

原水爆禁止2019年世界大会

2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 3-9, 2019



Organizing Committee
World Conference against A and H Bombs

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Main Theme:

For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World



Organizing Committee
World Conference against A and H Bombs

Table of Contents

Declaration of the International Meeting	1
Letter from Nagasaki to All National Governments	4
International Meeting, 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs	5
Opening Session (August 3)	5
Address of the Organizer:	
Noguchi Kunikazu, Organizing Committee of the World Conference	
Greetings on behalf of the Hibakusha:	
Hamasumi Jiro, Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo)	
Special Report by the Government Representative:	
George-Wilhelm Gallhofer, Minister, Head of Unit for Nuclear Weapons, IAEA, CTBTO and NPT, Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria	
Messages from Heads/Leaders of National Governments and International Organizations	12
Plenary Session I: “Damage and Suffering from A-Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Inhumanity of Nuclear Weapons; Struggle of the Hibakusha” (August 3)	
Introductory Reports:	17
Saito Oamu, M.D., Watari Hospital (Fukushima)/Japan Council against A and H Bombs	
Takato Seiji, Hiroshima Federation of A-Bomb Survivors	
Lee Koo Young, Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association, R.O.K	
Oleg Bodrov, Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland/ Film Director, Russia	
Sakamoto Megumi, Fukushima University	
Joint Statement of U.S.-Russian NGOs, Movements and Campaigns	
Plenary Session II: “Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Role of Citizens and Peace Movement--Tasks and Prospect for 2020, 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing” (August 3)	
Introductory Reports:	27
Joseph Gerson, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, U.S.A.	
Hannah Kemp-Welch, London CND/ Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, U.K.	
Kim Jinyoung, People’s Solidarity for Social Progress, R.O.K	
Yasui Masakazu, Japan Council against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyo)	
Statements:	34
Manisha Gaur, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space - India	
Ogata Yasuo, Committee of Chairpersons, World Conference Organizing Committee/ Vice Chair, JCP	
Rabindra Adhikari, Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council/ World Peace Council	
Kawamura Reiko, New Japan Women’s Association (Shinfujin)	
Plenary Session III: “Cooperation and Solidarity for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons - with Movements for Peace and No War; Zero Nuclear Power; Environment; Human Rights and People’s Living” (August 4)	
Introductory Reports:	39
Rosalie Brooks, Peace Action, U.S.A.	
Chloé Meulewaeter, Centre Delàs of Studies for Peace, Spain	
Gurrero AG Saño, Build Peace, Teach Peace/ International Youth Relay Marcher, the Philippines	
Toguchi Osamu, All Okinawa Coalition Against New Construction of Henoko Base	
Reiner Braun, International Peace Bureau (IPB)	
Statements:	47
Nagao Yuri, National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren)	
Raja Nafa, Oleander Initiative/ Univ. of the Middle East Project, Jordan	
Mercedes Llarinas-Angeles, Peace Women Partners International	
Nityalila Saulo, DAKILA - Philippine Collective for Modern Heroism/ International Youth Relay Marcher	

Emily Rubino, Peace Action New York State, U.S.A.
 Abdesslame Jebli, Oleander Initiative/ Univ. of the Middle East Project, Morocco
 Ellen Thomas, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-U.S.A.
 Nuri Ronaghy, WILPF-U.S.A.
 Shankar Lal Shrestha, AAPSO Nepal
 Gediminas Rimdeika, Green Party of Lithuania (Reference Paper)

Closing Session (August 5)	55
Reports of Workshops:	
Workshop I: Jun Hamamoto, San Quentin State Prison, U.S.A.	
Workshop II: Saito Shunichi, Association for a Non-nuclear Government	
Workshop III: Mercedes Llarinas-Angeles, Peace Women Partners International	
Hiroshima Day Rally - 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs (August 6)	59
Greetings from the Hiroshima Mayor:	
Matsui Kazumi, Mayor of Hiroshima City	
Greetings from the Hibakusha:	
Mimaki Toshiyuki, Nihon Hidankyo/ Hiroshima Hidankyo	
Statements by the National Government Representatives:	61
George-Wilhelm Gallhofer, Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria	
Maylem Rivero, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Japan	
Sending Hibakusha's Wishes to the World - from Hiroshima:	
Yoshioka Yukio, Sakuma Kunihiko and Kim Ginho, Hibakusha organizations in Hiroshima	
Nishimoto Tamiko, Hibakusha of Hiroshima/ Ishikawa Association of A-Bomb Survivors	
Yamado Rina, Graduate of Hiroshima City Motomachi High School	
Action toward 2020 for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons - Speeches by Overseas Delegates:	67
Akari Izumi Kvamme, No to Nuclear Weapons, Norway	
Shankar Lal Shrestha, Nepal Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation, Nepal	
Eum Mikyung, Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, ROK	
Ellen Thomas, WILPF-U.S.A.	
Hundreds of millions of International Hibakusha Appeal Petitions to Urge Japan to Join the TPNW:	
Shomoto Etsuko, Hyogo Gensuikyo/ Hyogo Prefectural Assembly member of JCP	
Takasaka Shoichi, Katsuhira Association against Aegis Ashore, Akita	
Call from Hiroshima	
Opening Plenary, 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs – Nagasaki (August 7)	75
Keynote Address on Behalf of the Organizer:	
Anzai Ikuro, Committee of Chairpersons, World Conference Organizing Committee	
Greetings of the Hibakusha:	
Tanaka Shigemitsu, Co-Chairperson, Nihon Hidankyo	
Greetings from Nagasaki Mayor:	
Taue Tomihisa, Mayor of Nagasaki City	
Solidarity Greetings:	
Hirowatari Seigo, Civil Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism	
Speeches by the Representative of National Governments:	80
George-Wilhelm Gallhofer, Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria	
Melba Pria, Ambassador to Japan, United Mexican States	
Seiko Ishikawa, Ambassador to Japan, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	
For Phasing-out of Nuclear Power and Promotion of Renewable Energy:	
Yoshiwara Tsuyoshi, Federation of Promotion of Zero Nuclear Power and Renewable Energy	
Action toward 2020 - for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons - Speeches by Overseas Delegates:	82
Hannah Kemp-Welch, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, U.K.	
Oleg Bodrov, Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland/ Film Director, Russia	
Baek Mi-sun, Korean Women's Associations United (KWAU), R.O.K.	
Joseph Gerson, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, U.S.A.	
Hundreds of Millions of Signatures of "International Hibakusha Appeal" to Urge Japan to Join the TPNW:	
Sakakibara Miyuki, New Japan Women's Association Yamanashi Chapter/ Yamanashi Gensuikyo	
Solidarity with the All-Okinawa Struggles:	

Inamine Susumu, All Okinawa Coalition Against New Construction of Henoko Base/ Former Mayor
of Nago City

**International Forum: Dialogue between Governments and NGOs for the Prohibition and
Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (August 8):..... 89**

Panelist Presentation:

George-Wilhelm Gallhofer, Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria
Joseph Gerson, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, U.S.A.
Reiner Braun, International Peace Bureau
Lee Jun Kyu, Institute for Unification and Peace Policy, Hanshin University, R.O.K.
Tsuchida Yayoi, Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo)

**Closing Plenary: 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs – Nagasaki
(August 9).....99**

Message from Okinawa Governor:

Tamaki Denny, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture

Sending out Hibakusha's Wishes to the World -- Nagasaki:

Yokoyama Teruko, Hibakusha of Nagasaki/ Nagasaki A-Bomb Survivors Council
Lee Koo Young, Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association, R.O.K.

Actions for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World: Speeches by Overseas Delegates: 102

Rosalie Brooks, Peace Action, U.S.A.
Chloé Meulewaeter, Centre Delàs of Studies for Peace, Spain
Bui Lien Huong, Vietnam Peace Committee
Lee Bora, Association of Physicians for Humanism, ROK
Corazon Fabros, Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition
Reiner Braun, International Peace Bureau

Determination of Grass-roots Activists of the A-bombed Country for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World:

Yamada Shimpei, All-Japan Teachers and Staffs Union (Zenkyo)

International Youth Relay March of the 2019 National Peace March:

Nityalila Saulo, AG Saño, Charley Sta. Maria, Galileo Castillo, Pedro Fenis Jhong, and Lerry
Hiterosa (Philippines), Yei Hsuan Huang (Taiwan), An Seul Ki (R.O.K.)

Message/Greetings from Japanese Political Parties:

Sasaki Takahiro, M.P., Deputy Leader, Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan
Koike Akira, M.P., Secretariat Head, Japanese Communist Party

Proposal for Actions:

Yasui Masakazu, Japan Council against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyo)

Appeal from Nagasaki

Appendices :..... 113

List of overseas delegates and guests in the 2019 World Conference against A & H Bombs
List of messages of solidarity
Program of events of the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs
List of Organizing Committee members

2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Declaration of the International Meeting

To make the year 2020, the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings, a historic turning point, we call for action with the Hibakusha to achieve a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world.

There are still some 14,000 nuclear weapons on the planet. Rooting out this threat is an urgent task bearing on the security of the world and the future of the human race. Deeply understanding the experience of the Hibakusha, many people are standing up for action for the abolition of nuclear weapons. And broad range of citizens, especially young people, are joining actions for the solution of the climate change and other critical problems for the survival of the human race. Let us bring all these efforts together to build a worldwide movement.

Two atomic bombs dropped by the US on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 74 years ago instantly destroyed the two cities. They claimed the lives of about 210,000 people by the end of that year. The atomic bombs did not allow people to die humanly deaths nor live humanly lives. Those who barely survived the moment later suffered from A-bomb diseases and social discrimination. Nuclear weapons are unparalleled, devilish weapons that thoroughly trample on human dignity.

The nuclear powers, clinging to the policy of “nuclear deterrence”, are increasing the danger of nuclear weapons being used.

Reinforcing the readiness to use nuclear weapons, the US is continuing to develop new types of nuclear-armed missiles. Unilaterally withdrawing from the INF Treaty and leading to its expiration, the US is also seeking to consolidate its nuclear supremacy. In response, Russia openly suggests a possible preemptive use of tactical nuclear weapons in regional conflicts, as well as a development of new nuclear weapons. We are witnessing a dangerous situation leading to a new nuclear arms race.

The five nuclear weapon states strongly oppose the TPNW together, showing hostility against the international current for the abolition. They are ignoring the past pledges and agreements to achieve a “world without nuclear weapons”, and even Article 6 of the NPT which stipulates the obligation to negotiate for nuclear disarmament. “Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND)” proposed by the Trump Administration is nothing but an attempt to indefinitely postpone nuclear disarmament by placing pre-conditions for it.

Nuclear powers and nuclear-dependent states leaders insist that nuclear weapons are necessary for the security of their countries. Yet the “nuclear deterrence” policy is based on the premise of actually using nuclear weapons. Use of nuclear weapons for any reason whatsoever or against people of any country would result in catastrophic consequences that can never be justified in terms of their inhumanity. A “world without nuclear weapons” is the only way to ensure security for all without the threat of nuclear weapons.

A call for “a world without nuclear weapons” represents the overwhelming majority in both international politics and among global citizens. In isolation from them, nuclear powers are united in maintaining and consolidating their nuclear arsenals despite contradictions and conflicts. The confrontation between the forces that cling to nuclear weapons and those that stand for the elimination of nuclear weapons forms a basic structural fault line regarding nuclear disarmament in today’s world.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) has established new norms that render nuclear weapons completely illegal, and making an important first step for their total abolition.

