and "convey" it to future generations. We will work tirelessly with Nagasaki and other member cities of the Mayors for Peace around the world to create an environment that encourages policy change by sharing the desire for peace and establishing a "culture of peace" in civil society which rejects all forms of violence. I sincerely hope that you will work together to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting peace in the world. In closing, I would like to express my sincere wishes for a successful Conference, and the continued activities and health of all of you gathered here.



Special Program I: “77th Year of the A-Bombing: Messages from Hiroshima to the World”:

Kobayashi Takako, Counselling Station for Hibakusha, Hiroshima Prefectural Hidankyo



Hello and welcome to Hiroshima. Thank you for coming a long way to join us in the Hiroshima Day Rally. As you know, the lawsuit that began back in 2015, called “Black Rain Lawsuit”, ended in 2020 with our victory. All 84 plaintiffs have been given the Hibakusha Health Handbook. Thank you for your unwavering support. Since April this year, the new criteria have been applied for Hibakusha recognition, allowing those survivors who had been left unattended for 76 long years to at last benefit from the Hibakusha relief measures in place. Friends, I want you to join us in celebration of this hard-won victory. Thank you again.

We, three of us all from Hiroshima, have been supporting the plaintiffs and have today the honor to steer this big event. We count on your collaboration in leading the program smoothly. I am Kobayashi Takako, working at the counselling station of Hiroshima Hidankyo. I suffered the atomic bombing when I was only a year and seven months old and survived it to be what you see now today. As an opening to this special program, let me introduce you first to Ms. Ishikawa Keiko. She was exposed to the atomic bomb explosion at the age of a year and five months at her house located within the area showered with black rain, but she has no witness who can testify for her. Please listen to her story of the Black Rain Lawsuit.

Ishikawa Keiko Hibakusha of Hiroshima

I was told that I had been caught in the black rain in Kabe Town when I was a 17-month-old baby.



I have no recollection of that time and that is why I had given up applying for a Hibakusha Health Handbook. Last year, a friend of mine who is fighting the Black Rain Lawsuit told me that in Futsukaichi City where I live today, there is a counsellor who is advising Hibakusha for getting the Hibakusha Health Handbook. With the assistance of the advisor, I collected stories from my elder sister, my dead mother and some acquaintances, and my sister and I applied for the Health Handbook in December. Our applications are currently being examined.

I heard that my mother carried me on her back and entered Hiroshima and helped to give care to many injured. From my early childhood, I have kept the sad memories of quarrels between my father, who argued that we should apply for the “Handbook” as “there still are some witnesses”, and my mother who stubbornly opposing applying. I used to wonder why my mother so strongly refused the application. I understood the reason only when, as a grownup, I learned that a friend from my school, who was engaged to a man, had to cancel the marriage at the last minute because the parents of the man found out that his would-be-wife was a Hibakusha.

On the morning of August 6, my mother had planned to take me to the prefectural hospital but was too tired to do so. She finished hanging the laundry out to dry and began feeding the chickens. She then was struck by a sudden flash and heard the sound of an explosion. She took me in her arms and rushed into the air-raid shelter. As for my elder sister, she was riding the train to school when she heard an alert siren. When she got to school, her teacher advised her to hurry back home. On the way home from the railway station, she looked up at the sky as she heard a big roaring sound. It flashed and turned yellow all over. She said she could not see anything then. A column of black smoke rose in the direction of Hiroshima. It was so scary that my sister came back home running. After a while, a black rain

began to fall, dyeing the laundry black and covering it with ash. Mother said she had to wash that laundry several times over.

We collected and ate wild grass grown in our garden and fish caught in the river, because we did not know how dangerous they were. My elder brother, a first grader in elementary school at that time, developed serious diseases on and off and eventually died 5 years ago. [...]

Nuclear weapons are cruel weapons. I am profoundly thankful to those who have been active for many years and have given so much for the movement to obtain the enlargement of official perimeters of the Black Rain affected areas. They have now won the case for us. I am really grateful to them. In addition, I allow myself to take this opportunity to thank personally Ms. Maeda Chika, a friend who fought in court with me and encouraged me to apply for the Hibakusha Handbook. I wish that those who remain without official recognition of Hibakusha will soon be entitled to the Hibakusha handbook and that the handbook will be distributed to them smoothly without delay.

**Nishino Marika & Okuhara Meiko
Students, Faculty of Media Business,
Hiroshima University of Economics**



Hello! I am Nishino Marika.
And I am Okuhara Meiko.

We are both students at Hiroshima University of Economics. Today, we invite you to see a documentary film we made and, after that, to listen to the stories we recount. I believe that for the majority of you the typical images you have of Hibakusha are from the drawings and photos shown in A-bomb museums: that means people whose bodies are heavily burned, with peeled skin hanging from different parts of their bodies. They are trying to run away with messy hair.

However, Black Rain survivors do not have any keloids or scars of injury on their bodies. This is why they were not recognized as A-bomb survivors for as many as 76 years since the atomic

bombing. What does this mean? To answer this question, we followed with our cameras six Black Rain sufferers for seven months, or 130 hours, to produce a documentary.

In the course of production, we continuously asked ourselves what was it we wanted to express through the film. We reached two conclusions.

First is that the atomic bombing actually produced far more victims than has been admitted by governments. Many people died premature deaths and those who survived have suffered from ill health, poverty, discrimination and solitude.

The second is that Hibakusha really were showered with black rain that fell immediately after the bombing, but that we should not forget the exposure to the radioactive rain taken into their body afterwards. After the downpour of black rain, people continued to drink water from rivers and wells. They also used water for bathing and washing. The water they took into their bodies was contaminated with high concentrations of radioactive substances. Once taken in, these substances continued to undermine human bodies from inside. The ABCC (Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission), later renamed the Radiation Effect Research Institute (RERI), that examined Hibakusha pretended not to be particularly interested in this. Taking advantage of the lack of interest shown by the ABCC, the Japanese government ignored the effects of internal radiation exposure. This is how a large number of black rain survivors came to be left without any relief or support for as long as 76 years.

We embarked on the production of the documentary in February 2021. Establishing any kind of bond with Hibakusha was quite a challenge. Two Hibakusha declined our request for an interview. One of them said that once the film is shown to the public, families would be subject to discrimination.

The other one said she had gone through bad experiences in the past because she had told her story. She was treated as a liar and received many harassing phone calls.

It is unfair, since those two Hibakusha have done nothing wrong.

We visited the interviewees at their houses many times. We tried hard to communicate to them our thoughts and feelings about making the documentary and finally they accepted us.

We also stayed close to Hibakusha to observe the process of the Black Rain Trial. The scene at the announcement of the court decision that delivered justice to Hibakusha, the happy and sometimes perplexed expressions that appeared on their faces when they received the Hibakusha Health Handbook... We can recall it all as if it happened

yesterday. However, as we learned, there still are black rain Hibakusha who have given up taking their cases to court.

The tragedy of the atomic bombing tends to be relegated to the past, as does the damage the black rain caused. Many people died even though at the time of the bombing they were at places very far away from ground zero. And the reality is that people who survived continue to suffer from black rain even today, 77 years after the bombing.

And what is going to happen from now on? If the consequences of internal exposure are overlooked, they may create many more victims in future. Internal exposure is a central problem of nuclear damage that continues from Hiroshima and Nagasaki on to Fukushima, a problem of the past, present and future. We are sure of this now we have finished making the film. You can find our work on YouTube searching "black rain". It is our wish that as many people as possible will see it.

Actions for a nuclear weapon-free world:

Beatrice Fihn, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)



Hi everyone, I'm Beatrice Fihn, the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN.

First let me say thank you for having me here, and thank you for organizing this important conference on a topic that really is one of the most pressing and urgent global problems.

And this year, unfortunately, we have really seen just how pressing, urgent and dangerous the situation is. In February, a nuclear-armed state - Russia - invaded a country with no nuclear weapons - Ukraine - and threatened to use nuclear weapons against anyone intervening in the conflict.

In doing so, Russia has used its nuclear weapons not for defence or to maintain stability, but to coerce and intimidate - to facilitate its aggression, to constrain the ability of the international

community to respond, and to provide a cover for war crimes and violations of human rights. Russia's actions have raised the risks of nuclear weapons being used, and brought the horrifying prospect of nuclear warfare alarmingly closer.

This comes on top of years of nuclear-armed states not only failing to make any progress on their nuclear disarmament obligations, but investing colossal sums to modernize and upgrade their arsenals. As we meet in Hiroshima here today, the review conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty is taking place in New York, looking back at the past seven years of paralysis and failure.

Reductions of nuclear weapon stockpiles have come to a halt. China and Russia are increasing the size of their nuclear arsenals, and the United Kingdom has raised the maximum number of warheads it will retain. Countries that are in alliances with nuclear-armed states, including Japan, have failed to take any steps to reduce their reliance on nuclear weapons.

But in the midst of this bleak picture, there are encouraging signs - signs that many countries are not content to continue sleepwalking towards nuclear catastrophe, and are taking action right now to prevent it. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is in force. Like chemical and biological weapons, like antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs, nuclear weapons are now illegal under international law. This is an extraordinary achievement and a crucial step forward.

And the TPNW is not just a static piece of international law - it is a vehicle for practical action and real progress towards nuclear disarmament. The treaty gives us a framework to eliminate nuclear weapons entirely and it has already started building pressure and normative change.

In Vienna in June, the 65 states parties to the treaty held their first meeting. They adopted a declaration unequivocally condemning any and all threats to use nuclear weapons - the first intergovernmental body to do so. And they adopted a 50-point action plan to put the treaty to work.

Also encouraging is the fact that several countries in nuclear alliances - including Germany and Norway - participated in this TPNW meeting. Some spoke of their support for the aims of the treaty and their interest in collaborating with TPNW states parties. Sadly, Japan did not participate, but I am optimistic that together we can persuade the government of Japan to participate in the next one.

The reason I am optimistic is that it is your energy and commitment that have helped to get us this far. The TPNW could not have been achieved without the tireless advocacy and campaigning by Hibakusha and Japanese people. It is always fantastic to see how committed people in Hiroshima

are to abolishing nuclear weapons. The energy and passion that Japanese people bring to this issue, inspires our entire global movement.

It is not surprising — Hiroshima knows better than anyone the consequences of nuclear bombs. But it is not just the Hibakusha who know this, not just the people who lived through the experience and the rebuilding of this city from the ashes that know this — but also regular citizens today, including young people, carry the stories with them, and carry the passion to make sure this is never done to anyone else again. Japanese people know the cost of nuclear weapons, and are dedicated to eliminating them.

So we need your voices, your energy, your persistence as we move forward to expand the membership of the TPNW, to carry out its provisions, and to make progress with eliminating nuclear weapons. When Russia threatens to use nuclear weapons, when other countries threaten to respond with nuclear weapons, when analysts and the media discuss how nuclear weapons might be used in this situation or that, we need your voices to remind the world of the true costs. Of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of *any* use of nuclear weapons. Of what would really happen if a nuclear weapon were to be used on a city.

We need your voices to remind the world - and the Japanese government - that nuclear weapons can never be acceptable. Not for Russia, not for China, not for North Korea, not for the United States, not for Japan - not for anyone, under any circumstances, ever.

The Japanese Government should know better than any other nation the consequences of nuclear weapons. Japan has joined many other nations in condemning Russia's aggression and nuclear coercion. Yet Tokyo is happy to live under the umbrella of US nuclear protection, and has not joined the TPNW.

Is your government ok with inflicting on other cities the evil that was done to Nagasaki and Hiroshima?

We must harness your voices to show your national government in Tokyo that it is unacceptable to be a willing participant in threatening to use nuclear weapons. That what is wrong for Russia is wrong for Japan too. That Japan must be a leader in the global movement for nuclear disarmament. That Japan must join this treaty.

Encourage your politicians to take up your cause. Grow louder if they do not listen. Know that you have millions of people around the world who share your values and your cause.

Join with them to create an unstoppable force of democratic disarmament.

What happened to Hiroshima must not be

forgotten. And that's why Japan has such an important part to play in this story.

So as I have done before, I want to again thank the Hibakusha for their tireless work. For sharing traumatic and painful memories over and over again only to protect others from experiencing the same. And I want to conclude by reading the final paragraph of the Vienna Declaration adopted by the first meeting of states parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which I think perfectly captures the spirit of the Hibakusha and shows us the path ahead:

“We have no illusions about the challenges and obstacles that lie before us in realizing the aims of this Treaty. But we move ahead with optimism and resolve. In the face of the catastrophic risks posed by nuclear weapons and in the interest of the very survival of humanity, we cannot do otherwise. We will take every path that is open to us, and work persistently to open those that are still closed. We will not rest until the last state has joined the Treaty, the last warhead has been dismantled and destroyed and nuclear weapons have been totally eliminated from the Earth.”

Thank you.

Ludo De Brabander Vrede vzw, Belgium



Dear Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about the situation in Belgium, one of the NATO countries with US nuclear bombs on its soil.

Belgium is one of the five European countries with US nuclear bombs on its soil. These nuclear gravity bombs were deployed in the early 1960s through a secret agreement between Belgium and the US. Until today, the government maintains a policy of ambiguity, neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear bombs in Belgium, blocking any normal parliamentary debate.

