

**Mexico's Message**  
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**Embassy of the United Mexican States**

**2023 World Conference Against**  
**Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs**  
**(Nagasaki, 7 August 2023)**

- Good day to you all.
- For Mexico, it is an honour to take part in the commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of the tragic atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Mexico pays tribute to the Japanese people, particularly to the survivors of the atomic bombs (*Hibakusha*), who by raising their voices and sharing their testimony have played a key role in the efforts to raise awareness on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.
- Hibakusha's testimonies constitute a historical legacy that is a clarion call for promoting peace and securing a world free of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we have to ensure that their thoughts, their voices and their enlightening stories are available for present and future generations.
- The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have shown that nuclear weapons do not make any distinction between combatants and civilians; they do not differentiate gender, age, religion, social condition, ideology or nationality. Their effects are indiscriminate.
- The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has also shown that beyond the immediate death and destruction caused by a detonation, socio-economic development will be hampered, and the environment will be damaged. Suffering will be widespread, the vulnerable being the most severely affected. It is imperative to ensure that such a calamity will never happen again.
- The mere existence of nuclear weapons has been a heavy burden on societies, but it has helped us in finding the fundamental spaces to prioritize cooperation in a fragmented world, and not to sustain global security on the intricate and illogical game of the threats of the use of such weapons, which put the very existence of humanity at risk.

- Mexico believes that, in order to achieve nuclear disarmament, all the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) -the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime- must commit and exert all efforts to guarantee its effective implementation, including taking forward multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament.
- Mexico is convinced that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is milestone in what has been the long road towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In particular, it is a complementary instrument in the international architecture of nuclear disarmament that contributes to compliance and full implementation of the NPT, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBTO), international treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, and other multilateral efforts.
- In this context, I would like to share some elements on the position of Mexico, since we will be chairing the Second Meeting of States Parties (2MSP) to the TPNW, to be held in New York, from November 27 to December 1.
- Mexico suggested UN headquarters in New York as the venue for the meeting, where most States are represented, to ensure inclusivity and the broadest participation of States parties, signatories, possible observer States as well as organized civil society.
- A priority for Mexico's chairmanship is universality: we are urging to redouble efforts to advance the universalization of the treaty. The TPNW is a young regime that still requires keeping the momentum and renewed political support. More signatures and ratifications are needed. In this area, organized civil society, cities, and parliamentarians can support and drive national processes to achieve these goals.
- In this regard, we are convinced that we must also find channels of communication and dialogue with all those States that still have reservations about the instrument; under no circumstances can the prohibition of a category of weapons of mass destruction be conceived as a disruptive or destabilizing element of international security.
- Although the treaty provides for an effective and efficient institutional framework, this is still being developed and consolidated. Therefore, Mexico is promoting actions aiming to the implementation of the

Vienna Plan. The Scientific Advisory Group has been established, its chair and vice-chair have been appointed and it had its first meeting last March. The Chairman and his team are working, in coordination with the informal working groups, to advance the inter-sessional work, intending to arrive at the meeting of States Parties with concrete results on the implementation of priority areas.

- The TPNW is intrinsically linked to international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Mexico considers it is important to promote synergies between the treaty and these regimes. It is particularly important to emphasize the illegality of the threat of use and use of nuclear weapons, as already determined by the International Court of Justice in 1996.
- It is of utmost importance that the implementation of the treaty incorporates the gender perspective comprehensively and coherently throughout all policies, programs, and projects for its operationalization.
- Bearing in mind the current international scenario and the recent explicit threats of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states, the parties to the TPNW bear a special responsibility to raising awareness about the fact that nuclear weapons are NOT part of the solution, but part of the problem. To this end, we count on the invaluable support of civil society to amplify this message and holding all states accountable.
- You can count on the conviction and continued efforts of Mexico to attain and sustain a nuclear weapons-free world, as it was before 1945.
- It is our responsibility to protect new generations from the catastrophic consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, to make sure that a nuclear weapon detonation, like those which sadly took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, never happen again.
- I congratulate you for your efforts and encourage all of you to continue working together for a world free of nuclear weapons.
- Thank you very much for your kind attention.