It is creating a huge political and moral pressure on the nuclear powers. Their resistance and counteractions are an expression of their weakness. The TPNW has already been signed by 70 countries and ratified by 24. Its entry into force is a matter of time. When it comes into force it will certainly have significant impact.

The NPT will mark the 50th anniversary next year since its entry into force. Despite its inequality acknowledging the five powers possess nuclear arsenals, it is supported by many countries as it stipulates the obligation of conducting negotiations on measures for nuclear disarmament (Article 6). The Nuclear Five must not keep turning their back on this obligation. They are severely questioned by many across the world about whether they ever plan to fulfill their treaty obligation.

As seen in the number of agreements reached in the NPT Review Conferences since 2000 and the adoption of the TPNW, the global movement and public support have played the key role in achieving the breakthrough. Now is the time for the global anti-nuclear movements and civil society to bring their role into full play.

The US unilaterally pulled out from the JCPOA and is making the danger of armed confrontation imminent. The use of force, including nuclear weapons, should be prevented by all means. The heightening tension between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan is also causing grave concern. We strongly demand that the UN Charter rules for peaceful settlement of conflicts should be honored and that the problems be resolved through dialog and diplomacy. We urge the USA and the DPRK to move negotiations forward and implement in good faith their Joint Statement in Singapore (2018) for the denuclearization of, and building a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and normalization of the US-DPRK relations. We call on all parties concerned to step up their efforts for the peaceful settlement of this problem, strictly refraining from the threat of force or provocations.

In pursuit of the “My country First” principle, great powers are increasingly belittling or simply disregarding multilateral agreements. Yet, this is no longer a time when superpowers can prevail in the world whenever they please to serve their own interests. All urgent global problems, such as climate change, depletion of natural resources, poverty and inequality, can be solved only through multilateral cooperation, including the participation of civil society. Nuclear and other arms build-ups are massive wastes of resources, and render solutions of other global issues more difficult. We demand the establishment of a world order based on the peace principle of the UN Charter and multilateralism.

We extend our solidarity with the Japanese movement in its demand that the Japanese government should play its role befitting the only A-bombed country. As more than 400 municipalities have adopted resolutions to urge the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW, this opinion is gaining broad support. Having witnessed the inhuman nature of nuclear weapons, Japan should quit the US “nuclear umbrella”, and support and participate in the TPNW. We express our firm support to the people of Okinawa. The US and Japanese governments should stop building a new US base at the Henoko district of Nago in Okinawa, which Okinawans have repeatedly rejected by overwhelming votes, and return the Futenma US Base immediately. In order to improve the deteriorating Japan-ROK relations, a sensible response from Japan is necessary, separating politics from economics and self-critically facing straight into the history of its aggression and colonial rule. Diplomatic efforts based on the peace principle of Japan’s Constitution, beginning with Article 9, and not the military build-up and reinforcement of the Japan-US military alliance, is the only way to establish peace in Japan and East Asia.

As we approach the 75th year of the atomic bombings, let us build up a huge anti-nuclear opinion to overwhelm pro-nuclear forces.

It is of crucial importance to enhance our activity to make known the inhumane consequences of

the use of nuclear weapons, of the A-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the first place. The key to overcome the “nuclear deterrence” doctrine lies in revealing the catastrophic, anti-human nature of the use of nuclear weapons.

We must build the majority opinion to press for signing and ratification of the TPNW in the nuclear armed or dependent countries. Further strengthening of our cooperation with parliamentarians, political parties and local governments to this effect is necessary.

The 2020 will also mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the UN. We must remind ourselves of its first resolution, which set the starting point for post WWII international politics by calling for “the elimination of atomic weapons”. Using such occasions as the forthcoming UNGA session and the NPT Review Conference, we need to build cooperation between civil society movements and governments.

To achieve these goals, we call for the following actions:

- Speaking tours by Hibakusha, photo exhibitions on the damage from A-bombings and many other forms of action devoted to the abolition of nuclear weapons; the International Signature Campaign in Support of the “Appeal of the Hibakusha of Hiroshima & Nagasaki for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons”, which will soon reach 10 million. Let us make a leap in it towards next year’s NPT Review Conference and the session of the UNGA in 2020. We must work hand in hand with the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Hibakusha, victims of the Bikini Tests and all other nuclear victims around the world.

- Success in the world conference against A and H bombs in New York and related international joint actions timed for the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

- Development of cooperation with a variety of movements working on peace against war, including: Cut in military expenditure; Settlement of conflicts by peaceful means; Opposition to the reinforcement of foreign military bases and demand for their removal; Opposition to the consolidation of military alliances and demand for their dissolution; Support and compensation for the victims of Agent-Orange and other war damage; and Promotion of peace education.

- Solidarity with social movements for Zero nuclear power plants; Protection of global environment; Overcoming poverty and economic gaps; Improvement of living standards, employment security, protection and improvement of social security; Gender equality; Protection and development of democracy and human rights; Achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and other tasks.

The average age of the Hibakusha has now exceeded 82. We must speed up our efforts to meet the desire of the Hibakusha for the “elimination of nuclear weapons in our lifetime”. The struggle of the people against nuclear weapons which inherently deny human dignity is winning support across generations and national boundaries. Together with all people who want to live in dignity as humans, let us make every effort to achieve a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world.

Hiroshima, August 5, 2019
International Meeting, 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs

**Special Resolution:
2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs - Nagasaki
August 9, 2019**

Letter from Nagasaki to All National Governments

Assembled in Nagasaki, the second A-bombed city following Hiroshima, we call on all national governments in the world to take action, by abolishing nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date, to save the human race from the danger of annihilation.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki evidenced what catastrophic and inhumane consequences the use of nuclear weapons causes. In the pain and desperation of a “hell on earth”, some 210,000 people had lost their lives by the end of 1945. The Hibakusha who barely survived later suffered from delayed effects, social prejudice and discrimination. Their offspring continue to live in anxiety about possible genetic effects of radiation.

The use of such weapons, which deny the very basis of human dignity, cannot be justified for any reason whatsoever. Whether or not we face the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and make a major step toward their prohibition and elimination depends on the responsibility of policymakers and their conscience and rational faculty as humans.

The overwhelming majority of the State parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) have pledged to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons and they abide by the Treaty. They do so because this treaty obligates nuclear disarmament negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons. The breach of the pledge and past agreements on the elimination of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-armed states, on the ground of their own “national security”, is an act of betrayal and can never be accepted.

If, at the same time as regional conflicts are being militarized, the nuclear superpowers continue to scrap the restrictions they have placed on themselves and to compete in reinforcing their nuclear arsenals, as seen in the expiry of the INF treaty, the danger of a nuclear catastrophe will become even greater. There is no such thing as security guaranteed by nuclear weapons.

As directed by the first resolution of the UNGA, the elimination of nuclear weapons is the starting point of the post-WWII international politics. We appeal to all national governments to remember the warnings of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and their Hibakusha and take the following actions to save the human race from nuclear catastrophe:

- To immediately stop the reinforcement of nuclear forces, preparations for the use of nuclear weapons and other actions that run counter to disarmament;
- To fulfill the obligation under Article 6 of the NPT to negotiate on nuclear disarmament; To implement and bring into concrete actions the agreements reached at the previous NPT Review Conferences, including, above all, the “unequivocal undertaking” to achieve the “complete elimination of nuclear arsenals” (agreed in 2000), and the “special efforts to establish the necessary framework” (agreed in 2010).
- To actively promote such activities that enlighten people on the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons; To support and give assistance to the Hibakusha and civil society movement that are working to this end, especially their efforts timed for the 2020 NPT Review Conference.
- To sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons without delay. Those governments which have already done so are to further promote international cooperation for the entry into force of the treaty, according to the spirit of the Treaty (Article 12).

The cooperation between national governments and civil society is essential to resolve all current global issues. To achieve a “world without nuclear weapons”, we remain committed and work in close cooperation with you.

August 9, 2019

International Meeting 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs

*Main Theme:
For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World*



Opening Session (August 3)

Address of the Organizer:

Noguchi Kunikazu
Co-Chair, Steering Committee,
Organizing Committee of the World
Conference

Dear delegates from Japan and overseas, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, I welcome you to the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs and extend my warm greetings of solidarity.

This year's World Conference focuses on the main theme: "For a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world" and is attended by government representatives from Austria, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela. These countries greatly contributed to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) by the United Nations and are currently taking the lead in the effort to get the treaty ratified. We also have representatives of anti-nuclear and peace movements from Asian and Pacific countries, including representatives from

the Republic of Korea who are doing their utmost to make the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free and to establish a peace system in Northeast Asia. We are also joined by friends in the anti-nuclear and peace movements of Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, along with dedicated grassroots activists and nuclear victims who are playing an active role. Participants from Japan include, beside Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, heads of local governments, people actively involved in the campaign to collect "30 Million Signatures" in support of the "Petition for the protection of Article 9 and the Constitution of Japan," people who are opposing the "Work style reform" legislation that promotes "karoshi" (death from overwork), people who are leading the campaign for ending nuclear power generation, people from the movement for dismantling US military bases, and people who were affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Northeastern Japan and the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Fundamental Principles of the Movement against A & H Bombs

The Movement against A & H Bombs

developed considerably in the aftermath of the US hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands in March 1954. The movement collected more than 32 million grassroots signatures, representing nearly half of Japan's voters, in support of the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Against this background, the First World Conference against A and H Bombs was held in Hiroshima in August 1955, with the participation of more than 5,000 delegates from Asia, Europe, and the Americas. In September that year, the Organizing Committee of the World Conference merged with the National Council for the Promotion of the Signature Collection to give birth to the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo). The 2nd World Conference was held in Nagasaki, the second target for nuclear attack after Hiroshima. The Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers' Organizations (Hidankyo) came into being during the 2nd World Conference.

Today, everybody knows the fundamental principles of the Movement against A and H Bombs confirmed by the first World Conference, namely the prevention of nuclear war, a total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, and relief for and solidarity with the Hibakusha. It is regrettable that today, 64 years later, there still exist 14,500 nuclear warheads in the world.

However, the movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons has been passed on from generation to generation and has produced solid results. In July 2017, the TPNW was adopted at the United Nations with the support of 122 countries, or more than 60 percent of the UN membership. Nuclear weapon possessing countries and countries under the nuclear umbrella are refusing to sign or ratify the treaty, but they cannot elude their political and moral responsibility. In the U.S., a nuclear superpower, as well as within military alliances, people are mobilizing themselves to support the ban treaty and urging their governments to sign and ratify it. During the past two years, steady progress has been made towards a nuclear-free, peaceful and just world." We must be confident in this.

For an early entry into force of the TPNW

Article 1, which constitutes the core of the TPNW, prohibits any activity related to nuclear weapons. The treaty denies the logic of nuclear deterrence and outlaws any security policy that depends on the nuclear umbrella provided by a nuclear weapon country. Article 4 describes the means by which nuclear weapon-countries may join the treaty and Article 6 requires the state parties to the treaty to provide assistance in various

ways to people affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons. Article 7 requires countries that have used nuclear weapons or tested such weapons to provide appropriate assistance to the victims and to help restore the environment.

As of July 28, 70 states have signed the TPNW and 23 have ratified it. The treaty is making steady progress toward coming into force. We urge all governments that are yet to sign or ratify the treaty to do so without fail.

For denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and building peace in Northeast Asia

For more than half a century, the Korean people have been divided into North and South. We heartily welcome the steps towards denuclearization and peace in Northeast Asia made on the Korean Peninsula despite the continuous confrontation and tension. In April last year, a North-South Korean summit meeting was held at Panmunjom where the two leaders signed the "Panmunjom Declaration." In June, the U.S. and North Korean leaders met in Singapore and signed a joint declaration. These two summit meetings were epoch-making in that the two leaders agreed to strive to make the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free and to build a lasting and stable peace system. In September of the same year, North and South Korean leaders met in Pyongyang and reconfirmed the Panmunjom Declaration. The US-North Korean summit that took place in February in Hanoi ended without agreement. But officials of the two countries are continuing discussions behind the scenes.

Due to the long standing hostile relationship between the two countries, the efforts to build confidence between the United States and North Korea have been quite inadequate. There still will be ups and downs ahead, including interruptions in negotiations, but it is important to know that denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and achieving peace are North and South Korean people's common demand and that no one can stop this. Cooperation of concerned countries and the international community is crucial if the "peace process", consisting of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and building a peace system in Northeast Asia, is to be successful. Above all, we need to increase public opinion and the movement in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world.

Let us capitalize on the TPNW to further advance people's opinion and the movement against nuclear weapons and for peace

While inter-Korea and US-North Korea dialogues have started, averting the explosive situation that prevailed until two years ago, the

nuclear weapon countries have grown increasingly resistant so as to maintain their privileges. The US Trump administration in February last year announced it would modernize and miniaturize nuclear weapons. In May, it unilaterally announced the withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal. Last February it notified Russia that it will withdraw from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF). These reckless moves undermine all the previous efforts and gains and run counter to the implementation of its duties under Article 6 of the NPT. The Russian administration of Vladimir Putin has openly defied the U.S. by indicating the possibility of developing a new type of nuclear weapons and deploying missiles targeting Europe.

The Japanese government of Abe Shinzo is clinging to the “nuclear umbrella”. It continues to turn its back on the TPNW, even though Japan is the only country against which nuclear weapons were used in war, and has openly declared that it will not sign it.

The attitude of the Abe Government runs counter to the world tide headed toward the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. It is shameful that it relies for its security policy on the outlawed “nuclear umbrella”.

The anti-nuclear peace movement of Japan has its roots in the experience of the atomic bombings that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Our task now is to press the Abe government to review its policy of depending on the “nuclear umbrella” arrangement and press it to sign and ratify the TPNW. The overwhelming majority of Japanese people oppose the Abe government’s policy of rushing the country into war by destroying the Constitution’s Article 9. They denounce its cover-ups and manipulations, as well as appropriation of national politics. In the House of Councilors election on July 21, the forces that want an adverse revision of the Constitution sought to secure a two-thirds majority in the Upper House. But their attempt was foiled and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party failed to win a majority in the House. This was made possible by the citizens’ movement and opposition parties joining forces. Such cooperation has increased at the national level on various issues, including the opposition to the planned construction of a new US military base in Okinawa, and the demand for ending the dependence on nuclear power generation and decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The driving force for international politics is not a handful of great powers but national governments and civil society of a majority of countries. It was civil society and national governments joining forces that led to the adoption

of the TPNW. Raising people’s awareness and developing the movement in each country is of primary importance. We should capitalize on the TPNW to promote efforts to spread the knowledge about the actual damage of the atomic bombings and to hand that knowledge on to younger people. Let us also actively participate in the international signature campaign initiated by the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Next year will mark the 75th year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is the 50th year since the adoption of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the 25th year since the NPT indefinite extension. As we approach these important milestone anniversaries, public attention is focused on the campaign that this year’s World Conference will propose to the world. It is my hope that the World Conference that starts today will accelerate the current towards the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and the bringing to fruition of the “peace process” through denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and building of a peace regime in Northeast Asia. I want to conclude this talk on behalf of the organizer by wishing that this Conference will be a historic forum to set out large-scale joint actions and concrete strategies by bringing together the strengths of the Japanese antinuclear and peace movement.

Greetings on behalf of the Hibakusha:

Hamasumi Jiro

Assistant Secretary General

**Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb
Sufferers Organizations
(Nihon Hidankyo)**

I am Hamasumi Jiro. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you on behalf of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bombs Sufferers Organizations, or Nihon Hidankyo.

We are observing the 74th summer since atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I was exposed to A-bomb radiation while I was still in my mother’s womb in Hiroshima.

I was three months in my mother’s womb when the world’s first atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, at 8:15 a.m. My father had left home near Yaga Station on the Geibi Line early that morning as usual. He took a train at Hiroshima Station to go to the office. My family lived in a house about 4 kilometers from the hypocenter. My father’s office was 500 meters

from the hypocenter.

After the bombing, my cousin on my mother's side carried a soldier to our house, which barely escaped collapse. The soldier was left with horrific burns all over his body. Four members of my aunt's family in Hiroshima City also left their home to live with our family. The house was crowded with 30 people, including my own family.

Two of my sisters, 16 and 14 at the time, left home early on that morning to go to work at a munitions factory and came home safely. My brother and sister, aged 12 and 9 respectively, were on an evacuation program for school children and were staying in the suburbs of Hiroshima City. My mother and two other sisters, aged 7 and 4, were safe at home. Only my father did not return home. The following day, my pregnant mother and sisters entered a devastated area near the hypocenter to look for my father. Enduring the heat from the burns and the smell of dead bodies, they searched for him with unbearable emotions and love for him. But they were unable to find him. When they returned to the area the next day, they learned from his colleague where he was at the time of the bombing and finally found his belongings among the ashes: the buckle of his belt, a bunch of keys, and the metal frame of his wallet.

My sisters helped to remove maggots from the soldier's burns. As there was no plaster to apply, they had no choice but to use merbromin or grated potato for the burns. The soldier died after a few days.

My sisters developed fever and had diarrhea three days after they began the search. My cousin, who had taken shelter in my house, died after developing such symptoms as hair loss. My uncle, who had gone out to work in place of my pregnant mother, died three days later. The father and a sister of my childhood friend remained missing. There were 12 households in my neighborhood. Ten people from 8 households died. In the schoolyard near our house, 5 or 6 bodies were cremated every day for about 18 months.

I was born in February 1946 while 30 people were living in the same house. My father died leaving his wife and seven children behind. I grew up looking at the portrait photo of my father hanging at the lintel in our house. He was 49 years old. When I reached the age at which he died, I wrote a letter to my brothers and sisters, asking them to write about what they did on August 6, 1945. Thanks to their writings, I was able to learn about the atomic bombing that took place while I was in my mother's womb and develop stronger love for my father whom I never met.

As I was born in exchange for my father's death, not a day has passed without me thinking

about my father. War is not over yet because there still exist 14,000 nuclear weapons in the world. Even after 74 years, the atomic bombing continues to affect the health, livelihood, and minds of the Hibakusha. Babies in their mothers' uterus cannot escape from the consequences either. Rather, it is even more true that the effect of radiation on the pre-born child cannot be overstated. In Japan, there are 7,000 Hibakusha who were exposed in utero to radiation from the atomic bomb. The suffering of the Hibakusha and their anxiety about health and concern about their children and grandchildren will continue to torment them.

The atomic bombs annihilated the two cities in an instant with heat rays, blast and radiation, and indiscriminately killed their citizens. By the end of 1945, the death toll rose to 140,000 in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki. Many of them were trapped under collapsing houses or burned alive. People with burns and skin peeling off their bodies were plodding in procession like ghosts. Many were unable to save their children or parents or find water for dying victims. For over 10 years after the bombing, the Hibakusha were left without any relief measures; they had to endure various illnesses, poverty, prejudice, and discrimination.

Encouraged by the Movement against A & H Bombs, which was launched following the 1954 Bikini hydrogen bomb test and assembled in Nagasaki on August 10, 1956, the Hibakusha founded the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, or Nihon Hidankyo. In its founding "Message to the World", the Hibakusha said, "We are resolved to save humanity from its crisis through the lessons learned from our experiences, while at the same time saving ourselves." Over the past 63 years, we have made efforts to fulfill the pledge we made at the founding of the Hibakusha movement, we have appealed to the public in Japan and internationally under the slogan, "No more Hibakusha; Stop nuclear war; Abolish nuclear weapons; and Provide state compensation for the damage from the atomic bombing," so that no one in the future should undergo what the Hibakusha experienced.

In April 2016, marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of Nihon Hidankyo, we launched the international signature campaign in support of the Hibakusha's appeal for the elimination of nuclear weapons. In 2015, the NPT Review Conference failed to reach an agreement due to rejection from the U.S., Britain, and Canada. The Hibakusha, whose average age exceeds 80, want to achieve a world without nuclear weapons in their lifetime, so that future generations will be free from the fear of experiencing another hell on earth. As if responding to this call, the Treaty on the

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted on July 7, 2017 with 122 countries voting in favor. This is a historic treaty that has its root in the First U.N. General Assembly resolution, which called for the “elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.” The treaty has been signed by 70 countries and ratified by 23. The number of countries ratifying the treaty is expected to reach 50 next year.

On May 1, at an NGO session held on the sidelines of the 3rd Preparatory Committee session of the 2020 NPT Review Conference, I became the first “in utero” Hibakusha to give a speech on behalf of the Hibakusha. I urged member states to swiftly implement the “unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon states to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament” that they agreed on in the 2000 NPT Review Conference and reconfirmed in 2010. At the end of my speech I stated, “We believe it is the mission of the Hibakusha, as well as of each and every adult all over the world, to hand down a clear blue sky free of nuclear weapons and wars to our children.” After the NGO session, together with Hidankyo Secretary General Kido Sueichi and the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we submitted a petition bearing 9,415,025 signatures to Preparatory Committee Chair Syed.

Nihon Hidankyo is planning to hold an A-bomb exhibition next year at the U.N. and send many Hibakusha and their supporters to take part in a New York action. Let us work hard to develop cooperation in civil society to collect more and more signatures in support of the Hibakusha Appeal in Japan and internationally, to bring the Nuclear Prohibition Treaty into force as soon as possible, and to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Special Report by the Government Representative:

**George-Wilhelm Gallhofer
Minister, Head of Unit for Nuclear
Weapons, IAEA, CTBTO and NPT,
Ministry for Europe, Integration and
Foreign Affairs
Republic of Austria**

It is a great pleasure and honour to be here and speak to you today in this singular place. Here, history is very much alive. Here, nuclear weapons are not theoretical. They are real. They are personal. They have touched peoples’ lives. The Hibakushas’

powerful testimony shows what “security” is really about – the security of every individual. Not of countries in abstraction.

For nearly three quarters of a century now, the Hibakusha have kept focus on the individual tragedies of nuclear explosions, galvanising people to join nuclear abolition movements around the world. During the Cold War, these movements successfully pushed nuclear weapons states to admit that they should not retain these weapons forever. Indeed, the Non-Proliferation Treaty is built on the understanding that no additional countries may acquire nuclear weapons and that those that have them must eliminate them.

As we meet here, in this place, we cannot help but be compelled to redouble our fight for nuclear disarmament. We know we are on the right side of history.

That said, we are also living in arguably the most challenging time for disarmament in decades. Hard fought-for diplomatic achievements to reduce the unacceptable risks of nuclear weapons are rapidly unravelling. The INF treaty just ended, allowing for the re-stationing of land-based intermediate-range missiles for the first time in over 30 years, endangering Europe and the world and reducing the reaction time for nuclear attacks to mere minutes. The New START treaty is in danger of lapsing without concrete progress to secure its extension and a follow-up agreement. Even more recent diplomatic break-throughs such as the JCPOA are under threat.