However, it is no secret that about 100 to 150 US B61 nuclear bombs have been deployed in five European countries as part of NATO's nuclear

sharing policy. Belgian fighter jets are responsible for employing these nuclear bombs in wartime - as it is the case for Germany, Italy and the Netherlands - which is in breach with the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that prohibits the transfer to or control over nuclear weapons by non-nuclear weapon states. These bombs will soon be replaced by new B61-12 nuclear bombs as part of a \$ 10 billion US modernization program. Because of their precision and low yield options these nuclear weapons are considered 'usable', lowering the threshold for a nuclear war. This all happens without any official statement or public debate.

The resistance against nuclear weapons in Belgium has a long history. Probably many people still remember the large mass mobilizations against the installation of nuclear missiles in various European NATO countries in the early 1980s. In 1983 400,000 demonstrators marched through the streets in Brussels, in what became the biggest demonstration ever in Belgian history. Despite all the protests, the government back then decided to deploy cruise missiles in 1985. However, two years later they were taken back to the US under the INF treaty agreed between the US and the Soviet Union. For an important part, this agreement - that unfortunately ceased to exist after the withdrawal of the US in 2019 - was made possible due to the massive pressure from the peace movement in Europe and the United States.

Numerous subsequent European peace actions kept nuclear disarmament on the agenda. In 2010, foreign ministers of Belgium, Germany, Norway, Luxembourg and the Netherlands wrote a common letter to question NATO nuclear sharing. However, the US and other pro-nuclear-weapon states within the military alliance responded by declaring NATO a 'nuclear alliance' in its new strategic concept. A move that aimed to collectivize nuclear weapons as an integral part of NATO and to silence critics by arguing that anti-nuclear weapons positions go against NATO obligations.

With the entry into force of the Nuclear Prohibition Treaty (TPNW) and the planned replacement of nuclear bombs in Europe by B61-12, new opportunities have arisen for the peace movement. The TPNW is an important milestone in the fight against nuclear weapons, the international peace movement should be credited for. In addition, the anti-nuclear stance of the peace movement is shared by the vast majority of the population.

Various surveys show that the majority of the Belgian population does not want nuclear bombs in Belgium. This is also the case for Germany, Italy and the Netherlands that all host US nuclear arms. The Belgian population's anti-nuclear weapons position was also translated cautiously into the

governmental coalition agreement that was approved at the end of last summer noting that "Belgium will play a proactive role in the 2021 NPT Review Conference and, together with European NATO allies, will explore how to strengthen the multilateral non-proliferation framework and how the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons can give new impetus to multilateral nuclear disarmament."

Nevertheless, the Belgian government was reluctant to recognise the ban Treaty as an important tool for nuclear disarmament. Finally, the government gave in to pressure from the peace movement and participated in the MSP as an observer. So did Germany and the Netherlands, two other NATO nuclear sharing countries. This is a first small breach in NATO's position as a nuclear alliance while openly campaigning against the TPNW claiming falsely that it undermines the Non proliferation Treaty.

The pressure from the US and NATO to maintain the nuclear deterrent is huge. The Belgian government is divided over the issue. Greens and Social Democrats want Belgium to remove the nuclear bombs and sign the TPNW, but the Liberals and Christian Democrats want us to remain loyal to NATO's 'nuclear sharing'-policy. But it looks like they don't want to get the government into trouble over nuclear weapons.

The peace movement is campaigning to pressure the government to be serious about nuclear disarmament and to sign the TPNW with much local support. Every year at peace day (21/09), about 130 mayors of cities and municipalities urge the government to remove the nuclear bombs from Belgian territory and to sign the TPNW. Last year we did a 30 km bikes not bombs tour with 150 peace activists to the military base where the nuclear bombs are stored as part of a Europe free nukes campaign. This year, 2 October, our Bikes not Bombs tour will cross Brussels where NATO headquarters is located.

It was the first time in years that the European peace movement campaigned together to show the unified position. The European peace movement needs to join forces internationally and locally to increase its impact as it was the case in the eighties.

Still, even if many recent actions have been taken place on a modest scale, they are a first important step in expanding the anti-nuclear weapons movement in a crucial time as we are witnessing a war in Ukraine, where irresponsible threats to use nuclear weapons have been made. Unfortunately, growing international tensions are accompanied by an increased importance of nuclear weapons in military strategies.

For the coming years, the peace movement

faces the challenge of translating the huge anti-nuclear sentiment among the population into major mobilizations and political pressure.

Hope Cristobal
Former Senator, Guahan Legislature
Guam



Håfa adai! Greetings, Members of the Conference Committee against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, the courageous Hibakusa, Ladies and Gentlemen! My name is Hope Alvarez Cristobal, former Guam senator.

My CHamoru people continue to struggle in a colonial reality of ongoing massive military expansion with injustices that deny, deprive, and dispossess us of our lands, our identity, our sovereignty, and our human rights. Comprising less than 37% of our population we have intensified our work in actively protecting, and defending ourselves to buffer hardships and harms. We join you in the call to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons, nuclear devastation, and militarization and to ensure a peaceful, sustainable future.

We are overwhelmed with war propaganda, amidst collective trauma and grief during a relentless global pandemic. Memories of the cruelties of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and WWII remain present in our minds, as we watch violence perpetrated against Ukraine, along with atrocities and intentional obfuscation of wars in Europe. War is averse to our nature as human beings! We must not be desensitized.

As global domination unfolds in the pivot to the Pacific, we remain fraught with anguish of the historic and enduring nuclearization of the Pacific Islands with the legacy of violent environmental racism, erasure, and displacement. We know the clear connections between colonization, militarization, capitalism, genocide, white supremacy, and racial violence. We understand the real limitations of our islands and waters in the

unforgiving climate crisis. Sadly, Guam is often the example of the hard lessons of colonization in the Pacific. It's as if war has never actually left our homelands pushing the bounds of our dignity, our identities, and mother Earth. Yet, we are bound as people--not in trauma alone, but in our resilience and our eager anticipation for peace throughout the world.

If colonization and militarization were to evaporate, we would see the ends to poverty, hunger, environmental destruction, the exploitation of people and planet, and a halt to climate crisis so we can cultivate our indigenous brilliance. We remain committed and continue to fight devastating cultural erosion, ancestral desecrations and the poisoning of our lands and waters.

We work tirelessly to expose innumerable injustices and inform of soil and water contaminations from toxic hazardous wastes, Superfund sites, formerly used defense sites and installation restoration projects containing substances so dangerous our lands may never recover. Environmental Impact Statements under U.S. NEPA requirements are exercises in futility that exclude our people's greater call for self-determination and decolonization that has been obstructed for over a century! The U.S. confounds the universal rights of individuals with special rights of indigenous peoples who are ignored, divided, and pushed to the brink of extinction. You see, Guam is a U.S. unincorporated territory and a non-self-governing territory under the U.N. yet, tightly intertwined with US military. WE battle both concurrently and challenge the persistent disregard for our right to free, prior, and informed consent regarding the military expansion in Guam.

To restore and strengthen our community reverence, respect, and love for our ancestors who were a free people and our link to our sovereignty, we fight their desecrations including at the site of the new Marine Base. We must continue to embody empathy, kindness, and care in these increasing volatile times and hope to appeal to the humanity of our colonizers, to make them see something of us in themselves—to know the realities of a colonized people and to deconstruct and eradicate the economics of apathy, the logic of fear, and the demand for domination and control.

Let us revitalize our relationships, be steadfast, and watch over each other to safeguard from threats of empire. May we continue to unite to attain the *Peace* that we all long for in this world. (Thank you!) Si Yu'os Ma'åse.

Lee Gi Eun
Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of
Korea (SPARK)
ROK



Hello.

My name is Gieun Lee. I am a youth activist on Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea.

In late June 2022, the leaders of South Korea and Japan attended the NATO summit for the first time. This reflects the Biden administration's motives to establish a global alliance system through NATO's advancement into the Asia-Pacific region and the trilateral US-South Korea-Japan alliance. Establishing the Korea-Japan alliance will be a starting and end points for NATO's global partnership. Biden administration's intention for the worldwide alliance system is to contain and isolate North Korea and China. This move escalates our globe to a new Cold War. The escalating crisis in Taiwan strait caused by House Speaker Pelosi's recent visits to Taiwan directly indicates the precarious reality of a new Cold War. Under such military confrontation in Northeast Asia, denuclearization of the Korean peninsula will lose its momentum and will be dismissed. The Biden Administration must immediately stop NATO's expansion into the Asia-Pacific region and stop fostering a crisis in Northeast Asia! The US THAAD deployed in Seongju, South Korea, is directly linked to the US THAAD radar deployed in Shariki and Kyogamisaki, Japan. This linkage precipitates and arranges the ROK-US-Japan Missile Defense system, the US-Korea-Japan Alliance system, and the Korea-Japan alliance.

In Soseong-ri, South Korea, where the US military deployed its THAAD in 2016, elderly community members in their 70s and 80s, as well as activists in solidarity, have been carrying out everyday Peace Actions to block the illegal THAAD construction vehicles from entering their village. Soseong-ri people's daily early morning Peace Action persists despite being dragged out by the state police force every single time. Their unstopplable struggle against the US THAAD is a

persistent resistance against the formation of the Korea-Japan Missile Defense system and the Alliance system. People of Soseong-ri are resisting a new Cold-War confrontation in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia with their bodies. They are protecting world peace with their bodies.

Both South Korea and Japan are under the US nuclear umbrella. Japan was the first place in human history to be victimized by US nuclear weapons, and South Korea is one of the most likely places in the world for US nuclear weapons to be used. A regional nuclear war inevitably escalates into a global nuclear war. Therefore, to prevent the annihilation of humanity and protect regional and international peace, South Korea and Japan need to refuse US nuclear umbrella and end US-led nuclear confrontations.

North Korea has long determined to give up its nuclear missiles in exchange for security assurance. Today, North Korea's position remains the same. In 2018, the US and North Korean leaders adopted the Singapore Joint Statement. In the statement, the US agreed to guarantee security assurance to the North Korean regime. However, the US has resumed its joint military exercises with South Korea and is also escalating the scale of South Korea-US-Japan trilateral military exercises. This coincides with NATO's expansion into the Asia-Pacific region, increasing the possibility of war in Northeast Asia, including the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan. There is no time to waste. The peace movements in Korea and Japan must act in our struggle against the Korea-Japan joint military exercises.

We address the peace-loving people of Japan. We have never forgotten and will never forget the Japanese and Korean victims of the US's Atomic Bombings. Let us push for both South Korea and Japan to join the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" so that our humanity will not have to suffer the consequences of nuclear weapons again. Let us advocate to end the military alliance with the US and break out of the ever-increasing possibility of atomic weapons being used again. Instead, let us build a Northeast Asian Multilateral Security System and pursue a path to peace, coexistence, and prosperity in Northeast Asia. When those in power choose war and annihilation through nuclear confrontation and alliance, our peace movements must stop them by selecting the path to peace and coexistence through denuclearization and common security. We invite peace movements in Japan to join our struggle to end the Korean war and achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. This must be done by with a peace treaty. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will be the cornerstone for establishing the Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon

Free Zone. We, SPARK, will continue to fight for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Northeast Asia, and, ultimately, a nuclear-free world. To this end, we must walk hand in hand.

[Special Program II: Relay messages from Parliamentarians – For achieving a government to join the TPNW” \(video\)](#)

Greetings from political party representative:

Shii Kazuo
Chair, Japanese Communist Party



Hello everyone. I am Shii Kazuo of the Japanese Communist Party. I would like to extend my sincerest greetings in solidarity.

Today, I want to make the case that in order for Japan to play a leading role in creating a world without nuclear weapons, the only A-bombed country in the world needs to change its political stance completely.

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio recently made a speech in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, but he did not refer to either of the two most important things in achieving a world without nuclear weapons. One is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The other is Article VI of the NPT. These instruments were not mentioned in the speech at all. I want to stress that this best illustrates what is wrong with the Japanese government's stance.

First, I will talk about the TPNW. The first meeting of State Parties to the TPNW was held in June and it was a big success. Among the observer participants in the meeting were Germany, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Australia, all allies of the United States. This clearly showed that the TPNW is now a reality which no country including those dependent on nuclear weapons can ignore.

Despite this, Prime Minister Kishida turned his

back on the meeting and his government refused to take part in the event even as an observer. In addition, he did not say a word about the TPNW at the NPT Review Conference or at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony held earlier today. He acts as if there is no such thing as the TPNW. He should be ashamed of himself.

Why does he act like that? It is because he is bound by the myth of the nuclear deterrence theory. What is the nuclear deterrence theory? The Vienna Declaration, which was adopted in the first meeting of State Parties to the TPNW, states that nuclear deterrence doctrines "are based and rely on the threat of the actual use of nuclear weapons" and that its fallacies are being clearly highlighted. In other words, supporting the nuclear deterrence theory is equivalent to committing to the use of nuclear weapons without hesitation in case of an emergency and to bringing about a humanitarian catastrophe similar to the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Japanese government criticizes the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. Criticizing the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons while at the same time supporting the nuclear deterrence theory is an obvious contradiction. I want to emphasize that Japan, which experienced the inhumane consequence of nuclear weapons, should break the spell of accepting the nuclear deterrence myth and join the TPNW.

The other point missing in Kishida's speech (in the NPT Review Conference) was Article VI of the NPT.

