

Dear friends,

Let me first thank the organisers of this important event.

In August 2009 I visited Nagasaki and invited Japanese youths to join our efforts in New York. It is great to see that so many now are here in New York. My name is Giorgio Alba, I am from Italy and I am working for a nuclear weapons free world; I am a researcher and the co-founder of BANg.

BANg stands for Ban All Nukes generation, because we are the generation that will ban nuclear weapons because together we can change the vision of a nuclear weapons free world into reality. BANg works on disarmament education and awareness rising by producing educational tools and doing public non-violent actions. We try to provide youths with the possibilities to raise their voice, organize delegations to the NPT conferences and to compose a youth speech for delegates. Until now we have three networks, BANg-Europe, BANg-USA and BANg-Aotearoa/New Zealand.

But where did we start from?

Five years ago, at the Review Conference of the NPT, for the first time youths were able to raise their voice. Still, the conference failed. Therefore an international youth group, I want to mention in the same breath Haruka Katarao and Hazuki Yasuhara from Japan, composed a youth statement, it started as follows:

*WARNING: WE MAY INHERIT A WORLD FULL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS!*

*Stand up and join us in the struggle for a more peaceful and secure future, in which nuclear weapons have no place!*

After the last RevCon the co-founder Sophie Lefeez from France outlined “This generation is failing to provide the next generation with a world free of nuclear weapons. We do not want to inherit a world where nuclear weapons jeopardize our security, our environment and our lives.”...“From New York to Berlin, from Rome to Bethlehem, from Paris to Hiroshima, we will work towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.” This vision is still guiding us.

After the conference failed, some young people decided to found a European Youth Network for Nuclear Disarmament. This network is now BANg a marketplace of ideas that intends to offer youths a space to develop and implement their own strategy to achieve peace and nuclear disarmament in Europe and in the whole world.

I want to close my speech with a question to you: What message to the world do we want to write after this Review Conference? Dear friends, the future is unwritten. We can make it.

I thank you for your attention and your commitment for peace.