Until recently, nuclear disarmament was steadily progressing. There had been large stockpile reductions, in particular by the two countries with the largest arsenals. But this progress has come to a standstill; and worse, a new nuclear arms race has begun. Described as modernisations, nuclear arsenals are being upgraded and modernised to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars with the aim of keeping them in service for decades to come. New types of nuclear weapons are being developed to make them “more useable”, such as so-called small tactical nuclear weapons. Some of these so-called small or low-yield nuclear weapons are actually of a similar size to those dropped in 1945.

Clearly, some have drawn the wrong lessons from the unspeakable tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nuclear weapon possessing states and their allies still believe that their security depends on nuclear deterrence - that a professed readiness to wipe out populations, if not civilisation itself, actually prevents war. And yet, as we know, the concept of deterrence simply does not stand up to scrutiny. There have been direct military confrontations between nuclear processor states,

for example India and Pakistan.

The argument that we need nuclear weapons to keep us safe also ignores the vast technological developments of late. For example, the real danger of cyber attacks has made nuclear deterrence unreliable, even for those who believe in the concept. Hybrid threats and the weaponisation of disinformation have increased the risk of escalation and miscalculation.

In the wise words of Mikhail Gorbachev "It is becoming clearer that nuclear weapons are no longer a means of achieving security; in fact, with every passing year they make our security more precarious." And indeed in these dangerous times, the famous Doomsday Clock has now returned to a time not seen since the 1980s.

And yet, while these dangerous developments dominate the headlines, a revolution of sorts is also taking place. The majority of countries in the world have declared that they are unwilling to ignore the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Unsatisfied with the repeatedly unfulfilled promises of disarmament in an indefinite future, a resounding 122 countries – nearly 2/3 of UN member states – adopted The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017.

Many of you personally contributed to this long sought-for achievement. Let me say a few words about Austria's role in the process. Austria takes a humanitarian approach in our foreign policy and that has guided us in all areas of disarmament. For example, clarifying international humanitarian law on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas; insisting on human control in relation to lethal autonomous weapons; and reframing the nuclear disarmament discourse around humanitarian consequences.

In fact, Austria's constitution explicitly prohibits nuclear weapons, as well as nuclear energy. This was achieved after Austrian civil society mobilised against the construction of a nuclear powerplant, culminating in a consensus among all political parties against nuclear energy and nuclear weapons.

Similarly, civil society mobilisation at the international level proved invaluable to creating a unique international coalition against nuclear weapons. Austria also heeded their call, in particular the powerful testimonies of the Hibakusha and the evidence gathered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Working in close cooperation with these actors, the broader International Campaign against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and a couple of like-minded countries, we decided to together pursue a reframing of the nuclear weapons discourse around

their unacceptable humanitarian consequences.

We held three humanitarian conferences -- in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna – to gather and draw together existing and new insight into the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons, including through Hibakusha testimony. Drawing on their first-hand experience from the immediate aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing, the ICRC outlined that still today, no capacity exists to provide help in humanitarian emergencies caused by nuclear weapons explosions. The ICRC also made it clear that it would be difficult to envision a scenario where the use of nuclear weapons might be compatible with international humanitarian law, given their devastating and indiscriminate impact.

We learned that the consequences of nuclear explosions are much more grave and complex than previously understood or acknowledged. For example, even a limited exchange of nuclear weapons can lead to nuclear winter. Presenters also explained the risks inherent in nuclear weapons systems, which can be mitigated but not eliminated. For example, control and command systems are prone to errors, as shown by many historical examples. As statisticians pointed out, this means that the longer nuclear weapon systems remain in existence, the higher the likelihood of an accident.

Bolstered by this wide range of findings, Austria launched the "Humanitarian Pledge on Nuclear Weapons", in which we committed to work with others to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. A total of 127 countries endorsed the pledge, demonstrating just how pressing this concern is to the overwhelming majority of the world.

The resulting Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons prohibits the one class of weapons of mass destruction still without prohibition. Taking the humanitarian consequences and inherent risks of nuclear weapons as a starting point, it draws the line that nuclear weapons are simply too dangerous and consequently should be prohibited, just like other weapons of mass destruction. It is, as Hiroshima's own Setsuko Thurlow put it, "the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons."

Of course, we are without illusion that the Treaty will immediately reduce risks or nuclear weapon stocks. It is an important and necessary step, and we will need further instruments to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. But the Treaty clearly delegitimizes nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence, and aims to make it harder for states to rely on nuclear weapons in defence doctrines and strategies.

It is also a signifier that having a say on nuclear weapons is not exclusive to states who

possess them. The security of every person is equally important and each of our countries has the right to participate in the nuclear disarmament discourse. The Treaty has galvanised and energised a majority of states to make their voices heard and not accept empty promises of disarmament in a distant utopic future.

So where does the Treaty stand today?

The Treaty needs 50 ratifications to enter into force. I'm happy to say that it is well on its way! 70 countries have already signed, and 23 – including Austria – have already ratified.

This may appear to some to be a slow process, but relative to the speed of multilateral treaties and ratification processes, to be at nearly half the required ratifications after only two years is actually extremely fast. We look forward to further countries signing and ratifying at the high-level ceremony at the United Nations General Assembly next month.

We should not forget that some of the most powerful countries in the world are working against this Treaty. In the face of this, every additional signature and ratification is a clear assertion that the security of their citizens is equally important to that of countries possessing nuclear weapons. Already 70 countries have proved their unwillingness to compromise on their moral and legal understanding of the threat of nuclear weapons. They have decided that their safety is not improved by nuclear weapons but worsened. Indeed, the new arms race, the ongoing erosion of international agreements, and the

reduction of channels to solve bilateral conflicts has elevated the risks from nuclear weapons to higher levels than ever before. This must be a call to action.

And this is where we need you, civil society, movements, Hibakusha. The Hibakushas' untiring resolve and commitment has shown the horrors of nuclear weapons' indiscriminate destruction. But in much of the world awareness has faded since the end of the Cold War. We need to ensure that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences are understood the world over. The information is already at hand, it just needs to be disseminated further.

And while these are challenging times, they are also inspiring times. With social media and rapid information dissemination, worthy causes get taken up faster and wider. We see how powerful grassroots movements can be, for example the current climate change activism. Citizens – and especially youth – are increasingly unwilling to back down in the face of existential threats. We need to ensure that they take up this cause.

So let us engage them and educate them about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences, and inherent risks, of nuclear weapons. The scientific arguments are there and the personal testimonies of the Hibakusha provide profound insight into the individual tragedies. Let us get the TPNW into force and continue to work towards eliminating these weapons to extinguish the Hiroshima Memorial Flame once and for all.



Messages from the Heads/Leaders of National Governments and International Organizations

Alexander Van der Bellen
Federal President
Republic of Austria

More than 70 years after the tragedy of the nuclear detonations over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed thousands of people and so gravely affected the lives of the survivors and their families, the deadly threat posed by nuclear weapons still looms large over humanity. In an international environment characterised by serious tensions in many regions, the States possessing these weapons seem to rely on them ever more, rather than less, judging by the large scale investments into nuclear weapon modernisation taking place, and by the renewed emphasis on nuclear weapons in the framework of national security strategies. If not halted, this dangerous trend may well lead to a new nuclear arms race. In a metaphorical expression of how close the world currently finds itself to nuclear apocalypse, the Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has been set at two and a half minutes to midnight this year.

Among the many worrying recent developments, the build-up of the military nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stands out as particularly alarming. Austria has condemned the DPRK's provocative and irresponsible actions on numerous occasions. I call on the DPRK to respect in full all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, to return at an early date to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

While there is thus cause for serious concern about the state of affairs in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, some recent developments do inspire hope. This year, a majority of the world's States came together under the auspices of the United Nations to negotiate a legal instrument for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. On July 7 in New York, 122 States voted in favour of the adoption of the new treaty.

It prohibits nuclear weapons in a similar fashion as this is already the case for the other categories of weapons of mass destruction in the Biological and the Chemical Weapons Conventions.

As with these Conventions, we believe that the establishment of a legal prohibition of nuclear weapons is a necessary first step for their subsequent elimination.

Bounnhang Vorachith
President
Lao People's Democratic Republic

On behalf of the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, I would like to convey my warm congratulations to the Organizing Committee and entire delegation joining the 2019 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, which will be held on 03 - 09 August 2019 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki Prefecture of Japan.

Over 70 years of recalling the Atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki has clearly raised more awareness to the world community on nuclear utilization, which seriously causes humanitarian impact and asset loss. I highly value the idea of holding this World Conference, which becomes a mechanism for gathering the peace-loving people and also plays a very significant role in cooperating and promoting awareness to the world of a tragic history. It also gives valuable lessons learned from the past in order to step forward to a better future without any threat from weapons of mass destruction, which still affect on humankind nowadays.

Once again, I believe that the unwavering effects of the people of Japan and the peace-loving world community as well as the solidarity will help to continuously suppress the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs in order to build the world of peace and stability free from weapons of mass destruction in the future.

Lastly, on behalf of the Government and people of the Lao PDR, I wish the 2019 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs great success.

(Unofficial translation)

Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
President
Republic of South Africa

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, it is my honour to convey the message of solidarity on the commemoration of the unimaginable events of August 1945 when atomic bombs were first experimented in a conflict situation in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing more than 200,000 people.

It is with great sadness that this year, the tragic events of 1945 are remembered with the untimely passing of one of the world's non-proliferation and disarmament champions and an illustrious son of Japan, the late Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), His Excellency Yukiya Amano, who passed away on 22 July 2019. Throughout his tenure at the helm of the IAEA, Mr Amano displayed the highest level of professionalism and dedication. He has overseen the agency diligently executing its duties in relation to pressing matters, such as the Iran Nuclear Deal and the Fukushima disaster. He also contributed to various Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conferences, including by chairing the 2007 Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

It is in this regard that South Africa stands in solidarity with the international community to ensure that the world does not experience the repeat of the terrible loss that took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use continues to pose a serious threat to humanity.

The catastrophic humanitarian consequences and effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design with the devastating impact on all humanity and its environment remains an alarming cause for concern.

In the same vein we are concerned about the lack of progress in nuclear disarmament as we approach the 50th Anniversary of the Entry-Into-Force of the NPT in 2020.

We have said many times that the NPT represents a historic bargain between the Nuclear-Weapon States and the Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, in terms of which the former has undertaken to eliminate their nuclear weapons based on the reciprocal undertaking by the latter not to pursue the nuclear weapons option. Maintaining this bargain is therefore central to the integrity of the Treaty in order to remain the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation

regime.

It is our conviction that the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. As long as these weapons exist, and vertical and horizontal proliferation persists, the world will continue to face the threat of annihilation. In this connection, South Africa's ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2019 reflects its continued commitment towards the achievement of a world free from the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons and ensuring that nuclear energy is used for peaceful purpose only. The Treaty fills a key remaining legal gap in international law regarding weapons of mass destruction by establishing a clear prohibition of nuclear weapons and would complement and strengthen the NPT norms.

Pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), we urge all nuclear-weapon States to observe their moratoria on nuclear testing and not to undertake any actions that would undermine the CTBT. We believe that the CTBT's entry into force would enhance the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and strengthen the role of multilateralism in arms control and international security.