Article VI is a key clause requiring member states to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament". No treaty is more unequal than the NPT. It allows only the five major powers to have nuclear arsenals and prohibits the rest of the countries in the world to do so. It is the most unequal treaty in human history. The international community approved the treaty precisely because Article VI of the NPT obliges nuclear weapon states to negotiate in good faith for nuclear disarmament. The Kishida government takes no notice of the soul of the treaty.

So far, under Article VI of the NPT, nuclear weapon states reaffirmed their unequivocal undertaking "to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals" in the 2000 NPT Review Conference. In the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the need to "make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons" was confirmed. These commitments led to the TPNW. Article VI is the soul of the NPT as it is the most important article.

Kishida's speech did not mention the TPNW or Article VI of the NPT. So, it is nothing but an empty speech.

Yesterday, I talked to Japanese Communist Party member of the parliament Kasai Akira, who is now taking part in the NPT Review Conference. He told me how the conference is going. According to Kasai, a fierce tug of war is unfolding in the NPT Review Conference between two currents over Article VI. One seeks to undermine and weaken the important agreements made in the previous conferences. The other aims to reaffirm those agreements and make action plans to implement them in order to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. The latter is the main current, with the majority of world countries and civil society members underscoring the importance of Article VI of the NPT. However, those sticking to keeping nuclear weapons are pushing back hard. It is still unclear what the outcome of the conference will be.

Given this situation, the Japanese government, which it claims seeks to create a world without nuclear weapons, should urge the United States and other nuclear weapon states to reaffirm the agreements made under Article VI of the NPT and make action plans to implement them.

As the Japanese politics has the two big problems, the power of grass roots-based movements to change the government stance is very important. It's the power of you, here in the venue of the World Conference against A and H Bombs. Let us fix these problems in politics by making full use of public opinion and popular movements! Let us create a government that is willing to join the TPNW! I would like to conclude my greetings by expressing my determination to do my utmost to achieve this goal in cooperation with you. Let us keep working together!



Determination of the movements of the A-bombed country:

Ando Kanako, Hiroshima Chapter, New Japan Women's Association



In February this year, when Russia invaded Ukraine, the Hiroshima Chapter of the New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin) quickly took to the streets to protest. In the rally in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome, which we organized jointly with other groups, we listened to the voices of a woman from Ukraine and of a Hibakusha. In the street actions, my colleagues found the courage to speak to the public for the first time. Every time I heard someone say that Japan should introduce "nuclear sharing," or move ahead with "arms buildup," I talked with my fellow members about these opinions. We have become confident that dialogue is the only way to find a solution, and that there are many people who want peace, so we are continuing to act.

Meanwhile, we have held exhibitions in municipal office buildings, community centers and other public spaces across the prefecture of A-bomb photo panels and the paintings created by Hiroshima high school students. We continue our steady effort to collect signatures on two petitions: one to oppose revision of the Constitution, and the other to urge the Japanese government to become party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In all these actions, we promote conversations with as many people as possible.

Towards the TPNW First Meeting of the States Parties, we visited the Prime Minister Kishida's local office in Hiroshima City to request his "attendance at the TPNW meeting as an observer." Shinfujin's official statement to the TPNW Meeting carried the earnest message of A-bombed Hiroshima to governments: "No More Hiroshima, No More Nagasaki!"

The Hiroshima Chapter released this summer the 56th edition of "Burnt like Fallen Leaves," the collection of Hibakusha's stories it publishes every year. Even today, those who have picked up the collection contact us, saying, "I too am a Hibakusha," "I have a memory of black rain," or "I have never

spoken about my experience before, but now I want to". Over the past few years, we find more and more people, who contribute their testimonies to the collection, finish their writings with the strong expression, "No war for any reason whatsoever".

I have heard from my senior colleagues who experienced the war about how people were mobilized for war. They said, "First of all, people were forced into silence. The mass media (mostly newspapers at that time) were manipulated, and the portrait of the Emperor and Empress and the Imperial Rescript on Education were used to imprint absolute obedience to authority in people's subconscious. The government pursued military expansion in the name of national defense, invaded other countries, and behind the scenes the big companies (family-run conglomerates) were making profits. The most important thing of all was to keep the imperial portrait safe when running away from the attack. In retrospect, it's horrible, but I had no doubt at all about it back then." Now, I am worried that we will be forced to express condolences for the late former Prime Minister Abe as the government pushes ahead with holding the state funeral for him. I feel disturbed by the low voter turnout in elections, and I fear that people are losing hope in politics and more of them are staying away and have stopped thinking about political issues.

Last June, here in Hiroshima, too, we called for the taxpayers' money to be used for livelihood instead of military spending, and all Shinfujin branches requested the Prefecture and municipal governments not to use the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and high prices as an excuse to raise school lunch fees. Rather, we requested that they subsidize the expense of school lunches and purchase local produce. Through these activities, I strongly feel that we need to change politics, and that our living depends on peace.

NAGOSHI Misao, deceased member of Shinfujin, who was a Hibakusha, left us the following words: "Who on earth started the war? Who are planning for another war, without learning from the lessons of the past? Now, I am ready to see with my own eyes and contemplate what is going on, never to be deceived, to bring the truth out, and to share my wish for peace with you all."

We join all of you in saying, "No more war! Abolish nuclear weapons!"

Kudo Fumio, Medical Co-op worker, Iwaki City, Fukushima



I am Fumio Kudo from Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture and I work for Medical Cooperatives. I am participating in this conference with my 2 daughters, 6th and 3rd graders.

Eleven years ago on March 11, my city was struck by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Powerplant accident. At the time, my elder daughter, who is with me at this conference, was only 5-months-old. Since then, our position has fundamentally changed from one where we learnt about nuclear damage from others, to one where others learn about the nuclear disaster from us.

Since then, we have committed to making the situation of Fukushima heard and visible, by accepting study visits from people from other places, publishing photo-books, or writing articles for news media. I thank you for this opportunity to speak at the World Conference.

A pressing issue in Fukushima right now is the proposal to release radioactively contaminated water to the ocean. It was recently reported in the media that the Governor of Fukushima had informed TEPCO on August 2nd that the prefecture accepted a construction plan to release treated water to the ocean. The governor followed the national government's plan, while ignoring the 80% of local assemblies that had adopted resolutions opposing or protesting the release of contaminated water and also ignoring fishermen groups that unanimously expressed their opposition. The government had said it would not release contaminated water without the consent of concerned parties like Fukushima Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations, but it later betrayed its promise by announcing in April last year the plan to release treated water.

The government used the 2020 Olympic Games to promote the recovery of Fukushima all

around the world. However, the fishery industry, particularly coastal fishing, has not recovered. It has returned to only around 20% of what it was before the accident, and it is obviously clear that releasing contaminated water to the ocean will have critical consequences. In addition, the release of contaminated water will not be a one-off occurrence; it will continue for 40 years.

The fishing industry has a wide range of supporting businesses. Many people are involved in ways such as fish processing, retail and transport. This is not just a piscatorial issue. It also affects many other workers in the community.

The Supreme Court confirmed this decision in June by handing down an unjust judgement that concluded that the government has no responsibility for the 2011 Fukushima accident. The verdict says, "Even if preventative measures had been taken, the actual tsunami was bigger than predictions, so the accident was not avoidable. Hence, the government has no legal responsibility." If this logic is legitimate, by the same logic TEPCO also should not be held accountable. However, some High Courts have handed down clear verdicts denying this logic and the Supreme Court has refused to hear TEPCO's appeals against those verdicts. Only TEPCO is held responsible, while the government, which together with private industry promoted nuclear power generation, is not blamed. The Supreme Court verdict in June was terrible both ethically and in terms of legal theory. Their intention is clearly to absolve the government of criminal responsibility.

We cannot allow this verdict to stand. The Iwaki civil lawsuit is now at the Sendai High Court, My daughters and I are among the plaintiffs. I hereby call on your continued support for this lawsuit.

If we give up now, the Fukushima catastrophe will be allowed to be forgotten and they will resume operation of suspended nuclear power plants. They are now claiming that we will have a shortage of power this coming winter and that we therefore need nuclear power generation. If so, what words can I say to my daughters? I continue to fight so that I will not to be criticized if we have another nuclear accident because not all nuclear power plants in Japan were decommissioned.

Fukushima is not in the past. I call on all participants not to forget Fukushima. I am confident this will create power to prevent a repeat of the Fukushima tragedy and to demolish all nuclear power plants in Japan.

Students Peace Tour

Takaki Anna, Organizing Committee, University Students Peace Tour of Tokyo

We, 30 university students have come to Hiroshima from Tokyo.

Now wars are happening on the same planet where we live. People's lives are destroyed and children are hurt. Those people who are being hurt and the Hibakusha who suffered 77 years ago are humans, each has a body and mind. We will carry on the actions they have kept doing hoping for peace because we strongly felt we must achieve a world without the evil of nuclear weapons which destroy humans.

The "peace" which we have learned through this World Conference is not a false one which is built through the violence of nuclear weapons and wars, but the true peace which have been built by people's joint efforts and dialogues. We want to discuss and spread such "peace" in solidarity with people all over the world who are sharing the same thoughts.

Toriumi Taisuke, Organizing Committee Chair, the Tokyo High School Students Peace Seminar

I, as a member of the Tokyo High School Students Peace Seminar, keep learning and thinking what peace means and how it should be through various activities day by day. While we learn, we came to wonder why our country, which suffered the atomic bombings during the war, has not signed and ratified the TPNW. This is why we launched the signature campaign of high school students to urge the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW last year.

Last month the number of signatures leached our set goal of ten thousand and we are planning to submit them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 19th this month. Next day, we will hold the "Appeal Walk" with other youth and university students in Shibuya. We will deliver our thoughts, together with the aspirations of all of you who have gathered here today, to the Foreign Ministry and to each one of the people on the streets of Tokyo.

Uehara Hiro, a sophomore in high school in Okinawa

Last year I formed the Okinawa High School Students Peace Seminar and have been working on the signature campaign of high school students urging Japan to ratify the TPNW.

After WWII, up to 1,300 nuclear missiles were installed in US military bases in Okinawa. It is said that they were removed when Okinawa was returned to Japan but it is not certain.

People in Okinawa thought that military bases

would be removed and their human rights would also be protected under the Constitution of Japan. However, even after 50 years have passed since the reversion to Japan, we are still suffering from criminal cases, accidents, noises and contaminations of water and lands caused by the US military bases. Furthermore, even after 70 percent of people in Okinawa showed their opposition in the prefectural referendum, the construction of a new US military base continues in Henoko-Oura bay, which is known with its rich biodiversity. We cannot call it a true peace when it is built on someone's sacrifice or fear of nuclear weapons. Let each one of us spread a "peace umbrella of prohibition of nuclear weapons" instead of "nuclear umbrella"!

Tahara Chihiro, General Secretary, University Students Peace Seminar of Tokyo

Since I was a high school student, I have been learning about peace as a member of the Tokyo High School Students Peace Seminar. Since I entered university, I have wanted to create a

movement among university students to eliminate nuclear weapons and to learn about and make the most of the Constitution of Japan. Thus I helped form the University Students Peace Seminar of Tokyo in May this year.

We are said to be the last generation who can listen to the Hibakusha's testimonies in person. However, how many of young Japanese have ever had such opportunities?

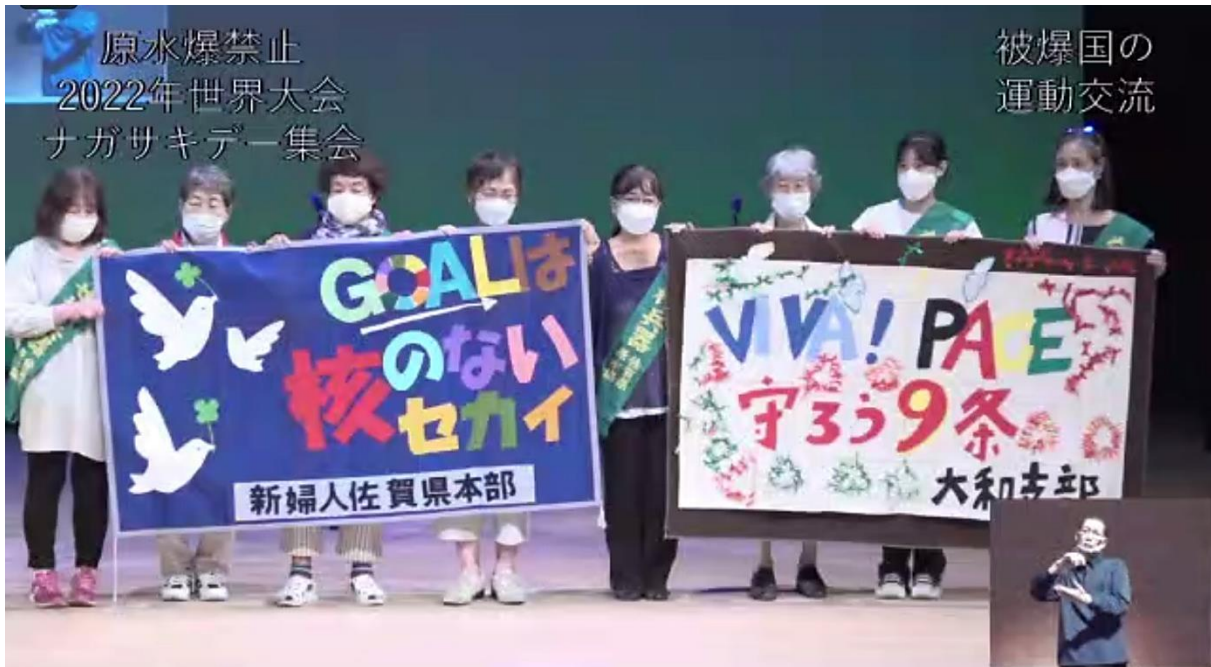
It is important for us citizens to raise our voices against those in power who are trying to hide the reality of nuclear weapons. As a person who aspires to be a social worker, I want to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Hibakusha have built the history to reach the TPNW. It is time for us to make a history to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Last but not least, I want to say that violence cannot create peace. The greatest violence is that of nuclear weapons. We, high school and university students, will join forces and raise our voices from Tokyo.



