

### **Declaration of the International Meeting**

As seen in the war in Ukraine and nuclear threats the world is facing a serious situation where the danger of the use of nuclear weapons is real and growing. Assembled in Hiroshima from around the world we call with the Hibakusha that nuclear weapons must never be used in any circumstances whatsoever and that they should be totally and completely abolished even a day sooner.

The atomic bombs targeted against Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 78 years ago by US forces, instantly destroyed the two cities and created a “hell on earth” unlike anything humans had ever before experienced. Some 210,000 lives were lost by the end of 1945, and those who narrowly survived those days later suffered from radiation diseases and other after-effects, and were subjected to social and economic discrimination. This tragedy should never be allowed to happen anywhere again.

There are still about 12,500 nuclear weapons in the world. Their eradication is an urgent and vital task for the survival of humanity.

The Russian Government under President Putin should immediately cease the aggression and the threat to use of nuclear weapons. The US, the UK, France, China and other nuclear powers that cling to their nuclear arsenals also have a heavy responsibility to bear. The threat or use of nuclear weapons is a direct violation of the principles of the UN Charter which stipulates the peaceful resolution of international conflicts, and their elimination is an obligation for all the states in line with Resolution No.1 of the first UN General Assembly.

It is absolutely unforgivable that the G7 Summit in Hiroshima openly asserted their doctrine for “nuclear deterrence”, and thus taunted the Hibakusha and the A-bombed cities. The NATO Summit in July this year declared anew that nuclear weapons are “unique” for their security, and reiterated its posture to cling to nuclear weapons.

The strengthening of the US-centered military bloc, such as the expansion of NATO or its ties in the Asia-Pacific, is dividing the world and escalating a dangerous vicious cycle of military-to-military and nuclear-to-nuclear confrontation. North Korea is repeating missile tests in breach of UN Security Council resolutions; the US, South Korea and Japan are reinforcing their

military confrontation, including “nuclear deterrence”; the situation around the Korean Peninsula is thus becoming even more dangerous.

While the nuclear superpowers turn their back on nuclear disarmament, the global trend empowered by the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), continues to gather momentum. Sixty-eight countries have ratified the treaty; 92 countries have signed it, reaching nearly half of the UN member states; and further efforts to increase its member states are continuing. This unwavering development presents to us a great hope for “a world without nuclear weapons.”

The TPNW shows that if the international community unite and work together with civil society, it can exert great power to change the world. The way to achieve a “nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world” will lie in further developing this international cooperation while strengthening the campaign in respective countries to press governments to join the TPNW.

We develop our movement in our countries and our international cooperation in the following demands:

- The use and threat of nuclear weapons is contrary to both the UN Charter and International Humanitarian Law, and can never be forgiven. We demand that all states rigorously observe this rule. The “nuclear deterrence” doctrine, as means to ensure security, cannot be justified on any ground and must be firmly rejected.
- The TPNW is now functioning as international law, as is the “Action Plan” formulated at the first meeting of the States Parties, including support for victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons, and has begun to take concrete shape and steps. The second meeting of the States Parties will take place from November 27 in New York. We call on all countries to cooperate with the States Parties and support the treaty and participate in the meeting.
- Preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2026 have started (First preparatory committee meeting, July 31-August 11 in Vienna). We emphatically call on all the NPT States Parties, especially nuclear weapon states, to faithfully implement their obligations to negotiate on nuclear disarmament as required by Article VI of the Treaty and the successive agreements of the past review conferences, including the “unequivocal undertakings” to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.
- Nuclear weapon-free zones should be strengthened and expanded. The nuclear

weapon powers must secure the effectiveness of these NWFZ treaties with legal guarantees. We welcome the efforts to establish a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East and call for its early realization. North Korea must halt its development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. We call on all countries concerned to resume the efforts to achieve the denuclearization and peace of the Korean Peninsula. The regional tension at the South China Sea and the East China Sea requires an effort to resolve the problem by diplomatic and peaceful means without resorting to unilateral actions.

- Russia must immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine and withdraw all its forces from it. Making the nuclear power plant a military target is the violation of international humanitarian law, which must never be permitted. We call on the international community to unite in defense of the UN Charter opposing a division of the world, seek a solution based on the UN General Assembly resolutions, support all efforts in pursuit of peace and justice, and work hard to rebuild and strengthen the order of peace. We call for an end to the responses based on military blocs that deepen military confrontations and divisions and impede the resolution of problems. Regional conflicts must be resolved on the basis of international law and by peaceful means. Only by such framework that is inclusive and having no hypothetical enemies, common security for all will be guaranteed. We oppose the increase in military expenditures and demand their drastic reduction.

The responsibility of the Kishida government, which presided over the G7 Summit and its blatant “nuclear deterrence doctrine” is extremely heavy and shameful. The true message from the A-bombed city should be the swift abolition of nuclear weapons. We strongly urge Japan, which witnessed Hiroshima and Nagasaki tragedies, to break out of the dependence on the US “nuclear umbrella” and support and participate in the TPNW.

The Kishida government is deepening its reliance on the US “nuclear umbrella”, and is proceeding with massive military build-up in violation of Japan’s Constitution as is arming the nation with the capacity to attack enemy bases under the pretext of strengthening “deterrence”. With the militarization of Okinawa and other Nansei Islands, Japan is being turned into the frontline base of the US strategy toward China. It is further moving to assume a key role to link Asia to NATO. At the basis of all this lies the policy of absolute commitment to the Japan-US military alliance. We extend our solidarity with the Japanese movement in their demand that the Japanese government should take appropriate action as the only country to have suffered from the A-bombings at war and as a country having a war-renouncing Constitution.

We appeal to the anti-nuclear peace movements all around the world the following actions:

- Let us disseminate the realities of the sufferings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as the inhumane consequences of the use and testing of nuclear weapons; Let us ensure the success in the international joint actions for the common demand of the abolition of nuclear weapons. Let us support the Hibakusha in Japan and Korea and the other nuclear victims in the world in their activities.
- Let us strengthen the campaign pressing for the support and participation in the TPNW in the non-signatories of the treaty, particularly in the nuclear weapons states and the countries that rely on their “nuclear deterrence”,
- Rallying campaigns in many countries, let us develop cooperation between national governments and civil society on the occasion of the opening of the 78<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, the Second Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW and the PrepCom meetings of the NPT. In response to the 2<sup>nd</sup> MSP to the treaty, let us make success in the internationally coordinated actions.
- Let us promote many forms of cooperation with various peace movements for a cut in military spending, dismantling of foreign military bases, dissolution of military alliances, compensation and support for the victims of war such as of Agent Orange, and rooting out the damage, promotion of peace education, and end to the Ukrainian war on the basis of the principles of the UN Charter.
- Let us extend solidarity with various other movements, such as for the protection of livelihoods, lives and human rights, for zero nuclear power plants, overcoming climate crisis, securing gender equality, and for freedom and democracy.

To overcome the present grave situation, the role of the public opinion and movement is of decisive importance. With the Hibakusha, we are determined to make headway always with ever-wider participation of new, younger generation.

August 5, 2023

International Meeting, the 2023 World Conference against A and H Bombs