We also support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in parts of the world where they do not yet exist, including in the Middle East. We believe that such zones enhance global and regional peace and security, strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contribute towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament. It is for this reason that this year, we jubilantly mark the 10th Anniversary of the Pelindaba Treaty, the Treaty establishing the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

We remain hopeful that the on-going engagements on the Korean Peninsula, at the highest levels which begun in April 2018 between the ROK and DPRK, as well as with other key stakeholders, will produce the desired results soon. The historic signing of the "Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula", committed to rid the peninsula of nuclear weapons and agreed to work for the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula".

South Africa reiterates its support for the full implementation of the NPT and its universality in pursuit of our common goal of achieving a world entirely free from nuclear weapons. The strength, credibility and vitality of the NPT rests on the fundamental bargain across its three pillars of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation

and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which must be recognized and upheld. We trust that the 2020 NPT Review Conference next year will produce practical steps on the realization of past undertakings towards disarmament made during previous review conferences.

I wish the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs every success.

Jorge Arreaza
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Admired and brave Japanese people:

The world commemorates the seventy-fourth anniversary of the launch of atomic bombs over the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The destruction and terror of that time remain alive in the collective memory, as testimonies of barbarism and outrage committed in the name of peace and freedom.

The use of nuclear weapons constitutes the most serious threat to humanity. Therefore, it is regrettable and deplorable that nuclear deterrence continues being the basis of the military defense and security doctrines of some States.

Given this, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, headed by President Nicolas Maduro, renews its call on these countries to eliminate all nuclear weapons and mass destruction, in order to create the basis for a world free from nuclear terror.

The Bolivarian Government of Venezuela, demonstrating its unwavering will to advance towards the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in addition to strengthening the non-proliferation regime and the promotion of disarmament, firmly believes that the only effective means of definitely reaching a world free of nuclear weapons is that all States, without exceptions, adhere to and apply the current treaties on this matter. In this regard, the important achievement of the approval of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was supported by Venezuela in the General Assembly of the United Nations and ratified by the Republic on March 20th, 2018, stands out. The collective enthusiasm that this Treaty has aroused should inspire all governments to strengthen their call and struggle to move towards that ultimate goal. The Bolivarian Government of Venezuela joins to that effort with hope and determination.

The voice of rejection and condemnation of the use of nuclear weapons and the threat of their employment, develop a spirit of fraternity between Venezuela and Japan, in particular with Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On behalf of the Venezuelan People

and their Government, we join this commemoration, with the absolute conviction that justice and peace are the fundamental bases for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

(Unofficial translation)

Nguyễn Phú Trọng
President of the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam/ General Secretary of the
Communist Party of Vietnam

On the occasion of the 2019 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, on behalf of the State, peace movement and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I avail myself of this opportunity to extend our solidarity and warmest regards to peace activists, international and Japanese participants in the Conference.

74 years have passed since two atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, yet the severe consequences nuclear weapons caused to the environment and human beings could not be left behind until today. The Vietnamese people deeply understand the catastrophic consequences of weapons of mass destruction, as we ourselves are still suffering from lingering consequences of the war, particularly Agent Orange, on human beings and the environment though the war ended already 44 years ago.

We are glad that tireless efforts of peace activists in the Conference and peace-loving people around the world have greatly contributed to the adoption of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968 and the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2017. Although there is still much work to do, I believe that we will continue to work together, to make the TPNW effect, contributing to settling the nuclear issues in “hot spots” all over world and achieving a peaceful, nuclear-free world.

I am confident that this year’s Conference will offer an opportunity to reaffirm the solidarity and support from peace movements and organizations for all Hibakushas, victims of Agent Orange and other war victims, for a future free of nuclear weapons, for a world of peace, justice, security, stability and prosperity.

Vietnam will continue joining hands with peace-lovers across the world and do our utmost for peace and justice.

On this occasion, I express my deep gratitude to peace movement in the world and Japan, including the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (GENSUIKYO) for the warm feelings and effective support for Vietnam during our struggle for national independence and

reunification in the past and construction today.

May I wish you all the best and the Conference a great success!

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) (Presented by Seiko Ishikawa, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the 120 Member States comprising the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) during this year's World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

2. At the outset, allow us to thank the distinguished Organizing Committee for its kind invitation to participate in this important World Conference, under the theme "For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World", and which is convened at a time when we mark the 74th Anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

3. We would also like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the People of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki for their kind generosity and hospitality.

4. Since its establishment, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has remained at the forefront of nuclear disarmament, and has termed nuclear disarmament as its highest priority, while striving towards achieving the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, considering, among others, the threat posed to humanity by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

5. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement seize this opportunity to reiterate, with concern, that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS, including the United States Nuclear Posture Review, violate their legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, as well as the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravene the negative security assurances provided by the NWS. We stress once again that these improvements as well as the development of new types of such weapons violate also the commitments undertaken at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and at the NPT Review Conferences by the NWS.

6. In this regard, it is worth noting that during the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held from 18-21 July 2019, in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of

Venezuela, the Ministers welcomed the multilateral efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Moreover, they took note of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 at the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. We hope that, when entered into force, the Treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

7. The Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) also seize this opportunity to reiterate their continued concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security, while calling for renewed efforts to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation in all its aspects.

8. In this regard, we stress the importance of the adoption of General Assembly Decision 73/546 on Convening a Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction and call upon all States of the region, without exception, to actively participate in this Conference and negotiate in good faith, with a view to bring to a conclusion a legally-binding Treaty on the establishment of said Zone. We also stress that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT, as well as other relevant decisions on the subject, adopted within the context of the Review Conferences, remain valid until the objective of the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is achieved and that the implementation of decision 73/546 is without prejudice to the validity of the aforesaid resolution and other decisions, and shall therefore not be construed as their replacement.

9. Moreover, while reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, we reiterate our determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and nonproliferation. We must underline that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.

10. In this connection, the Movement emphasizes that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. Therefore, we reaffirm that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute

guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

11. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) invites the international community to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities, as outlined in resolution 68/32 of the General Assembly of the United Nations; while also inviting it to participate on 26 September 2019 in the UN High-Level Plenary Meeting to observe said day.

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

The world conference against atomic and hydrogen bombs has always been a special occasion to reaffirm universal commitment to realize a world with no nuclear weapons. On behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all the people past and present who have courageously advocated for nuclear disarmament, here in Japan and elsewhere. I would also like to commend the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) for its unfailing assistance for the victims and its vital role in the international campaign for a world free of nuclear weapons.

No one can neglect the voice of people, invaluable testimonies of brave hibakusha, and earnest appeals of determined activists. Much more, not even the most powerful states can ignore the fact that about two years ago, in as many as 122 states, a large majority of the UN member states defined their attitude on mass destruction weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which contains a comprehensive and historic ban. Nuclear weapons are absolutely unacceptable from moral, humanitarian, and now legal and normative perspective.

The treaty is a beacon of hope that humanity will one day be freed of the dark shadow of nuclear warfare, and the massive suffering which we all know would result from such an event.

We have the hibakusha to thank for this hope and their long-standing efforts to raise awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons. As two small atomic bombs forever changed the fate of tens of thousands of people, nuclear weapons are unique in their destructive capacity. If these inhumane weapons were ever to be used again, they would cause massive and horrific suffering and death without distinction and

have enormous environmental and societal costs. They would have long-term consequences on the health of survivors and their children, as the hibakusha can attest. The use of nuclear weapons is unforgivable in any circumstances.

And in these times of instability and uncertainty, the risk of their use – accidentally or intentionally – has reached levels not seen since the Cold War. And we know too well that the human being is helpless against the devastating aftermath of nuclear weapons. Still today, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement does not have adequate ability to respond to the catastrophic and long-term consequences of such weapons.

Hence, the ICRC and the Red Cross Movement remain committed to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. The ICRC will keep urging states to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition on Nuclear Weapons, which is a concrete step towards achieving the long-standing promise of nuclear disarmament contained Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Because not only a world without nuclear weapons is a better place for all, but also it is the only way to protect future generations.

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

Ged Kearney
MP, Australian Labor Party, Former President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions
Australia

I wish to congratulate the attendees of the 2019 World Conference on their work in promoting nuclear prohibition globally. I stand in solidarity with the conference and look forward to seeing the results of your discussions for a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world. We must continue the fight against nuclear weapons and continue to promote peace.



Plenary Session I:

Damage and Suffering from A-Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Inhumanity of Nuclear Weapons; Struggle of the Hibakusha (August 3)

Introductory Reports:

Saito Osamu, M.D.

**Watari Hospital (Fukushima)/
Representative Director, Japan Council
against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyo)**

What the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty is Facing

The breakup of the humanitarian code of conduct, which has been formed in the course of the development of modern civilization, began with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This is what the nuclear age is about. It is also important to note that the ensuing 74 years have seen the Hibakusha and international opinion rising to firmly prevent such a breakup from happening again, even amid continuing nuclear proliferation. In my report, I want to look back on what happened during the period between the atomic bombings and July 2017 to help understand the present-day situation following the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

A 10,000-page report entitled “Medical Effects of Atomic Bombs (1951)” compiled by a team led by US colonel and surgeon Ashley W. Oughterson provides a detailed and accurate record of the state of the two cities and human bodies that were destroyed by the atomic bombings. It eloquently testifies that the atomic bomb has such enormous destructive power that it cannot be explained by any previous concept of weapons.

Many years after the bombings, the Hibakusha at last decided to break their silence. Hibakusha’s stories had the irresistible power to attract people. They especially touched the sensitivity of young people and made them realize that humans have within themselves something essential that should never be broken.

In 1977, at an NGO international symposium on the damage and after-effects of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima, Sir Philip Noel-Baker, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, challenged the public to choose between “life or oblivion”. He meant that humanity cannot survive unless it continues to

remember the atomic bombings and gives up nuclear weapons. He was critiquing the tense structural antagonism between the atomic bomb and humanity. For the survivors, this meant that they have the important role of continuing to live, the role of passing on their memories to future generations. At the 2nd UN special session on disarmament (SSDII) in 1982, Yamaguchi Senji, a survivor of Nagasaki, took the podium and held up a photo of the injuries he sustained to his face as well as his keloids. He showed the world that he could have been on the brink of death but was alive and well on his feet.

The Hibakusha submitted a petition with three million signatures to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) asking it to decide on the illegality of nuclear weapons. The World Court in 1996 handed down its conclusion that “the use and the threat to use nuclear weapons are generally contrary to the international law”. But it abstained from deciding whether the use was also illegal in the event that the very existence of a state was at risk. This was a wall that stood before the nuclear abolition movement in the 20th century.

In 2000, at the NPT Review Conference, the nuclear weapon states agreed that there should be “an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon states to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals” (May 15, 2000). This agreement may have been meant to allow the nuclear weapon states to retain their monopoly over nuclear weapons, but it nevertheless reflected the fundamental fate of nuclear weapons that they can only exist to be eliminated.

At the NPT Review Conference in 2010, questions were raised about the concept of “national security with nuclear weapons.” The possession of nuclear weapons supposedly to ensure national security can be the major factor for inducing nuclear terror and nuclear proliferation. “National security with nuclear weapons” is an idea that leads to imposing another Hiroshima or Nagasaki on the population of any country. This is an idea that no one can accept. The same is true of the nuclear trigger pulled by accident. This is why we have decided to stand for universal human security, which requires the elimination of nuclear

weapons as the only option.

Since 2010, we have placed the task of making clear and denouncing the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons at the center of our work. The reason for this is that if we are unable to hold dear to our heart what we want to protect, no one can protect it. Equally, if we do not know about the destruction that the use of nuclear weapons can cause, no one will seek to ban such weapons.