2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs: Nagasaki Day Rally (August 9)



Keynote Address on Behalf of the Organizer:

**Tomida Koji, Drafting Committee
Chairperson of the International Meeting**



On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I will make the report of the Organizing Committee, with some comments on the “Hiroshima Declaration,” which was adopted on August 6 at the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs -- Hiroshima Day Rally.

Let me begin with the character of the “Hiroshima Declaration.” In the past, we usually held the International Meeting ahead of the World

Conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to adopt the “Declaration of the International Meeting”, a document concisely and powerfully expounding on the shared understanding of the nuclear weapons-related situation and tasks as well as the future course our movement should take. Procedurally, we used to hold a drafting committee meeting during the International Meeting, with many overseas delegates in attendance to discuss fully a draft document presented by the Japanese side. After the discussion, the text of the Declaration would be finalized in Japanese and English by the chairperson of the drafting committee and presented to the International Meeting for adoption at the closing plenary.

This year, although we sought to hold the World Conference in person for the first time in three years, we have held a hybrid World Conference due to the outbreak of the seventh wave of coronavirus infections. Unfortunately, many of our overseas friends had to choose to participate online, making it impossible to hold the international drafting committee meeting and adopt the “Declaration of the International Meeting” just as we did in the past.

For this reason, we took unusual steps. We presented the “Hiroshima Declaration” that sums up the will of all 2022 World Conference

participants, including overseas friends, at the World Conference—Hiroshima Day Rally, to get your approval.

I am going to explain the “Hiroshima Declaration,” which was drafted in Japanese and English by the steering committee and finalized by the morning of August 6 after hearing opinions from overseas friends by meeting in person or exchanging email messages. The document was adopted by unanimous applause at the Hiroshima Day Rally.

I would appreciate it if you will understand the unusual steps we took in the present situation. I hope you will make use of the “Hiroshima Declaration” in many ways as a document which forms the keynote of the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs and which serves as the shared international basis for the movement against A and H Bombs and the anti-nuclear, peace movement for the next one year, just as you did for the Declaration of the International Meeting in the past.

Please look at the text of the “Hiroshima Declaration” distributed to you.

On August 9, 1945, the United States dropped its second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. The bomb is what Hibakusha have condemned as a “weapon of evil” that would not allow humanity to live humanly lives or to die humanly deaths. It unleashed the intense heat rays with several thousand times higher temperatures than the sun, the shock waves that broke the sound barrier, and the extremely high levels of radiation on the streets and residents of Nagasaki, creating an indescribable “hell on earth” all at once.

Seventy-seven years have elapsed since that day. But, as the “Declaration” points out, the human race is now facing a new danger of the use of nuclear weapons. Carrying on the aggression against Ukraine, Russian President Putin is repeating a nuclear threat. Along with Russia, the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are maintaining and consolidating their “nuclear deterrents.”

The “Declaration” correctly points out that nuclear weapons are “weapons of absolute evil” designed exclusively to cause human extinction. We should never ever allow the threat or use of these weapons. The only way to end this danger is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. With fresh determination, we move forward with Hibakusha toward achieving a “nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world.”

The “Declaration” says, “Overcoming the present crises, international politics is moving forward.” The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which outlawed nuclear

weapons for the first time in history, took effect on January 22, 2021. Support and the number of participating states keep increasing. The number of countries that have ratified the treaty has reached 66. The first Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on June 21-23 in Vienna adopted by consensus the political declaration entitled “Our Commitment to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons” (Vienna Declaration), sending out a hopeful and powerful message for a “world without nuclear weapons.” It made an unrelenting criticism against the nuclear deterrence doctrine, saying, “This highlights now more than ever the fallacy of nuclear deterrence doctrines, which are based and rely on the threat of the actual use of nuclear weapons and, hence, the risks of the destruction of countless lives, of societies, of nations, and of inflicting global catastrophic consequences.” “Nuclear deterrence” no longer works.

As the “Declaration” sharply points out, it is an undeniable reality that the TPNW is established as international law and is supported by the majority of the countries in the world. If we further develop our cooperation between civil society and governments, building on the TPNW, it will be possible to open a prospect of a “world without nuclear weapons.” By keeping in mind this conviction expressed by the “Declaration,” let us step forward powerfully.

As stated in the “Declaration,” President Putin openly threatened to use nuclear weapons by putting its nuclear forces on special alert without regard for the sacrifice of its own people revealed that the concept of “nuclear deterrence”—that nuclear weapons “deter the use of nuclear weapons”—can no longer work. It has become also clear that the “nuclear deterrence” doctrine is a means of invading another country and rule it by threatening to use nuclear weapons.

The “nuclear deterrence” doctrine rests on the premise of claiming countless human lives, destroying cities and their environments and causing catastrophic consequences.

Friends, as the “Declaration” points out, It is time to overcome the nuclear deterrence doctrine, which leads humanity to the brink of extinction.

The 10th NPT Review Conference is currently in session in New York. We strongly demand that the conference, in which Nuclear Five participate, contain the danger of the use of nuclear weapons and open a prospect for a world without nuclear weapons.

The NPT’s Article VI provides that the parties to the treaty have the obligation to negotiate nuclear disarmament. Its review conferences have so far agreed on an “unequivocal undertaking” to achieve the “complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals”

and other important matters. But nuclear weapon states not only have turned their back on this obligation but are even pushing ahead with “modernization” of nuclear weapons and consolidation of the policy of using them. We demand that the nuclear weapon states end those insincere attitudes, reconfirm their treaty obligations and the past agreements and implement them in good faith.

As the “Declaration” points out, we will have strong conviction about the TPNW as a treaty that helps implement Article 6 of the NPT and they complement each other.

Japan is called upon to do its part as the only country ever to have suffered nuclear attacks in war. However, the Japanese government is deepening its dependence on the US “nuclear umbrella” and opposing the TPNW, turning its back on the desire of its own people, as well as the major trend of the world. The call for discussion about “nuclear sharing” also poses a serious problem.

As the “Declaration” correctly points out, these actions only accelerate the vicious cycle of nuclear arms versus nuclear arms in North East Asia. We call on the Japanese government to break with the “nuclear deterrence” doctrine, and to support and express its willingness to join the TPNW.

The “Declaration” condemns clearly, Russia’s aggression against Ukraine is nothing but a violation of the UN Charter. We demand Russia swiftly pull its forces out of Ukraine and end all its military actions.

We call for any disputes to be resolved diplomatically. North Korea’s nuclear and missile development programs and China’s attempt to change status quo by force in the South China Sea or in the East China Sea should also be addressed through dialogue and negotiations based on international law and not by military force.

We firmly oppose any move to strengthen and expand military alliances or to push ahead with further military buildup by taking advantage of the aggression against Ukraine. There are moves under way toward turning Japan into a country that wages war under the Japan-US military alliance by attempting to adversely revise the Constitution’s war-renouncing Article 9, double the military budget, and possessing “enemy base attack capability.” These are a matter of grave concern. As the “Declaration” states, the Japanese people have a very important role to play internationally. We should keep this in mind and take action with all our might.

Based on the understanding of the present situation and our tasks, the “Declaration” proposes six actions. At this Nagasaki Day rally, we will

propose a document “Call from Nagasaki” to put forward further concrete actions. I hope that each participant in the World Conference will take these proposals for action seriously and rise and go into action full of creativity. With this, I conclude the report on behalf of the Organizing Committee.

Greetings of Solidarity:

Taue Tomihisa Mayor of Nagasaki City



Hello everyone. My name is Taue Tomihisa and I am the mayor of Nagasaki City. At this opening of the Nagasaki Day Rally of the World Conference against A and H Bombs, I would like to say a word of greeting as a representative of the citizens of Nagasaki. I would like to express my deepest respect to the organizers for holding these meetings for many years, ever since the first one held in Hiroshima in 1955, with the aim of realizing a world free of nuclear weapons.

At 11:02 am on August 9th, 1945, a single atomic bomb reduced the city of Nagasaki to rubble in an instant, killing and injuring approximately 150 thousand people. Those who barely survived are still suffering from the aftereffects of radiation. Hibakusha, knowing first-hand the threat of nuclear weapons, have continued to share their stories and advocate for the abolition of nuclear weapons, determined to never let anyone else in the world experience what they themselves went through. Now, when we look at the world, not only has the path towards a world without nuclear weapons become more severe due to events like the invasion of Ukraine, but the risk of nuclear weapons being used again has increased more than ever.

On the other hand, an important step was taken towards the total abolition of nuclear weapons when the first Meeting of States Parties took place following the entry into force of the TPNW, which bans nuclear weapons in their entirety for the first time in human history. Now, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the

Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is being held. Amid moves towards both nuclear arms expansion and nuclear disarmament, the international situation surrounding nuclear weapons is chaotic. It is precisely at times like these that it is important for us, as civil society, to join forces and raise our voices, in order to raise public opinion towards realizing a world without nuclear weapons as soon as possible. I believe that for many of us the foundation for this is opportunities like these to share our wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Nagasaki will continue to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons, hand in hand with those who wish to lend their power towards building peace.

Let us expand our circle of peace, as dear and powerful friends who will continue to walk together towards a world without nuclear weapons. Lastly, I would like to conclude my greeting by wishing the organizers and all of you who are participating today continued health and success in the future.

**Koga Shigeaki, Former Cabinet Secretariat, METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) official/
Political economy analyst**



Hello everyone. Thank you sincerely for giving me this opportunity to participate today, in addressing the Nagasaki Day Rally of the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs. There are many things that I would like to talk about, but today I will only talk about one of them, Japan's world-class pacifism, the brand of peace.

Firstly, I would like to talk about the speech Ukrainian President Zelenskyy gave to the Japanese Diet on March 23rd of this year. As you know, President Zelenskyy has been giving speeches remotely to parliaments around the world. A certain topic always comes up in his speeches. It

is a request for the provision of arms. Given that is what is needed most in fighting Russia, it is only natural. Due to the strong sentiment of wanting arms, he did at times strongly criticize countries like Germany that had been hesitant to supply arms, saying "the action is too slow." It felt questionable in terms of diplomatic protocol, but from Ukraine's position of being in a situation of crisis, it may have been natural.

However, for some reason, in his speech to the Japanese Diet – the parliament of a country that belongs to the G7 and is an ally of the United States – President Zelenskyy did not make any request for a supply of arms. The word "arms" was not heard at all. I was quite surprised by this. Then I noticed that an article was published immediately after the fact. According to the article, the Ukrainian ambassador to Japan explained the reason why President Zelenskyy did not ask for a supply of arms, saying "we recognize Article 9 of the Constitution and the political environment of Japan." What this means is that the president of Ukraine, despite his country being in grave danger in its fight with Russia, understood Article 9, and respected and considered the political environment – i.e., the extremely cautious public opinion of Japan towards becoming involved in a war. This is Mr. Zelenskyy that we are talking about here, who had criticized Germany for being slow to provide arms. If he did not think so highly of Japan's pacifism, he would have surely pressed Japan too to provide him with weapons. But this was not the case. Even the president of Ukraine, which was cornered into a desperate situation, could not ask Japan to stray from the path of pacifism. Japanese pacifism was thus shown to carry great weight and to be accepted and respected by the world. This is something that we Japanese people should understand much more deeply. Unfortunately, not many people seem to be aware of this, since news reports by Japan's mainstream media didn't draw attention to this. So that is why I would like to point it out here.

My second story is about the time that I was watching the BBC, the British public broadcaster, on NHK BS World News on the morning of May 23rd this year. A news ticker was displayed, on which was written, "Japan is quietly abandoning pacifism." Those were the words that appeared. Also in this special Japan feature, perhaps to symbolize pacifism being abandoned, footage of Prime Minister Abe was displayed. Then, they reported rather matter-of-factly, but in quite some detail, that Japan is undergoing a significant policy change due to concerning moves from China, including in relation to the situation in Taiwan. In Japan, this was hardly talked about, but the fact that

the BBC reported in detail to the world that Japan's pacifism will be abandoned has serious meaning. Firstly, it means that the world clearly accepted Japan as a pacifist country. The top-notch BBC called it "Japan's pacifism", so I think we can say that it was recognized by the world as such. The BBC broadcast signifies that Japan voluntarily abandoning its brand of peace is big news to the world. Doesn't this mean that the people around the world are shocked that Japan will abandon pacifism?

Countries around the world must be thinking that this year, the 77th year since the end of the war and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japanese pacifism will be lost. And, unbelievably, despite being the only country in the world to be hit by nuclear bombs, Japan continues to turn its back on the TPNW. It has not even signed it. Far from it, it has refused to participate as an observer in the Meeting of States Parties. NATO member countries, in particular Germany, the Netherlands and Norway, have participated as observers. While being the only country to be nuked, Japan continues to turn its back. The people of the world seeing this, what would they think if they were watching the BBC broadcast? "The BBC is right", "The pacifism that Japan had consistently carried through since the end of WWII is starting to fall apart" – they would probably think like this. The brand of peace is a lifeline for Japan. Having the whole world see Japan as pacifist, this international opinion is a major hurdle standing in

the way of any country that would try to attack Japan. So, I think it's right to say that the brand of peace is a lifeline for Japan. In order to protect this valuable brand of peace, the Japanese government ought to let the world know that Japanese pacifism is immutable.

The G7 Summit next year will be held in Hiroshima, at which Prime Minister Kishida Fumio ought to promise that "Japan will not abandon pacifism" and that it will "continue to adhere to it" and, as the only country to be attacked with nuclear weapons, lead the world in exerting its utmost efforts towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. Proof of which would be to sign and ratify the TPNW; wouldn't that be the case? I believe it is necessary to take this opportunity today to pledge once again to bring our hearts and minds together to protect Japan's pacifism and tenaciously continue our activism towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. Let's keep going, all of us, together. Thank you very much.



Greetings by national government representative:

Melba Pria, Ambassador to Japan, United Mexican States



Good day to you all. My name is Melba Pria, and I am Mexican ambassador here in Japan. It is an honor for me to again take place in this time in the commemoration, 77th anniversary of the very tragic events of bombing in Hiroshima and here in Nagasaki occurred in August 1945, 77 years ago.

And still today, we talk about threats of nuclear weapons, and that threat is real and present today. The risk of nuclear weapon poses for the world has been increasingly globally, because of proliferation and vulnerability nuclear control to attack or may be error, that what they call it.

Mexico is committed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We insist on the need to free mankind from nuclear weapons. My country actively promoted the creation of the world's first nuclear free zone in Latin America and Caribbean, and has contributed to the establishment of other 4 nuclear weapon-free zones in the world. The treaty of Tlatelolco serves as an example for South Pacific, South Asia, Africa and Central Asia to become nuclear-free regions.

Mexico as I said is committed to not only working for peace, but also educating younger generations about the danger of nuclear weapons. We truly believe that advancing in these efforts are only possible though multilateral solutions, which also take into account concerns regarding international security.

In these efforts, Mexico wants (to be) one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, better known as TPNW. Among many important aspects of these treaties is that it makes use of nuclear weapons illegal under humanitarian law. Mexico seeks the universality of these international treaties. So we can work constructively with international community to promote that more and more

countries ratify them.

It is our desire that Japan with whom we share many points of view on international affairs will finally sign the treaty. We welcome Prime Minister Kishida focuses on this issue, and look forward to working with Japan to reach the consensus and share objective to free the world of nuclear weapons. Current world events that we all know about just show how urgent is the need for dialogue and discussion on these issues.

I congratulate all of you for the efforts and courage to continue working together for a world free of nuclear bombs. With the horror of Nagasaki never happens again. 77 years should be a long time, should be enough for the world to understand that these never happens again.

Arigato gozaimasu. Thank you all.

Greetings by overseas delegates (Part 1):

Joseph Gerson, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, U.S.A.



Friends,

I am sorry not to be with you. Having recently had covid, I am grounded in Boston, but I am with you in spirit.

77 years ago, Nagasaki was devastated by the first plutonium A-bomb. This President Truman had previously been advised that Japan's surrender could be arranged without the A-bombings. The U.S. has yet to apologize for these massive crimes against humanity.

As you know, the NPT Review is taking place with the nuclear powers again resisting their obligation to engaged in "good faith" negotiations for nuclear weapons abolition, the only way to prevent future Nagasakis and Hiroshimas.

Vladimir Putin's brutal invasion of Ukraine triggered the most dangerous transformation of the geopolitical disorder since the imposition of the Cold War. Even earlier, with the collapse of the ABM, INF, CFE, and Open Skies Treaties, the nuclear powers had plunged into unrestrained nuclear arms races. Recall too that he U.S. has done

so at least thirty times since the Nagasaki A-bombing, and the other nuclear powers have a done so at least once.

While we celebrate the TPNW's First Meeting of the States Parties of the successes, the danger remains that Ukraine War will trigger nuclear holocausts. President Zelensky seeks to oust Russia from the Donbass and the Black Sea coast. President Biden and General Austin speak of weakening or defeating Russia, while Moscow moves to integrate its Ukrainian conquests, and senior figures in the U.S. Congress express their willingness to risk nuclear war.

Russian doctrine calls for the use of nuclear weapons if the Russian state is in jeopardy. Were this to become an extended war that bleeds Russian resources and power, or were Russian forces to face possible military defeat, Putin could launch tactical nuclear weapons to terrorize Kyiv into suing for peace. U.S. doctrine mandates use of nuclear weapons when its vital interests and those of its allies *and partners* are threatened. We thus face the danger of a nuclear exchange.

The imperative is to win a ceasefire and negotiated settlement.

In Asia, Washington warns that China challenges its "rules based order," the arrangements imposed at the dawn of the Cold War when China was marginalized. In the tradition of rising powers, Beijing is pursuing what it believes to be its national interests, often, as in the East and South China/West Philippine Seas, with little regard for the rights of other nations.

Washington is committed to defend its Indo-Pacific hegemony by ensuring it retains the military capabilities to defeat China in part by shaping the "strategic environment." This includes deploying new nuclear weapons systems, massive investments in cutting edge technologies, the QUAD and nuclear AUKUS alliances, and the RIMPAC "exercises

China is no innocent. Witness Hong Kong, Xinjiang, the East and South China/West Philippine Seas and its pseudo blockade and live fire "exercises" surrounding Taiwan. But these do not justify Washington's provocative "freedom of navigation" operations or its assault on the One China policy which could result in incidents, accidents or miscalculations leading to nuclear war.

As with Nancy Pelosi's reckless trip, the Washington establishment is determined to bring Taiwan fully into the U.S. sphere to reinforce China's containment. In addition to the U.S. warships and warplanes repeatedly deployed to the Taiwan Strait, Biden has reiterated the commitment to defend Taiwan. and the State Department removed wording from its webpage stating that the

U.S. "does not support independence" for Taiwan and that "Taiwan is part of China".

This is extremely dangerous. Taiwan cannot be militarily defended. Thus, Biden reaffirmed the U.S. first-strike nuclear doctrine. Only by threatening nuclear cataclysm, the Pentagon believes, can it ensure that Beijing refrains from militarily reunifying its so-called "renegade" province. Japan's LDP leaders have also signaled that the SDF would join a fight for Taiwan. Taiwan is so central because it is the hinge of the U.S. empire. Were it to fall to China, Washington's Asian, Pacific, and European alliances would be called into question, and thus its global primacy.

This takes place midst increasingly unrestrained nuclear arms races in flagrant violation of the NPT. That is why the TPNW was negotiated. Its First Meeting of States Parties further stigmatized nuclear weapons and deepened the Treaty's institutionalization. But this is not enough to prevent nuclear war or to move us toward a nuclear weapons free world. That will only come when our movements make it impossible for nuclear umbrella states like Japan to oppose the TPNW and remain complicit in preparations for nuclear war. And those of us in the nuclear weapons states have yet to fulfill our moral and historic responsibilities to lead our nations to embrace common security diplomacy, eliminate their reliance on nuclear weapons, and begin nuclear disarmament.

We have much to do together in the months and years ahead.

Ludo De Brabander Vrede vzw, Belgium

Dear Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about the situation in Belgium, one of the NATO countries with US nuclear bombs on its soil.

Belgium is one of the five European countries with US nuclear bombs on its soil. These nuclear gravity bombs were deployed in the early 1960s through a secret agreement between Belgium and the US. Until today, the government maintains a policy of ambiguity, neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear bombs in Belgium, blocking any normal parliamentary debate.

However, it is no secret that about 100 to 150 US B61 nuclear bombs have been deployed in five European countries as part of NATO's nuclear sharing policy. Belgian fighter jets are responsible for employing these nuclear bombs in wartime - as it is the case for Germany, Italy and the Netherlands- which is in breach with the Non

Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that prohibits the transfer to or control over nuclear weapons by non-nuclear weapon states. These bombs will soon be replaced by new B61-12 nuclear bombs as part of a \$ 10 billion US modernization program. Because of their precision and low yield options these nuclear weapons are considered 'usable', lowering the threshold for a nuclear war. This all happens without any official statement or public debate.

The resistance against nuclear weapons in Belgium has a long history. Probably many people still remember the large mass mobilizations against the installation of nuclear missiles in various European NATO countries in the early 1980s. In 1983 400,000 demonstrators marched through the streets in Brussels, in what became the biggest demonstration ever in Belgian history. Despite all the protests, the government back then decided to deploy cruise missiles in 1985. However, two years later they were taken back to the US under the INF treaty agreed between the US and the Soviet Union. For an important part, this agreement - that unfortunately ceased to exist after the withdrawal of the US in 2019 - was made possible due to the massive pressure from the peace movement in Europe and the United States.

Numerous subsequent European peace actions kept nuclear disarmament on the agenda. In 2010, foreign ministers of Belgium, Germany, Norway, Luxembourg and the Netherlands wrote a common letter to question NATO nuclear sharing. However, the US and other pro-nuclear-weapon states within the military alliance responded by declaring NATO a 'nuclear alliance' in its new strategic concept. A move that aimed to collectivize nuclear weapons as an integral part of NATO and to silence critics by arguing that anti-nuclear weapons positions go against NATO obligations.

With the entry into force of the Nuclear Prohibition Treaty (TPNW) and the planned replacement of nuclear bombs in Europe by B61-12, new opportunities have arisen for the peace movement. The TPNW is an important milestone in the fight against nuclear weapons, the international peace movement should be credited for. In addition, the anti-nuclear stance of the peace movement is shared by the vast majority of the population.

Various surveys show that the majority of the Belgian population does not want nuclear bombs in Belgium. This is also the case for Germany, Italy and the Netherlands that all host US nuclear arms. The Belgian population's anti-nuclear weapons position was also translated cautiously into the governmental coalition agreement that was approved at the end of last summer noting that "Belgium will play a proactive role in the 2021 NPT Review Conference and, together with

European NATO allies, will explore how to strengthen the multilateral non-proliferation framework and how the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons can give new impetus to multilateral nuclear disarmament."

Nevertheless, the Belgian government was reluctant to recognise the ban Treaty as an important tool for nuclear disarmament. Finally, the government gave in to pressure from the peace movement and participated in the MSP as an observer. So did Germany and the Netherlands, two other NATO nuclear sharing countries. This is a first small breach in NATO's position as a nuclear alliance while openly campaigning against the TPNW claiming falsely that it undermines the Non proliferation Treaty.

The pressure from the US and NATO to maintain the nuclear deterrent is huge. The Belgian government is divided over the issue. Greens and Social Democrats want Belgium to remove the nuclear bombs and sign the TPNW, but the Liberals and Christian Democrats want us to remain loyal to NATO's 'nuclear sharing'-policy. But it looks like they don't want to get the government into trouble over nuclear weapons.

The peace movement is campaigning to pressure the government to be serious about nuclear disarmament and to sign the TPNW with much local support. Every year at peace day (21/09), about 130 mayors of cities and municipalities urge the government to remove the nuclear bombs from Belgian territory and to sign the TPNW. Last year we did a 30 km bikes not bombs tour with 150 peace activists to the military base where the nuclear bombs are stored as part of a Europe free nukes campaign. This year, 2 October, our Bikes not Bombs tour will cross Brussels where NATO headquarters is located.

It was the first time in years that the European peace movement campaigned together to show the unified position. The European peace movement needs to join forces internationally and locally to increase its impact as it was the case in the eighties.

Still, even if many recent actions have been taken place on a modest scale, they are a first important step in expanding the anti-nuclear weapons movement in a crucial time as we are witnessing a war in Ukraine, where irresponsible threats to use nuclear weapons have been made. Unfortunately, growing international tensions are accompanied by an increased importance of nuclear weapons in military strategies.

For the coming years, the peace movement faces the challenge of translating the huge anti-nuclear sentiment among the population into major mobilizations and political pressure.

Hwang Yun Mi
Head of Seoul SPARK
Republic of Korea



Hello. My name is Yoon-mi Hwang. I represent the Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea's Seoul office.

In late June 2022, the leaders of South Korea and Japan attended the NATO summit for the first time. This reflects the Biden administration's motives to establish a global alliance system through NATO's advancement into the Asia-Pacific region and the trilateral US-South Korea-Japan alliance. Establishing the Korea-Japan alliance will be a starting and end points for NATO's global partnership. Biden administration's intention for the worldwide alliance system is to contain and isolate North Korea and China. This move escalates our globe to a new Cold War. The escalating crisis in Taiwan strait caused by House Speaker Pelosi's recent visits to Taiwan directly indicates the precarious reality of a new Cold War. Under such military confrontation in Northeast Asia, denuclearization of the Korean peninsula will lose its momentum and will be dismissed. The Biden Administration must immediately stop NATO's expansion into the Asia-Pacific region and stop fostering a crisis in Northeast Asia! The US THAAD deployed in Seongju, South Korea, is directly linked to the US THAAD radar deployed in Shariki and Kyogamisaki, Japan. This linkage precipitates and arranges the ROK-US-Japan Missile Defense system, the US-Korea-Japan Alliance system, and the Korea-Japan alliance.