The International Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, supported by the wisdom of people from many different sectors and at different levels, was held three times -- in Norway in March 2013, in Mexico in February 2014, and in Austria in December 2014.

The Hibakusha who were exposed to high levels of radiation still have chromosome aberrations and show increased morbidity of leukemia and almost any kind of malignant tumor. In addition, it has become known that there are increasing numbers of cases of stroke, heart diseases, anomalies in the immune system, chronic kidney disease, and other non-cancer diseases (Kodama K, 2011 HICARE International symposium, concluding seminar, Sera N. et al. 2013 Radiat Res vol 179). The fact that damage from exposure to A-bomb radiation persists all through life has been shown repeatedly.

In April 2016, the Hibakusha initiated in Japan and internationally a petition campaign “Hibakusha Appeal” International Signature Campaign for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. It can be described as the final chance for the Hibakusha to make such a statement. An overwhelming number of UN member countries worked hard with Hibakusha and civil society representatives to draft the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) together. The treaty was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on July 7, 2017.

The adoption of the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty was made possible by world opinion retaining the reasoned willingness to keep the memory of the atomic bombing alive and to remain committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons. We must keep this in mind.

Next, I would like to touch upon some recent developments facing the TPNW. First, the US “Nuclear Posture Review” issued by President Trump on February 2, 2018. The review includes miniaturizing nuclear weapons to make them as usable as conventional weapons, including pre-emptive use. This aims at dodging criticism made against nuclear weapons’ capability for mass destruction. As low-yield explosion devices, small nuclear bombs are designed to be used for pinpoint strikes on an enemy’s nuclear base or nuclear facilities. But however miniaturized, they are

nuclear weapons, and if used as easily as conventional weapons, the damage they bring about would be beyond our imagination.

Secondly, Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom’s remarks on July 12, 2019. Her country voted in favor of the TPNW but refused to sign it.

AFP reported that she will not sign the Treaty due to her concerns regarding how it can be related to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). This represents a subtle reflection of the difficulties in international politics, testifying to the geopolitical issue that is currently weighing Sweden down (its relations with Russia and the NATO issue). To put it plainly, even taking this problem into account, this kind of “resistance” to the TPNW is a question that has already been resolved. As everyone knows, the NPT (which came into force in 1970) recognizes the existence of nuclear weapon states while the TPNW denies the possession of nuclear weapons. So these are two different treaties. However, both treaties, including the NPT, which obligation of the Parties to the Treaty to pursue in good faith nuclear disarmament negotiations (Article 6), are solidly set on the same trajectory, not in parallel, in the course of history and that trajectory is leading towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The TPNW should be located on the future end of a line extending from the NPT, which requires nuclear weapon states to strive for the elimination of nuclear weapons. It is not located before the NPT.

Thirdly, is the problem of the Japanese government’s attitude of turning its back on the TPNW. It is expected that the Japanese government will act as a cunning resister to get in the way of the campaign to promote the ratification of the TPNW. But the way it behaves could be its biggest political Achilles tendon. Hibakusha have no reason to be intimidated or feel uncomfortable in asking the government to sign the TPNW. The prayers for peace they make on August 6 and 9 every year can be seen as the prayer for the TPNW coming into force.

We must admit that there will be many twists and turns on the way toward the entry into force of the TPNW. However, regardless of the distance the Treaty should cover before taking effect, it is most alarming that we today see the naked threat of use of nuclear weapons emerging. Is there any wall that is strong enough to prevent the use of nuclear weapons other than the TPNW, which came into existence with the support of 122 countries and ratification by 23 countries, or the campaign around the world calling for the effectuation of the Treaty, or the collective memory of the atomic bombing that Sir Noel-Baker emphasized? The answer is no.

The TPNW has already begun to make its way. As we prepare for the events in 2020, we must be confident about the TPNW is coming into effect soon.

Takato Seiji **Hiroshima Federation of A-Bomb** **Survivors/ Association for “Black Rain”** **Lawsuit**

Statement from a victim of “Black Rain” radiation

A great number of people were killed or injured by heat effects, the blast, or radiation exposure resulting from the atomic bombing by US forces on August 6, 1945. As the temperature of the heat rays was 3,000 or 4,000 degrees Celsius, many people were burned to death. The blast bashed people against the ground or crushed houses with people in them. Even those who managed to get out of the collapsed houses were unable to escape the fires that broke out and they too were burned to death. Those who were exposed to radiation showed signs of acute symptoms such as vomiting, hair loss, and diarrhea. Health damage from residual radiation persisted widely.

In 1945, I lived in Hiroshima City with my parents, at about 700 meters from Ground Zero. My father was an elementary school teacher. My mother ran a fancy-goods shop. Amid an escalating war, our house was demolished to make a fire-lane for prevention purposes and my family moved to Kannon Village (now Hiroshima City’s Saeki Ward) about 8km west of Hiroshima City. That was four months before the city was devastated by the atomic bombing.

I can’t imagine what would have happened to my family if we had not evacuated our home.

I was four years and six months old. It was a sunny day. I was in the living room reading a picture book while my mother was hanging out the laundry. There suddenly came a flash and, with a loud horrendous noise, broken sliding doors and windows flew toward me. I got out of the room crying.

My mother pointed at the sky over Hiroshima. I saw burning skies shining red over the city. All of a sudden it became dark all around. Pieces of burnt cloth and pieces of wood began falling, followed by ash and large drops of rain. Torrential rain continued to fall for about half an hour. Vegetables growing in the field turned black, so did the river. Fish like minnows and eels were floating upside down with their white bellies exposed.

Many injured people came into the village.

School buildings and private houses served as temporary first-aid stations.

However, medical care equipment was terribly lacking at these facilities and many injured people died there without receiving adequate care. This happened almost everywhere in Hiroshima. Today, a memorial stands there to remind us of the sad past.

The elementary school where my father taught became a temporary first-aid station. He was exposed to radiation while engaging in relief activities there.

My mother also continued to look after injured people who came to take shelter at one of the “first-aid stations” near our home.

Later, health damage spread to those who were showered with rain containing radioactive particles. At that time, they knew nothing about the cause of their illnesses and were worried for a long time.

I had boils on my hands and legs, and swollen lymph glands in my armpit and groin. I underwent surgery three times. I was frequently absent from school.

As part of our campaign demanding that designation of radiation contaminated areas be applied to wider zones, we published four volumes of the “Collection of Personal Notes.” We had collected testimonies and diaries from more than 100 Hibakusha. They complained about health problems since right after the bombing, including “repeated diarrhea, vomiting, and attacks of fever,” “frequent anemia causing falls,” “suppurating wounds that were difficult to heal,” and “diarrhea and bloody stool.” Many of them when they became adults felt themselves losing strength and had difficulty working.

I was later diagnosed with cardiac hypertrophy and hypertensive heart disease. When I had numbness in my hands and mouth, the doctor told me that I had a cerebral infarction. I was hospitalized, but recovered my health after two weeks of treatment.

The Act for Atomic Bomb Sufferers’ Medical Care was enacted in 1957. For 12 years after the atomic bombing, Hibakusha had been left without adequate medical care. The legislation was made possible by the development of the Movement against A and H Bombs and the Hibakusha movement demanding adequate relief measures for them. The Hibakusha Relief Measures Act of 1968 expanded designated areas of exposure to atomic bomb radiation by amending the government ordinance on the enforcement of the Medical Care Law to designate areas of high residual radiation as “special areas exposed to atomic bomb radiation.”

However, it was found that people’s health

had been affected by the black rain even in areas that were outside the designated zones. This prompted residents of those areas and local newspapers to point out how inadequate the designation was. The Prefecture and City of Hiroshima began collecting related documents for further investigation.

In 1967, a law was enacted to issue the A-Bomb Health Handbook to those who were in areas of heavy black rain, acknowledging that they were in situations where it was likely for them to be affected by radiation. But those who were outside of the areas of heavy rain did not receive the Handbook.

Those people who were excluded even though they had sustained similar health damage from the “black rain” were not happy with this. They got together and formed an organization to demand that more areas be designated “areas of the black rain”. For 40 long years, they have carried on the movement with the help of some experts.

The “rainfall map” used for the designation was based on an investigation carried out immediately after the war. As stated by some involved in the investigation, “the map proved to be inadequate for the purpose.”

A total of 170 locations were investigated for the designation, but they were geographically unevenly distributed. In addition, some areas were excluded from the designation merely because an interviewee said black rain did not fall there. Other areas were not even included in “light rainfall area” despite the fact that there were interviewees who testified that it had rained heavily. The number of investigated locations was very limited compared to the breadth of the areas in question. There were areas that were designated as heavy rainfall areas without any investigation. It came to light that officials arbitrarily drew the line between heavy and light rainfall areas without adequate investigation on the ground.

Pressed by our movement, and with the realities of radiation damage revealed more and more through the victories of hibakusha class actions for A-bomb disease recognition, the Prefecture and City of Hiroshima in 2010 conducted an opinion poll on how Hibakusha felt about their experiences and health problems linked to the atomic bombing. Thirty thousand people were asked to fill out the questionnaire, and 1,000 people were interviewed. The survey found that the black rainfall areas were six times larger than what the central government had designated. Based on this survey, the Prefecture and City of Hiroshima requested that the central government designate expanded areas of exposure to atomic bomb radiation.

In 2011, the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry organized a panel to study the black rain. The ministry examined the findings of Hiroshima’s survey and rejected the request by denying all the details revealed by the Prefecture and City of Hiroshima about the damage and after-effects of the atomic bombing.

The ministry argued that no radioactive fallout had been detected outside of “heavy rainfall areas.”

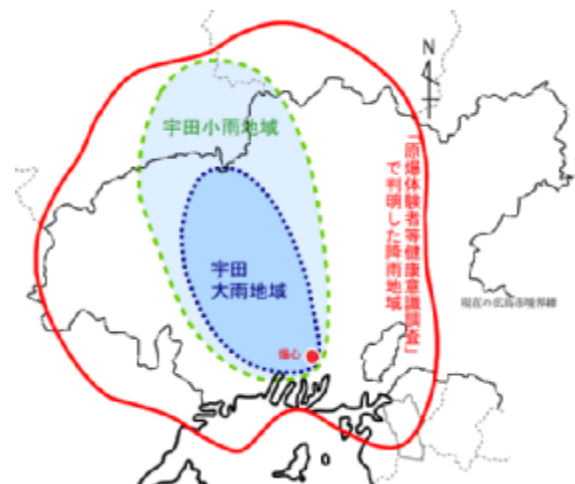
It said that no exposure to radiation, either internal or external, was confirmed, that people became ill as a result of thinking too much about being exposed to radiation, and that the testimonies were given more than 60 years after the atomic bombing under the influence of memory inaccuracies.

The government even refused to visit the areas in question or interview people affected by the atomic bomb radiation before reaching the conclusion.

We filed a collective lawsuit with the Hiroshima High Court in 2015 demanding that the government revoke its decision to reject Hibakusha’s request for the A-Bomb Sufferers’ Health Handbook and issue the handbook to the 80 plaintiffs.

There have been 16 sessions of oral arguments. But the government failed to show any evidence to draw a line between areas of heavy rainfall and those of little rainfall. This revealed the absurdity of the designation of “heavy rainfall areas” without any plausible ground.