In Soseong-ri, South Korea, where the US military deployed its THAAD in 2016, elderly community members in their 70s and 80s, as well as activists in solidarity, have been carrying out everyday Peace Actions to block the illegal THAAD construction vehicles from entering their village. Soseong-ri people's daily early morning Peace Action persists despite being dragged out by the state police force every single time. Their unstoppable struggle against the US THAAD is a persistent resistance against the formation of the Korea-Japan Missile Defense system and the

Alliance system. People of Soseong-ri are resisting a new Cold-War confrontation in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia with their bodies. They are protecting world peace with their bodies.

Both South Korea and Japan are under the US nuclear umbrella. Japan was the first place in human history to be victimized by US nuclear weapons, and South Korea is one of the most likely places in the world for US nuclear weapons to be used. A regional nuclear war inevitably escalates into a global nuclear war. Therefore, to prevent the annihilation of humanity and protect regional and international peace, South Korea and Japan need to refuse US nuclear umbrella and end US-led nuclear confrontations.

North Korea has long determined to give up its nuclear missiles in exchange for security assurance. Today, North Korea's position remains the same. In 2018, the US and North Korean leaders adopted the Singapore Joint Statement. In the statement, the US agreed to guarantee security assurance to the North Korean regime. However, the US has resumed its joint military exercises with South Korea and is also escalating the scale of South Korea-US-Japan trilateral military exercises. This coincides with NATO's expansion into the Asia-Pacific region, increasing the possibility of war in Northeast Asia, including the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan. There is no time to waste. The peace movements in Korea and Japan must act in our struggle against the Korea-Japan joint military exercises.

We address the peace-loving people of Japan. We have never forgotten and will never forget the Japanese and Korean victims of the US's Atomic Bombings. Let us push for both South Korea and Japan to join the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" so that our humanity will not have to suffer the consequences of nuclear weapons again. Let us advocate to end the military alliance with the US and break out of the ever-increasing possibility of atomic weapons being used again. Instead, let us build a Northeast Asian Multilateral Security System and pursue a path to peace, coexistence, and prosperity in Northeast Asia. When those in power choose war and annihilation through nuclear confrontation and alliance, our peace movements must stop them by selecting the path to peace and coexistence through denuclearization and common security. We invite peace movements in Japan to join our struggle to end the Korean war and achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. This must be done by with a peace treaty. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will be the cornerstone for establishing the Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. We, SPARK,

will continue to fight for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Northeast Asia, and, ultimately, a nuclear-free world. To this end, we must walk hand in hand.

Report from the 10th NPT Review Conference:

Kasai Akira
**Member of the House of Representatives/
Japanese Communist Party**

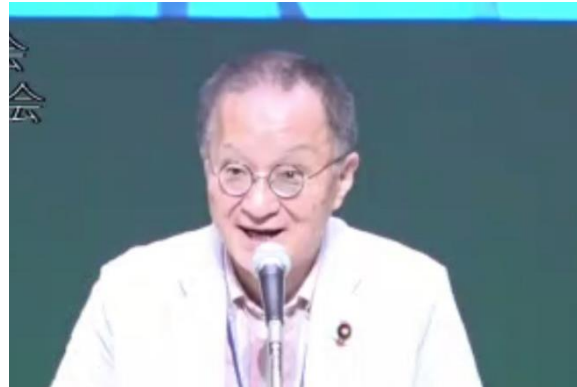
Hello, friends. I returned from New York the evening before yesterday. I am Kasai Akira, Japanese Communist Party member of the House of Representatives and a second-generation A-bomb survivor. I wore this badge as a participant in the Tenth NPT Review Conference, which has been held at UN Headquarters since August 1 in parallel with this World Conference against A and H Bombs. I took part in the Review Conference together with Tsuchida Yayoi, Assistant Secretary General of the Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Japan Gensuikyo) and Sakuma Kunihiko, who heads the Hiroshima Federation of A-and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations (Hiroshima Hidankyo).

The non-governmental organization (NGO) session of the official program was held on the afternoon of August 5, and atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Hibakusha), anti-nuke peace activists and academics from around the world, as well as Nagasaki Mayor Taue Tomihisa expressed their views to the representatives of national governments. To my surprise, the Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo) was nominated at the top of the speakers list for the NGO session and I delivered a speech as the first speaker, called by the President of the Tenth NPT Review Conference, Ambassador of Argentina. When my face, as well as those of the government representatives, was shown for five minutes on large screens in the UN General Assembly hall, I realized that the Japan Council against A and H Bombs, together with civil society, had made a breakthrough in its status and truly enhanced its role in the international community.

In my speech, I mentioned that the World Conference against A and H Bombs is being held simultaneously in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and pointed out that this peace movement was founded in 1955 and has continued every year, upholding the banner calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. I called for the NPT Review Conference to condemn the use and the threat to use nuclear weapons, to declare their abolition, to urge nuclear

weapon States to negotiate to reduce and eliminate their nuclear arsenals, to implement Article VI of the NPT and a series of agreements that set out this obligation to negotiate nuclear disarmament, and to respect the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as an effort to implement the NPT agreements. I then received a huge round of applause from the General Assembly hall.

At the latest Review Conference, the entry into force of the TPNW, which makes nuclear weapons illegal under international law, changed the character of discussions on the NPT. With Russia invading Ukraine and threatening to use nuclear weapons, and other nuclear-weapon States



maintaining and some even strengthening their nuclear capability, a number of countries referred to the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW in June, which I myself attended, and the “Vienna Declaration” adopted there. The trend to link the TPNW to the progress of the NPT Review Conference has had a significant impact on the Review Conference.

The final document of the Tenth Review Conference should include the call for a “humanitarian approach”. The best security policy is to abolish nuclear weapons. Article VI of the NPT provides the framework for a nuclear-weapon-free world, and the nuclear weapon States have made a clear commitment, which must be fulfilled. A number of such powerful statements were made. The representative of Germany, a NATO member, also said that he attended the Vienna Meeting because he thought it was necessary to engage in constructive dialogue for nuclear disarmament.

Seventy-seven years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the desperate efforts and appeals of Hibakusha and their persistent movements across the country have moved the world to this point. Let us all be aware of this fact. In the midst of these major trends, it was common to see the nuclear weapon States and countries under the nuclear umbrella pushed into corner.

We met face-to-face with government

representatives of nuclear weapon States to hand them a written request signed by 1,220 mayors and local assembly members from across Japan. Specifically, we met with the delegates of Britain and Russia, while the U.S. delegation told us they were not available. Russia had told us only 20 minutes would be allowed, but in reality a heated discussion went on for 45 minutes. Regarding another request I had made to the NPT Review Conference which urges nuclear weapon States to fulfil their obligations under Article VI of the NPT and presses Russia to end its aggression and threat to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine, the Russian side, to my surprise, said that our position is very similar to Moscow's position. I immediately replied that it is not. Russia has justified its aggression against Ukraine, claiming that it was compelled to do so because of other countries' military build-up. President Putin, while denying that he threatened to use nuclear weapons, asserts that he will take counter measures if other countries use or threaten to use such weapons. He keeps making excuses, claiming that Russia is ready to implement Article VI and played a leading role in compiling a statement by P5 countries in January, but it cannot unilaterally reduce its nuclear arsenal as long as other countries remain to be the source of a nuclear threat.

The focus of the latest Conference was whether it will be able to maintain previous agreements and take further steps forward amid a global tug of war between the main current toward a world free from nuclear weapons and the adverse current represented by those sticking to the nuclear deterrence myth and maintaining their nuclear arsenals.

The President of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Alexander Kmentt, pointed out that the Vienna Declaration has clearly laid out a path toward nuclear disarmament. He said that every effort must be made not to undermine the progress made so far in NPT Review Conferences in the past, expressing his willingness to do his utmost so that public opinion will build up further in the run-up to the second Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW scheduled for November next year.

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio's speech in the NPT Review Conference showed clearly that the government of Japan, the only A-bombed country in the world, is going counter to the global current, arousing criticism and frustration. As the first speaker in the discussion, Fiji, which suffered death and devastation from nuclear tests, underscored the importance of Article VI of the NPT. The second speaker was Kishida. His appearance in the Conference was widely publicized as Kishida was

the first ever prime minister of the world's only A-bombed country to attend the Conference and his hometown was Hiroshima. However, Kishida's speech did not mention a word about Article VI of the NPT or the TPNW, turning a blind eye to the past agreements. Following Kishida, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken started his speech by praising Kishida's remarks as sending "a very powerful message". It was a true display of Kishida's aspiration to become the strongest and most loyal supporter of Washington. Many diplomats I met with were also surprised by Kishida's stance.

The tragedies inflicted upon Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the epitome of inhumanity. In order to make progress towards a world without nuclear weapons by recognizing the two treaties as the two most important and interconnected vehicles to achieve it, it is necessary to have a change of government in Japan. In order to add momentum to the global trend against nuclear weapons, Japan's anti-nuclear weapons movement, which has long contributed to this trend, needs to play a greater role both at home and abroad. Nagasaki must be the last A-bombed city on earth. Today, on August 9, here in Nagasaki, let us renew this determination and keep working together to make the World Conference a success and promote the strengthening of grass-roots public opinion and the movement calling for a world without nuclear weapons.



Greetings by overseas delegates (Part 2):

Nguyen Thi Thu Hien
Multilateral Affairs Department,
Vietnam Union of Friendship
Organizations/ 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 echo 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!

Corazon Fabros
**Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition/
International Peace Bureau**



Minasan, Ohayo gozaimasu!

I would like to express my deepest respect, appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the peace and justice movement in the Philippines as well as from the International Peace Bureau for your unwavering commitment to the cause of peace, nuclear disarmament and nuclear abolition and express our continuing solidarity and support.

These are challenging and difficult times here in Japan, in the Philippines and practically in the world over. In the midst of the pandemic, we saw the rise of repressive and authoritarian regimes here in Asia and the Pacific. In the Philippines, one of the leading lights of the peace and justice movement Dr. WALDEN BELLO, was arrested on cases of cyber libel for his vocal critique against the current Vice President and daughter of the former president. The strengthening of the neo-liberal policies has made peoples' lives more difficult and oftentimes unbearable, as these policies prioritize military spending rather than peoples' human needs: food, health, education, shelter, social services... This year alone Global Military spending has reached 2.3 trillion US dollars (it is extremely difficult to express that in Japanese yen). I only know that, that tremendous amount of money could feed the hungry, heal the sick, shelter the homeless, send many children to school so that the world becomes a better place to live in. In the midst of the pandemic, we condemn the military expansion in Asia Pacific, the increasing military exercises and war games risking people's lives and environment and the ever-increasing abuse and rape of women that can only come from a situation of military activities and war. We express our deep concern for this skewed sense of government priorities and express a strong challenge to keep their promises to serve the people and take the path of diplomatic, peaceful and just solution as a way forward in resolving conflict.

Despite the difficult times, we are able to gather in person and online today! I am grateful to

have this opportunity to express my thoughts as we bring to a close the 2022 World Conference Against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs – the sole conference that focuses on the important work towards the abolition of nuclear weapons and war every year, without any let up. To be part of this conference for more than 30 years has been truly a wellspring of knowledge, strength, inspiration and hope for me. I TRULY HOPE, YOU ALL FEEL THE SAME. And I hope that we will never give up, that we continue to challenge ourselves to do more, to live productive and meaningful lives for the abolition of nuclear weapons and war, not only for ourselves but for the future generation who will continue the work, that we have inherited from those who came before us, as a fitting response to the continuing call of every Hibakusha “Never Again Hiroshima! Never Again Nagasaki! No More War!

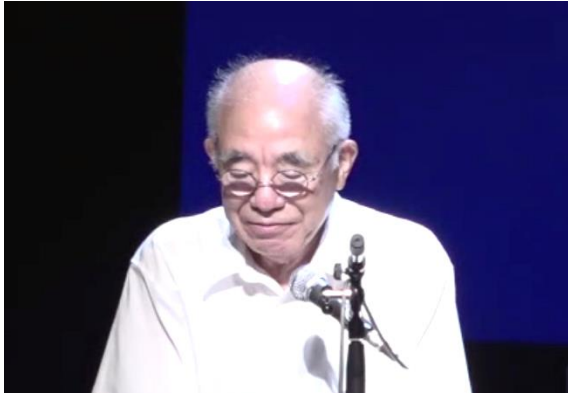
Let us continue to strive for unity, cooperation and solidarity across sectors, issues and interests. Ultimately, we only have ourselves to sustain us in our struggle. Our victory depends on our power as a people's movement. Let us create that critical mass that is a crucial component of an effective and powerful campaign. To the younger generation who I see in bigger numbers this year, the future of the peace movement beckons your commitment and dedication. And to my sisters whose heartwarming leadership have been profoundly felt, through the quality of your presence in greater numbers and passion to fight the continuing discrimination, misogyny and marginalization, I salute you! No women, No Peace!

I cannot end this message without expressing a call for continuing solidarity with the peoples of Okinawa, especially during this period, as they face a very important election. I pray that VOTE FOR PEACE will prevail and the power of the people will fire up their decades of resistance against the onslaught of military activities that is known all over. Let us continue to be inspired by the Okinawan spirit of NUCHI DU TAKARA (Life is precious). Let us support the continuing resistance of the Okinawan people and take to heart their struggle as our own.

BEIGUN KICHI IRANAI!
THE ONLY WAY TO WIN IS TO NEVER
GIVE UP!
WE SHALL OVERCOME!

Special Program: “77th Year of the A-Bombing: Messages from Nagasaki to the World”

Mizoura Masaru
Hibakusha of Nagasaki



Two Wishes of a Hibakusha

On August 9, 1945, at 11:02, the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb. Due to that bombing, my elder brother, then a second grader in elementary school, developed cancer three times. The last time he got cancer, he was in and out of hospital for a year and several months and finally died of leukemia in the summer of 2016.

Our cousins, aged 10, 12 and 14, who used to play with us, died instantly in the bombing at their house in Takenokubo, about 1 kilometer from the ground zero.

The atomic bomb that fell on us 77 years ago, made my family suffer. It in fact killed more than 700,000 people, including several thousands of children like my cousins and pupils of Shiroyama and Yamazato elementary schools, and little children who had not yet reached school age. Those who barely survived immediate deaths died one after another from A-bomb disease.

As a Hibakusha, I have determined to make Nagasaki the last place to be destroyed by atomic bombs. And I have two wishes that embody my strong resolve of not allowing such terrible tragedy to recur on earth for a third time.

Around 15 years prior to the atomic bombing, Japan started to wage a war of aggression like the one Russia is currently carrying on, against North and South Korea as well as China. The war was extended into South East Asia and eventually Japan declared war against the U.S. and U.K. If Japan had not embarked on such a war of aggression, there would never have been the A-bomb damage on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, massive destruction by air raids on Tokyo and other major Japanese cities, nor deadly battles of Okinawa in which one quarter

of local people were sacrificed.

The remains of Japanese soldiers who had been drafted by a slip of “red card” and sent to distant foreign lands away from home and died there, have not been returned yet even today. In total, 3.1 million precious human lives, including civilians, were lost while 20 million Chinese, North and South Koreans, and South East Asian people alike killed in the aggressive war.

The critical retrospection of the savage war is what constitutes the foundation of the peace clause of the Constitution of Japan, which, in Article 9, provides for the eternal renouncement of war as a means of resolution of international conflicts.

Under this Constitution, the Self-Defense Forces of Japan have limited their activities to solely defensive operations and the exercise of the right to collective self-defense has been prohibited in absence of military attack against our country. For this reason, for 77 years, no single Japanese, including SDF soldiers has killed someone, and no foreign citizen has been killed by the Japanese in war. We earnestly hope that these constitutional commitments will remain valid and observed for years to come.

But I have a bitter feeling when I think of the Vietnam war, in which a large number of Vietnamese people were killed or continue to suffer even today because of the U.S. military planes that took off from the U.S. bases in Japan although our country was not attacked.

I wish that the U.S. troops deployed in Japan will at least observe the principle of exclusive defense required by the Constitution of Japan and that they will not use their bases in Japan unless Japan is attacked.

I have another wish and this is my second request. We Hibakusha who narrowly escaped death carry on us the wills of many people who were killed vainly by a single atomic bomb. This is why we have given all we have to call for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the world, making Nagasaki the last city to suffer atomic bombing.

And in April 2016, we launched an international signature campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The aim of the campaign was to achieve a nuclear weapon-free world while we were still alive, so that people in future would not experience a hell on earth as we Hibakusha did. Thanks to the movement of so many people who only have a little power individually but who are not completely powerless, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was concluded and entered into force on January 22, 2022. It has been ratified by 66 countries to date.

It is sad however that the government of Japan,

the first country to sustain nuclear damage in war, refuses to ratify the treaty.

The A-bombed country Japan and the U.S. that produced and used the atomic bombs for the first time in the history of humankind should assume their big responsibility of eliminating nuclear weapons.

Mr. Kishida says that Japan should work as a bridge builder between the nuclear haves and have-nots, as the former still have not joined the TPNW.

But instead, I would say that Japan should join the TPNW first. Then, together with us Hibakusha, let us meet the leaders of the nuclear weapon states and encourage them to join the treaty.

And let us press Russia, holding the largest number of nuclear arms and using them to blackmail other countries, to stop invading Ukraine and to never ever use nuclear weapons.

If these wishes come true, I am sure we will make nuclear weapons disappear from the earth. We Hibakusha will continue to cry out our pleas until that day comes.

Movement of the A-bombed country:

Tanaka Ryuichiro

General Secretary, Saga Gensuikyo



This year, just as we did last year, our Peace March covered all municipalities in the prefecture by holding publicity campaigns on the streets, short-distance peace marches and discussions on peace-related agenda with local government officials. In the past, we were unable to canvass all the municipalities as we just focused on walking. I'm glad to be able to report to you that we have entered a new phase of our movement, despite the limitations we had to endure due to the outbreak of the coronavirus over the last two years.

We had a project of holding exhibitions of A-bomb paintings in the prefecture. The paintings are works done by art club students at Hiroshima Municipal Motomachi Senior High School. Some local governments agreed to sponsor the exhibition and others have used the exhibition for peace education of elementary school children. One

municipality, which did not respond to our request last year, has shown willingness to sponsor the exhibition this year. From August 8-12, the A-bomb paintings will be exhibited at the lobby of the Saga Prefectural Government office. The City of Saga, too, included the A-bomb paintings in its peace exhibition. Yoshinogari Town plans to put the paintings on display at a cultural festival in November. In Omachi Town, an elementary school has told us that they want to use the paintings for students' study before their school trip to Nagasaki.

There may be several reasons behind local governments' moves to exhibit the A-bomb paintings. When we made requests to local governments about the peace march we explained in detail about the high school students' A-bomb paintings—that the students learned about the atomic bombing by interviewing Hibakusha, and based on what they learned from Hibakusha's stories, they further researched related materials, and completed their paintings after getting comments from hibakusha.

The Saga Prefectural Government office has for many years held an A-bomb photo exhibition using photo panels made by the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers' Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo). Prefectural government officials showed keen interest in our explanation about the high school students' A-bomb paintings. They seemed to have noted the fact that the paintings were done by high school students and that they are accompanied by explanatory comments. They may have strong belief that nuclear weapons must never be used.

I want to stress that the meetings with local government officials have been made possible by the successful holding of A-bomb paintings exhibitions organized in many parts of the prefecture by the New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin), which helped make requests to local governments.

But our movement also has a problem to deal with. Our efforts to promote local assemblies' resolutions urging the central government to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) are too slow. Our efforts fall short of achieving such changes in local governments. In one local assembly, we learned from experiences of other prefectures to win a resolution, but our efforts did not bear fruit.

What do we need to care for? We should not give up what we want to do. We would like to keep it in mind and share the same wish with as many people as possible. I conclude my report from Saga Prefecture by expressing my determination to successfully get local assemblies to adopt the TPNW resolutions.

Tamaki Denny Governor of Okinawa



Haisai, gusuyo, chuuganabira. Hello, everyone. I am Okinawa Governor Tamaki Denny. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Okinawa Gensuikyo Representative Director Yagasaki Katsuma and all those involved and participating online today for your continued support for and cooperation with the Okinawa prefectural government.

It has been more than three years since I took office, and I believe that with your help we have been able to make steady progress in addressing various issues facing Okinawa.

On the other hand, the Covid-19 pandemic remains rampant with no end in sight. Joining together with medical personnel who are working hard on the front lines and those supporting nursing care, childcare, and education to prevent the spread of the infection and establish a medical care system, we will take all possible measures, including the ones to promote economic recovery.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Okinawa's return to Japan. Fifty years ago, Okinawans expected that U.S. military bases in Okinawa would be removed like those on the mainland once Okinawa returned to Japan. However, Okinawa continues to host 70.3% of all U.S. military bases in Japan, as many of the bases built in Okinawa before its return to Japan still exist in Okinawa. Since assuming the office of governor, having received a mandate from the people of Okinawa, I have put my whole self into fulfilling my pledge to eliminate risks of the U.S. Futenma base as soon as possible, to cancel the construction of a new U.S. base in Henoko, and to relocate the Futenma base outside the prefecture or the country. The will of Okinawans is the source of my power to demand as their governor that the national government abandon the Henoko base construction, as well as close and remove the Futenma base as soon as possible. I am convinced that as long as the people of Okinawa maintain their strong will, the relocation of the Futenma base within the prefecture will never be realized.

I would like to express my sincere respect for

the passion of all of you who are here today. I hope that you support our endeavor to build a safe, secure, and happy island for the future of our children and grandchildren and to build a generous society befitting Okinawa, where no one is left behind. Let us work together to create a peaceful and just future. Yutasarugutu unigesabira. Thank you for your cooperation.

Concluding declaration of the "Peace Wave 2022":

Chisaka Jun, Steering Committee Co-Chair, Organizing Committee of the World Conference

I would like to report on the "Peace Wave" actions being carried out around the world and in Japan, which were called for by the Organizing Committee of the World Conference and launched on August 4.

The Peace Wave is a wave of joint grassroots actions around the globe with the common goal of abolishing nuclear weapons. The reports on the entire actions are still coming in. In Boston and New York State, USA, Hiroshima Day rallies and lantern floating ceremonies were held in memory of the Hibakusha. Also, in Kiev, Ukraine, the A-bomb photos have been displayed in the public library for the past few days, and today, people are taking action under the slogans, "Do not repeat the tragedies of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Chernobyl!", "Russian troops must withdraw from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant; Stop invading Ukraine!" In addition, a variety of other actions were held in different parts of the world, including an A-bomb exhibition in Germany, Hiroshima-Nagasaki rallies in various parts of France, and anti-nuclear rallies in London and Manchester, U.K.

In Japan, actions are being held in at least 255 areas throughout the country. A wide variety of actions have been held, including Hiroshima/Nagasaki photo exhibitions, displays of A-bomb paintings by high school students, signature collections, information actions and standings on the streets, forums to listen to Hibakusha's stories, peace bell ringing, peace dialogues, peace concerts, etc. In Yamanashi Prefecture, exhibitions of A-bomb photo panels and A-bomb paintings by Hiroshima high school students were held at 9 locations in the prefecture. Inazawa Gensuikyo of Aichi Prefecture has requested 36 temples to hold peace bell ringing ceremonies on the 6th and 9th, and from the 5th to the 15th August, exhibitions of high school students' A-bomb paintings are being held at the

city hall main building, branch offices, and public library. In Kiyose, Tokyo, the New Japan Women's Association held the petition drive on the street and gathered 60 signatures on Hiroshima Day.

Let us continue to expand this wave of actions further and achieve the total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons without fail.

This completes the concluding declaration of the "Peace Wave" actions.

Concluding remarks:

Yasui Masakazu

Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)

Dear friends joining the conference in-person and online,

Thank you very much for your active participation and discussion at the World Conference, from the opening plenary session in Hiroshima on August 4 to today's Nagasaki Day rally. While taking measures to prevent the spread of corona, we were able to have a total of more than 4,000 on-site participants in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and many people joining online through more than 4,300 access points, and the World Conference achieved a great success.

I would like to thank the government representatives of Austria, Malaysia and Mexico, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the governor of Okinawa Prefecture, representatives of political parties, members of the Diet and representatives of civil society organizations and global anti-nuclear peace movements for your participation in-person, through videos or online. Our thanks also go to the heads of states and governments, international organizations and many local government leaders for your warm messages of solidarity, as well as to the Hibakusha from home and abroad who joined this World Conference with us.

At the same time, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the host cities, the interpreters and all those involved in the preparations and who supported the conference programs with their utmost efforts. Thank you very much.

The most important role of this year's World Conference was to break out of the current crisis and show the prospects for achieving a "peaceful and just world without nuclear weapons" in the face of new dangers of nuclear use, such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and President Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons and the strengthening of "deterrence" and nuclear posture on the pretext of

this invasion.

The Conference successfully demonstrated its vision by adopting the 'Hiroshima Declaration'. During the NGO session of the 10th NPT Review Conference held in New York, the holding of this World Conference was reported and the core content of the "Declaration" was conveyed by our representative.

The Hiroshima Declaration was immediately disseminated nationally and internationally, and has been welcomed by a stream of voices. Here are some examples:

"I support it with pleasure. I am happy to make a small contribution" (Beatrice Fihn, ICAN)

"I fully support the Declaration and will carry it on my website" (Yurii Sheliazhenko, Ukraine)

"I support it. I feel very encouraged" (Oleg Bodrov, Russia)

"It is a great achievement" (Joseph Gerson, USA).

Dear friends, the "Hiroshima Declaration" is the compass for our future actions. As the first step in our activities after the World Conference, let us study, discuss and take action on the Hiroshima Declaration. Let's deliver the Hiroshima Declaration to the local government officials who supported the World Conference. And let us also share the declaration and hold meetings with all the organizations and individuals with whom we are connected, so that we can advance our joint efforts.

And as a movement of the A-bombed Japan, let's make sure to win the re-election of Governor Tamaki Denny in the forthcoming Okinawa gubernatorial election in order to decisively stop the preparations for war and constitutional revision using the Taiwan crisis as an opportunity to do so. With the Hiroshima Declaration as our strength, let us open the way to new progress.