According to meteorological commonsense, it is hardly believable that rain falls in an oval-shaped



area. It is unthinkable that only the rain in heavy rainfall areas is radioactively contaminated. Arguing that only one side of the river is radioactively contaminated while the other side is not is unconvincing.

The court trial has entered a crucial stage.

Nine of the plaintiffs have died since the lawsuit was filed.

The damage from the “black rain” has shown the fact that the damage and aftereffects of the atomic bombing are very serious, extensive and protracted.

Any use of nuclear weapons, intentional or accidental, wreaks tremendous damage.

Hibakusha have called for nuclear weapons to be abolished. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) gives us hope and strength to carry on.

In concluding, I express my determination to continue the efforts until the TPNW goes into force, stigmatizing nuclear weapons and paving the way for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Lee Koo Young
Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association
R.O.K.

First, allow me to read a message from Lee Gyu-yol, president of the Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association.

Memorial Address

Allow me to express my deepest thanks to all participants for braving the summer heat to participate in this International Meeting.

Seventy-four years have passed since an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

We have gathered here with solemnness to pay respects for Korean A-bomb victims.

In retrospect, Korean young people were forced or deceived into going across the sea to Japan. When the atomic bomb was dropped, they lost their families and assets. Many of them were forced to die miserably in the explosion, the blast, the gusty wind, and black smokes.

Almost all those victims were civilians.

We were in despair at the miserable scenes left behind by the atomic bombing. After 74 years, the survivors are still to heal their wounds amid apathy that persists throughout the world.

We have decided to promote the building of a “World Peace Park” serving as a place for people to remember the crime against humanity and the atrocity of the atomic bombing so that never again will human dignity be trampled down.

We will contribute to the development of the peace movement by letting a wide range of people know that banning the use of nuclear weapons or their proliferation and abolishing such weapons will begin with Korean A-bomb survivors who are aspiring to world peace.

I cordially bow in prayer for the A-bomb

victims.

Please rest in peace.

I would like to offer my gratitude to all those who have been involved in the preparation for the World Conference despite the various difficult conditions.

May peace be with you. Thank you very much.

August 3, 2019

Lee Gyu-yol, President

Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association

I’m now going to tell you a story about the atomic bomb experience of Mr. Heo Jong-sup, who was supposed to take part in this conference,.

I was born on March 20, 1933 in Hirose-cho, Hiroshima City. I was six years old when I entered Hirose Elementary School.

My family moved to Kamitenmacho when I was a second grader. I continued attending Hirose Elementary School until I graduated in March 1945. My family could not afford to continue to send me to a higher school, so I stayed home.

In retrospect I was in appallingly difficult conditions. Those boys who had just finished elementary school had to obey the wartime mobilization order to work for labor services.

I was 12 years old. I worked for a while at a factory to make shoes for the military. On August 6, 1945, the day when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, I was at home because I felt tired of doing work at the factory. If I had gone to the factory on that day, I would not have survived.

I had never heard even the name “atomic bomb”. The moment the flash divided people into life and death, the city of Hiroshima was reduced to ashes. I barely escaped death.

As I fled the devastated area, I saw a hell on earth, in which people were desperately crying for help. Even today I cannot forget the miserable scene.

I saw people with heavy burns on the riverbank crying for help or for water. Their voices still linger in my ears.

It would be difficult to find any realistic words to describe the horrible scene. It was too horrible a scene to forget.

Shortly after the atomic bombing, there was a person who was feeling happy to have managed to evacuate unharmed to a safe area. But I heard that the person died soon after. The fate of people was uncertain even if they were fortunate enough to survive the moment of explosion.

I later found out the cause of death of that person. It was the effect of A-bomb radiation. After I learned about the horrible consequences of

exposure to radiation, I began to experience in my own life the anguish of being unable to tell others.

I was told that there are numerous types of adverse aftereffects on humans. I began to constantly feel uneasy.

Hiroshima is where I grew up. It is also a place where I nearly died due to the atomic bombing. I am happy to be invited to take part in the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs.

No nuclear weapons must be dropped on any place in the world. No nuclear weapons must be produced by any country. I am sure that nuclear weapons can be eliminated if people around the world join hands to create a nuclear weapon-free world of peaceful coexistence.

Finally, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to speak before you and ask you a favor.

Although I am all right, it is known that there are some cases in which the morbidity rate is 100 times higher among second or third generation Hibakusha. They are said to suffer cerebral palsy and impaired eyesight.

But the Japanese government insists that everything was settled with the conclusion in 1965 of the Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea. We hope that you will help us in urging the Japanese government to conduct a survey on second- and third-generation Hibakusha so that they can receive medical treatment and compensation.

Oleg Bodrov
Public Council of the South Coast of the
Gulf of Finland/ Film Director
Russia

Victims of Military and Civil Nuclear
Technologies

74 years have passed since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands of victims... It marked the start of an international sprint race of political leaders from different countries to obtain this tool of political blackmail.

The United States, Russia, Britain, France and China spent approximately \$10 trillion dollars to develop national nuclear programs. This is comparable to the annual budget of the rest of the world for several decades.

Politicians claimed that creating and testing nuclear weapons is necessary to protect the citizens of the country. But it was precisely those citizens whom the politicians were going to defend in their own country who actually became victims of the development and testing of nuclear weapons!

Moreover, the number of these victims in the country became comparable to the number of victims of nuclear bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This was also the case in Russia. Plutonium for the first bomb was produced in Russia in the mid-1940s in the production center Mayak in the secret nuclear town named Chelyabinsk-40 in the Urals region.

These works were carried out in conditions of utmost secrecy, with neglect of health and human lives. Liquid radioactive waste was discharged into the Techa River. But this was kept secret from the locals who lived on the banks of the river.

These citizens of Russia, their pets, drank radioactive water from the river, swam and fished in it. They did it the way their ancestors did living for many centuries on the banks of this river. They were not aware of the deadly danger. These were the first victims of the Soviet plutonium bomb, similar to the one that was blown up in Nagasaki!

Dozens of accidents took place at the secret plant followed by emissions into the atmosphere and discharges of radioactive substances into the river. Information about the accidents was also a state secret.

The largest accident happened on September 29, 1957 when the tanks for storage of liquid high-level waste exploded at the plutonium production plant Mayak. 20 million Curies of radioactivity were thrown into the atmosphere. As a result, more than 20 thousand square kilometers were contaminated. Soldiers and even schoolchildren participated in the cleanup of pollution after the accident. Safety standards were not observed. Many of them received lethal doses of radiation.

After the accident some 250 settlements were relocated. The total number of officially registered affected civilians is more than 500,000 people, not including the military-liquidators of the catastrophe.

The plutonium bomb, which was just created to protect Russian citizens, killed thousands of Russian citizens in the Ural region of Russia.

After the invention of the bomb, there were numerous tests of nuclear weapons. One of them - involving 45,000 soldiers and 10,000 local residents - took place on September 14, 1954. A plane dropped a 40-kiloton nuclear bomb on the Russian territory. Many people became victims of these tests. Moreover, health problems continued into the next generation of victims of these tests.

For the production and improvement of nuclear weapons a special infrastructure was created in Russia including 10 secret nuclear cities. Later, in order to justify the enormous costs of military nuclear programs, another 10 "civilian nuclear cities" with nuclear power plants were built.

Thus, about 1.5 million people live in 20 nuclear mono-industry cities, which makes 1 % of the population of Russia. These people seek to maintain their status and the privileges of the national elite.

After the end of the Cold War, they turned into the nuclear infrastructure lobby for the export of nuclear technologies. It looks like a good alternative to military confrontation, as a positive process of technological cooperation.

But it is not!

Russian VVER-1200 reactor NPPs that are being built or planned to be built in Finland and other European, Asian, African countries plan to use a fresh nuclear fuel obtained from uranium after reprocessing spent nuclear fuel from Russian nuclear submarines and nuclear power plants (NPPs).

Thus, consumers of electricity from these Russian design nuclear power plants outside of Russia will invest... in the Russian military programs. And these people have no information about these hidden investments

In addition, the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel produces liquid radioactive waste. This liquid radioactive waste (up to 2,000,000 m³/year) is discharged into natural aquatic ecosystems and migrates with rivers to the Arctic Ocean and then to northern Europe. So, the next generations of the inhabitants of the North of Europe will receive radionuclides in the form of fish and seafood on their tables. These are potential new victims in countries that do not have nuclear weapons.

Dear participants of the conference, dear colleagues. There can be no separation of nuclear technology into "dangerous military" and "secure peaceful" spheres.

I was part of the research mission that visited the radioactive contamination zone just after the Chernobyl accident. This is a tragedy comparable to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukushima.

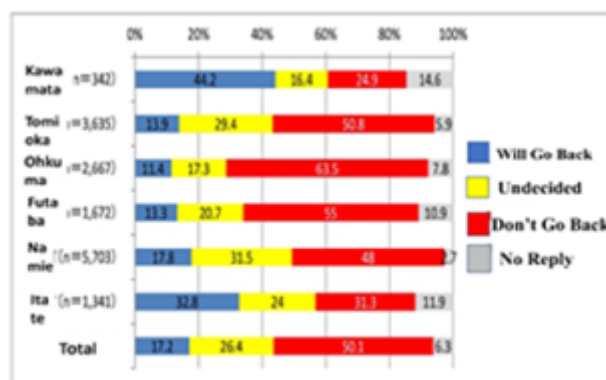
There are hundreds of thousands of victims of these technologies in Japan and in Russia. There should be no new victims!

We must stay together advocating our peaceful future without nuclear weapons and without nuclear power plants!

Sakamoto Megumi Professor, Fukushima University

My name is Sakamoto Megumi, professor at Fukushima University. I wish to express my sincere respects and extend a warm welcome to all participants in the International Meeting. Today, listening to the introductory speeches to this session, I have realized that the enormity of the damage from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is beyond words and that the survivors have been forced to endure aftereffects and even discrimination over the past 74 years. This makes me realize how inhumane nuclear weapons are! I believe that the existence and use of such weapons cannot be justified for any reason whatsoever. It has become clear to me that human lives cannot coexist with nuclear weapons. If Japan stands at a crossroads, the question should be whether we want to build a country that protects people's lives at any cost without the use of force in dealing with international conflict, a country that stands with people and supports them when their lives and health are at risk, just as was the case with the nuclear disaster in Fukushima. That's the crossroads facing us today.

Eight years four months and 22 days have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and the nuclear accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant on March 11, 2011. In the areas affected by the nuclear accident, in particular the municipalities that host the nuclear plant, the evacuation order has been partially lifted in Okuma Town, which has been designated as a highly radioactive "difficult-to-return" zone.



"2018 survey on residents of nuclear disaster-affected areas" published on <https://minnanods.net/soil>, a Website providing data based on the radiation dosimetry established by the citizens. The graph and the map were created by FoE Japan.

In Futaba Town, an evacuation order is expected to be lifted soon. In these areas, radiation levels are still extremely high. In the 2015 opinion survey, only 10 percent of the respondents in both towns said they would return to their towns, 20 percent said they were undecided, and 70 percent said they will not return. Municipalities where an evacuation order has already been lifted have already reopened their primary and junior high schools. The number of children attending these schools was several hundred before the nuclear accident. But less than 10 students have returned to their schools. A number of schools have closed again because no student has enrolled after their reopening. The disaster-affected municipalities are now on the verge of disappearance due to declines in the number of children.