Appendices:

List of Overseas Delegates and Guests in the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Representatives of National Governments

Austria

Mr. Alexander Kmentt, Ambassador/ Director, Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Department, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Malaysia

Mr. Syed Mohamad Hasrin Aidid, Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations/ Disarmament Committee Chair, 2022 NPT Review Conference

Mexico

Ms. Melba Pria, Ambassador to Japan, United Mexican States

Peace Movement Representatives

Asia & Pacific

Marshall Islands

Mr. Benetick Kabua Maddison, Executive Director, Marshallese Educational Initiative, Inc.

Guam

Ms. Hope Cristobal, Former Senator, Guahan Legislature

Australia

Mr. Tilman Ruff, ICAN Australia/ Co-President, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

Ms. Hannah Middleton, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)/ Sydney Anti AUKUS Campaign

The Philippines

Ms. Corazon Fabros, Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition/ Stop the War Coalition/ International Peace Bureau

Republic of Korea

Mr. Lee Gyu-yeol, President, Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association

Mr. Lee Jun Kyu, Senior Researcher, Institute for Unification and Peace Policy, Hanshin University

Ms. Hwang Yun Mi, Head of Seoul SPARK (Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea)

Ms. Lee Gi Eun, Youth Staff, SPARK (Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea)

Vietnam

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hien, Deputy Director General of the Multilateral Affairs Department, Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations/ Vietnam Peace Committee

Ms. Le Thi Thanh Giang, President, Union of Friendship Organizations of Can Tho City

Europe

Belgium

Mr. Ludo De Brabander, Vrede vzw

U.K.

Ms. Kate Hudson, Secretary General, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Ukraine

Mr. Yurii Sheliashenko, Executive Director, Ukrainian Pacifist Movement

Ms. Nina Potarska, National Coordinator for Ukraine, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Russian Federation

Mr. Oleg Bodrov, North-West Russia Peace Movement/ Chairman, Public Council of the Southern Coast of the Gulf of Finland

Ms. Asya Maruket, Psychologist/ Women's rights and peacebuilding activist

Ms. Oksana Chelysheva, Journalist/ Human rights defender (originally from Ukraine)

North and South America

U.S.A.

Mr. Joseph Gerson, President, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security

International Organizations

Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

Ms. Masako SHIBATA, Executive Committee Member, Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF)

Messages of Solidarity from Overseas to the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs

National Governments/ International Organizations:

(Please see page 13 for the full texts)

Ireland

Michael D. Higgins, President

Laos

Thongloun Sisoulith, President

Vietnam

Nguyen Xuan Phuc, President/ General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam

International Committee of the Red Cross

Peter Maurer, President

Anti-nuclear and Peace Movements:

Tomas Magnusson

Former chair of Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society/ Former President of the International Peace Bureau

Friends,

I would have liked to write a more positive and encouraging message, but the political development in Sweden for the last number of months have been an absolute adversity for peace work. The Swedish application for membership in the military alliance NATO is of course very much connected to Russia's despicable war in Ukraine. But I still cannot understand how quickly Sweden changed from being a neutral country outside the military alliances and with a record of always opposing

nuclear weapons to apply for joining the military alliance, accepting NATO's nuclear doctrine including the policy of nuclear first strike.

The change of Sweden to apply for membership in NATO, went extremely quick, without a serious chance to debate. The leading hawks in the social democratic party, among which are the minister of foreign affairs Ann Linde, acted as they wanted an open debate, but did all tricks of manipulation. Abd pressure from top to party members were strong . just an example: Of nearly 100 social democrats in the Parliament not one of them dared to speak out publicly in support of the traditional social democratic policy for neutrality and anti-nukes, which has been formed by Alva Myrdal, Inga Thorsson, Maj Britt Theorin and not least Olof Palme.

For the coming future, I know that the solidarity from peace people all around the world will be of great importance for me and Swedish Peace Activist, not least the receiving message from Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the coming weeks, when so many people are gathered naturally.

John Steinbach

Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Committee of the National Capital Area, U.S.A.

I will send our commemoration calendar to Peace Wave. The commemorative supper will be small. Hopefully we will be joined by a Marshall Islander hosted by Glen Alcalay.

I hope to be able to attend a World Conference in person in the next few years. Please give my warm regards to Take, Yayoi, Shinji and other friends.

Rabindra Adhikari

Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council

Greetings from Nepal. We are very sorry to say that NPSC is unable to send a delegation to

participate in the World Conference against A & H Bombs, 2022. It became impossible due to many technical causes. Anyway, I wish for all success of the conference and we will join the conference via online. We hope we will receive the link soon.

Gediminas Rimdeika
Trakai Rotary Club, Lithuania

(Regarding the Japanese relief fund for the refugees from Ukraine in Lithuania) A few hours ago I sent you a letter about THE UKRAINIAN CENTER, which is located in Vilnius and is headed

by Algirdas KUMŽA, former Lithuanian ambassador in Ukraine. This is one of my suggestions on how to effectively use the funds raised by Gensuikyo. Now one of the launched programs is aimed at preschool children, coloring books with Ukrainian inscriptions will be printed for them. Today, in the letter I sent you, you can see their activities. Please discuss about this proposal and I will wait for your decision. Did you receive the thanks and souvenirs from Trakai municipality?

The world conference starts in a few days, I wish everyone a successful work.

Program of Events of the 2022 World Conference against A and H Bombs

July 24 (Sun.) & 31 (Sun.)

<Associated event>

Scientists Forum of the 2022 World Conference against A & H Bombs (Online)

August 4 (Thu.)

Opening Plenary, 2022 World Conference against A & H Bombs – Hiroshima (Green Arena, Hiroshima Sports Center/Online)

International Meeting, 2022 World Conference against A & H Bombs (1st day, Green Arena/ Online)

Launching of the Peace Wave 2022

Arrival of the National Peace March at Hiroshima (Fountain of Prayer at Peace Park)

August 5 (Fri.)

International Meeting, 2022 World Conference against A & H Bombs (2nd day, Green Arena/Online)

Forums on different themes (venues throughout Hiroshima City)

- I: How can we bring the US to justice for the atomic bombing?
- II: Relieving and working in solidarity with Hibakusha; Succeeding Hibakusha's experiences and disseminating the realities of A-bombing
- III: Nuclear-Free, peaceful and foreign bases-free Asia and the Pacific: Role of peace movement
- IV: Support and solidarity with victims of Agent Orange – Screening of the movie “Living in Lost Time” and talk session with its director Sakata Masako
- V: International rules for peace based on the UN Charter and elimination of nuclear weapons: Discussion on the crisis in Ukraine
- VI: No to nuclear sharing and revision of Article 9 of Japan's Constitution
- VII: Young People's Forum

Field Trips:

- (1) Visit to A-bomb memorials and monuments
- (2) Visit to A-bomb remnants and memorials: Former Army Clothing Depot
- (3) Boys and Girls forum on Ninoshima Island

Forum to listen to the testimonies of the Black Rain survivors (Hiroshima Sports Center)

<Associated events>

49th National Peace Rally of High School Students (Hiroshima Korean School/ Online)

Fast and Prayer for Life by Japan Council of Religionists for Peace (A-Bomb Memorial Mound)

Peace Forum of Teachers and Staff (Hiroshima/ Online)

44th Peace Forum of Municipal Government Workers (Hiroshima Sports Center)

2022 Peace Forum of National Public Service Workers (Hiroshima)

August 6 (Sat.)

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony (Peace Park)

2022 World Conference against A & H Bombs -- Hiroshima Day Rally (Green Arena/ Online)
<Associated event>

No Nukes! Women's Forum 2022 (Online)

August 7 (Sun.)

Move to Nagasaki by train

“No to construction of US Henoko Base!” -- Citizens forum for victory in Okinawa Prefectural Governor’s election by Japan Peace Committee (Online)

August 8 (Mon.)

Dialogue with Hibakusha (Nagasaki Hisaikyo Hall)

Evening Tour of A-Bomb Monuments

August 9 (Tue.)

Nagasaki Day Rally, 2022 World Conference against A & H Bombs (Nagasaki Shimin Kaikan Gymnasium)

List of Organizing Committee Members of the World Conference against A and H Bombs (As of August 2022)

Member Organizations (INPO):

National Confederation of Trade Unions (ZENROREN)

All Japan Teachers and Staff Union (ZENKYO)

Japan Federation of Private University Teachers' and Employees' Unions

All Judicial Workers' Union

Labor Union of MLIT (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, Tourism), JMA (Japan Meteorological Agency) and Affiliates

All Japan Non-Life Insurance Labor Union

Japan Social Welfare and Child-Nursing Workers Union

National Confederation of Automobile Transportation Workers Unions

Japanese Democratic Writers Association

National Council of Singing Voice of Japan Organizations

Japan Federation of Women's Organizations (FUDANREN)

League of Public Order Maintenance Law Victims for State Compensation

Japan Peace Committee

Japan-Eurasia Society

Japan-China Friendship Association

Japan Asia Africa Latin America Solidarity Committee

Japan Family Farmers Movement (NOUMINREN)

All Health and Welfare Ministry Workers Union

National General Workers Union - National Confederation of Trade Unions

Congress of Poets

National Federation of Tenants' Associations

Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (MIN-IREN)

National Council of Japan for the Visually Impaired

New Japan Women's Association (SHINFUJIN)

Japan Customs Personnel Labour Union

Japan Federation of National Public Service Employees' Unions

Japan Federation of Publishing Workers' Unions

National Federation of Financial Industry Workers' Unions

Japanese Red Cross Society Workers' Union

Japan Realist Photographers Association

Japan Scientists' Association

Association for Workers Education of Japan
Women's Democratic Club
Japan Council of Religionists for Peace
Japan Christians' Association for Peace
Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (GENSUIKYO)
Workers' Union of Health Insurance Hospitals
National Government Employees' Mutual Aid Association Hospital Workers' Union
Postal Industry Workers' Union
All Japan Construction, Transport and General Workers' Union
Japan Federation of Medical Workers' Unions
Japan National Hospital Workers' Union
Japan-Korea Friendship Association
Japan Center, Asian Buddhists Conference for Peace
Democratic Youth League of Japan
National Federation of Traders and Producers Organizations (ZENSHOREN)
Central Liaison Conference of Youth and Students for a Bright Progressive Japan
Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association
National Confederation of Human Rights Movements in the Community
National Campaign Committee for Abrogation of the Japan-US Security Treaty
National Workers Union of Social Insurance Fee Fund
Japan-Vietnam Friendship Association
National Federation of Environmental Pollution Patients' Organizations
National Federation of Associations for Safeguarding Living and Health
New Japan Medical Association (Shin-I-Kyo)
All Justice Ministry Employees' Union
Liberty Lawyers Guild
National Forum for Peace, Democracy and Progressive Unity
New Japan Tanka Poets Association
All Japan Congress of Realist Theaters
National Council of Graduate Students
All Labor Ministry Workers' Union
All Japan Confederation of Warehouse and Transport Workers' Unions
National Council of Securities Industry Workers Unions
Water Resources Development Corporation Workers' Union
National Federation of JA Hospital Workers Unions
National Workers' Union of Labor Accident Hospitals
Liaison Conference of Cultural Organizations
Japan Clerks Union
Warabi-za Theater Group
Joint Struggle Conference of Welfare Ministry Workers Unions
Faculty and Staff Union of Japanese Universities
Japan Congress of Recreation Leaders
All Japan Metal, Information and Tele-Communication Workers' Union (JMIU)
Japan Federation of Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Unions (Jichiroren)
National Federation of Agricultural Co-op Workers Unions
Legal Assistance and Human Rights Association of Japan
Japanese Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Workers' Unions
National Tax Office Workers' Union
Japan-Cuba Friendship Association
Japanese Medical and Dental Practitioners for the Improvement of Medical Care
Association for a Non-Nuclear Government
Japan Federation of Co-op Labor Unions
Japan Pensioners' Union

Observer

Federation of National Diet Workers' Unions

Committee of Chairpersons:

AKAMATSU Koichi	Advisor, Japan Council against A and H Bombs
ANZAI Ikuro	Director, Anzai Science & Peace Office (ASAP)
ANIYA Masaaki	Professor emeritus, Okinawa International University
ARAKAWA Yosei	Buddhist monk/ Director General, Japan Council of Religionists for Peace
EJIRI Mihoko	Former President, Japan YWCA/ Professor emeritus, Tsuda College
OTA Yoshiro	President, National Federation of Traders and Producers Organizations (ZENSHOREN)
OGATA Yasuo	Executive Committee Vice-Chairperson, Japanese Communist Party
OSANAI Mieko	Scenario writer
OBATA Masako	President, National Confederation of Trade Unions (ZENROREN)
YONEYAMA Atsuko	President, New Japan Women's Association (SHINFUJIN)
NISHIKAWA Ryuhei	President, Democratic Youth League of Japan
SATO Mitsuo	Advisor, Japan Peace Committee
SAWADA Shoji	Hibakusha / Professor emeritus, Nagoya University
SHIBATA Masako	President, Japan Federation of Women's Organizations
HATADA Shigeo	Researcher of International Politics
HAYASHI Tatsuya	Advisor, Hiroshima YMCA
MASUDA Tsuyoshi	President, Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (MIN-IREN)

Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee:

CHISAKA Jun	Japan Peace Committee
TAKAKUSAKI Hiroshi	Japan Council against A and H Bombs (GENSUIKYO)
NOGUUCHI Kunikazu	Association for a Non-Nuclear Government