Both the national government and the Fukushima prefectural government are pressing residents of the affected municipalities to return to their homes by arguing as if returning to homes in the affected areas would help in the post-disaster reconstruction. They even say that those who refuse to return after an evacuation order is lifted should be regarded as “voluntary evacuees” staying out of their towns on personal judgment. They do not even know how many such people there are. They have stopped paying special housing allowances to evacuees. These allowances were created to help people who had to move away from radioactively contaminated zones to pay rent for accommodation. They even penalize through a rent increase those “voluntary evacuees” who have chosen not to leave public housing. The rent has doubled or increased six-fold in some cases. After eight years of evacuation, people are in mental and economic distress and find themselves more and more helpless, being unable to earn a living, without a source of income and isolated. Asking the evacuees to return to their homes in areas where there still is no public transportation, no supermarkets, no health services and no homes for the elderly is inhumane policy. It is tantamount to abandoning people. Compared to radiation levels in the air,

radioactive contamination of the soil poses a serious threat. However, the national government and local governments have not conducted any adequate statistical study of radioactive contamination of soil. No such data has been made public. On the other hand, TEPCO, the nuclear plant operator responsible for the accident, has so far refused to make any amicable settlement of the dispute on compensation demanded by the victims, although such alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is the very foundation of the compensation system in place. Such government policy that neglects people’s lives and health must be condemned by the international community. What is needed is to allow for a dual resident registration system, at the original address and the place of evacuation, in order to provide the evacuees with public support fully adapted to their individual needs and respect of their human dignity, so that they can live without economic concerns and embark on the road to reconstruction. In Fukushima, the victims themselves have risen to demand that the state make necessary policy changes. The support from across Japan that they now enjoy must continue in order to build without delay a support system that respects the dignity of each citizen.

Since July 2017, the world has undergone big changes as a result of citizens’ initiatives. One such change is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted in New York on July 7, 2017. This important treaty was made possible, despite adverse conditions, by citizens’ movements that have been committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons over the many years since the WWII.

Japan is the only A-bombed country and can play a major role in changing the world trend by encouraging the world’s countries to sign and ratify the treaty. The task now is for us to establish as soon as possible a government that will sign the Treaty.

On the Korean Peninsula, inter-Korean dialogue began in April 2018. The dialogue has taken place four times. In addition, despite difficulties, dialogue has also been held between the United States and North Korea, the third and the latest being US President Donald Trump’s blitz visit to Panmunjom. The tension peaked when North Korea fired ballistic missiles and when the United States deployed three aircraft carriers around Japan. Today, apparently, a phase of peaceful dialogue has begun with China and Russia joining in. These new developments around Japan have been led by South Korea’s Moon Jae-in government, which came into being as a result of the citizens’ movement known as the “Candle Revolution.” Indeed, it is clear to everyone that the

dialogue for peace and other initiatives we witness now on the Korean Peninsula have been made possible and sustained by a broad movement of citizens in each country, a movement that aspires to peaceful coexistence and the elimination of all nuclear weapons. With North Korea agreeing to sit at the negotiating table, the Japanese government no longer has its largest hypothetical enemy. This is why it has spread the unconfirmed information that South Korea is secretly providing semiconductor technologies to North Korea. In addition, on the pretext of China's intrusion into the South China Sea, it has adopted a policy of countering South Korea and China as hypothetical enemies.

Japan may join a US-led coalition for missions in the Middle East and the Strait of Hormuz. The real aim of Prime Minister Abe's extreme-rightist government is to turn Japan into a country that can use its force and engage in war anywhere around the world. The possibility that the US-led coalition could use nuclear weapons cannot be completely excluded.

However, the political forces that advocate revising the Constitution lost some seats in the House of Councilors election last July and fell 4 seats short of obtaining the two-thirds majority needed to initiate a process of constitutional revision. This is the result of joint struggle of citizens and opposition parties to stop Abe's ultra-rightist ambition for constitutional changes and it marks the beginning of an era of full-fledged joint struggle of opposition parties in the Japanese political arena. Despite this, as if nothing has happened, Prime Minister Abe has dared to declare that he will propose the revision of the Constitution in the Diet while he is in office.

I would like to conclude my presentation by reassuring you that the people of Fukushima are resolved to do all they can to make the World Conference, and in particular the International Meeting, a first step toward building a world that listens to the voices of the A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and strives to ensure that no one in the world is exposed ever again to the horrors of nuclear weapons.



Joint Statement of U.S. - Russian Non-Governmental Organizations, Movements and Campaigns:

World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen
Bombs - Hiroshima, August 3 - 9, 2019

*Presented by Joseph Gerson (USA) and
Oleg Bodrov (Russia)*

74 years have passed since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These indiscriminate and terrorizing bombings were designed to extend U.S. power in Asia, and to introduce nuclear blackmail as a new political tool at the dawn of the Cold War. The United States, Russia, Britain, France and China spent approximately \$10 trillion dollars to develop national nuclear programs. This is comparable to the annual budget of all the rest of the world's militaries for decades.

Today the United States and Russia are the main nuclear opponents, possessing 90% of the world's atomic weapons, with Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea also having become nuclear weapons states with near omnicidal power.

Since the A-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, continued preparations for nuclear war, the practice of nuclear blackmail, and numerous miscalculations and nuclear weapons accidents have brought humanity to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. As many of our leaders and experts have testified, such disasters have been avoided as a consequence of luck and by wise and courageous individual acts.

Luck is an extraordinary slender reed on which to base human survival. We must heed of the Hibakusha's warning that "human beings and nuclear weapons cannot coexist", and build from the wisdom of the Russell-Einstein manifesto that if nuclear catastrophe is to be avoided we must "remember our humanity and forget the rest."

We welcome the pressure that many of the world's nations are applying to the nuclear powers with the negotiation, signings and ratifications of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We also welcome U.S. and Russian civil society initiatives for renewed great power détente, common security policies, and efforts to reverse what threatens to become an unbridled 21st century nuclear arms race and global efforts to address and reverse climate change.

The period following the Post-Cold War era is marked by uncertainty and existential dangers, namely: tensions between rising and declining powers, complex alliance structures, intense nationalism, territorial disputes, arms races with new technologies, economic integration and

competition, wild card actors, and the disastrous impacts of climate change.

In these contexts we decry the dangerous and unacceptable nuclear threats made in recent years by each of our governments. In Russia's case we are referring to Crimea, and in the U.S. we are referring to Iran and Korea.

More, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock has been set at two minutes to midnight. We face the impending collapse of the world's fragile arms control architecture built over five decades. The reiteration of U.S. and Russian first strike nuclear war doctrines, commitments by each of these nuclear powers to upgrade and increase their reliance on their nuclear arsenals, tensions and provocative military exercises from the Baltic to the Black Seas, and the development and deployment of cyber warfare capabilities which can function as new weapons of mass destruction all increase the existential danger facing humanity.

The severity of the crisis is real. It is compounded by the growing tensions between the U.S. and China, making it imperative that civil society and conscientious governmental officials take urgent actions to inspire a new era of great power détente, reverse their increasingly dangerous arms races, and make credible steps toward finally fulfilling their Article VI Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty obligations and the 1996 International Court of Justice opinion on the use and threatened use of nuclear weapons.

We note, as well, the increasing dangers of nuclear war being sparked by Indian-Pakistani tensions and nuclear war preparations, the growing dangers of regional war resulting from the U.S. violation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreement with Iran, the unresolved confrontation over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, and U.S.-Chinese confrontations in the South China Sea.

History teaches that with the development of countervailing political, diplomatic and popular power nuclear disarmament and the creation of a nuclear weapons-free world are possible. Respect for truth, freedom of speech and assembly, democratic institutions and the rule of law are essential for the mobilization of popular will and thus to achieve the complete elimination of the world's nuclear arsenals. We therefore urge civil society organizations and government officials to work to:

- Halt all spending, development and deployment of all new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, with financial savings devoted to addressing urgent human needs including green infrastructure development.

- Eliminate first strike nuclear war fighting doctrines, retire and destroy of all nuclear first strike nuclear weapons.
- Create a joint statement by the presidents of Russia and the United States that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.
- Renew commitments to the CFE and INF Treaties and extend the New START Treaty.
- Begin negotiations, including China, to advance nuclear disarmament, to completely ban weapons from space and to eliminate the dangers of cyber warfare.
- Convene the long-promised conference for the creation of a Middle East Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone.
- Pursue multilateral negotiations for a Northeast Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone.
- Defend the JCPOA and prevent a U.S.- Iranian war.
- Guarantee freedom of speech and assembly, respect for intellectual integrity and democratic processes.
- Recognize the interrelationship of climate change and nuclear weapons and take action to reverse these existential dangers.
- Facilitate the building of mutual understanding and trust among the U.S. and Russian peoples and governments – a prerequisite for fundamental policy changes – by facilitating people-to-people exchanges: cultural, scientific, academic, political exchanges and conventional tourism.

Joseph Gerson, Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common Security, USA

Joseph Essertier, associate professor, Nagoya Institute of Technology, USA

Jun Hamamoto, Mindful Peace Building and San Quentin Origami, USA

Emily Rubino, Peace Action New York State, USA

Oleg Bodrov, Public Council of the Gulf of Finland, Russia

Nadezhda Kutepova, NGO The Planet of Hopes, Russia

Andrey Talevlin, For Nature, public movement, Russia

Svyatoslav Zabelin, International Socio-Ecological Union

Plenary Session II:

Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Role of Citizens and Peace Movement -- Tasks and Prospect for 2020, 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing (August 2)

Introductory Reports:

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

From Hiroshima to New York: Overcoming the Nuclear Powers

Friends, let me begin with appreciation for this year's collaborations. On the eve of the NPT PrepCom, Yayoi Tsuchida and Sueichi Kido joined speakers from Iran and Israel, and India, Russia, Korea, and the U.S., for our "Growing Nuclear Risks in a Changing World" conference.

I was privileged to join the Japan-Korea Peace Forum in Seoul, observing Hibakusha and activists sharing perspectives and building bonds for common action.

I don't need to rehearse the horrors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-Bombings for you. Two cities indiscriminately destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of innocent victims. And suffering to this day. Two related realities still haunt me. First, even in military terms, as U.S. military leaders including Eisenhower, Leahy and LeMay stressed, the A-bombings were not needed to end the war. Japan's warfighting capability had been destroyed, and the Japanese government had been attempting to surrender on the terms that were accepted AFTER the A-bombings. Those were imperial A-bombs. The determinative reason for the A-bombings was to bring the war to an immediate end to ensure that the U.S. would not have to share influence with the Soviet Union in northern China, Manchuria and Korea. So many innocents sacrificed on the altar of empire.

The other horror is the ABCC Commission here in Japan and Project 4.1 in the Marshall Islands. When I first came to Japan, it was hard to believe Hibakusha when they said that they had been treated like guinea pigs, that U.S. doctors studied them but provided no care. Then, nineteen years ago, I arranged a meeting

for Sawada-sensei, Hashimoto-san and several others with the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy who was responsible for all U.S. radiation studies. I explained the Hibakusha's claim and asked if he could deny it. His answer was staggering. "On no! We've used those studies for everything, including for the design of new nuclear weapons." In this way, the U.S. was no better than Dr. Menge in Nazi Germany.

Confronting these evils and those of other nuclear powers is critical to building people's power to transform the nuclear powers.

Friends, we live in the dangerous and uncertain interregnum between the Post-Cold War era and the emergence of the new world disorder. This time has disturbing parallels to the period leading to World War I: tensions between rising and declining powers, complex alliance structures, intense nationalism, territorial disputes, arms races with new technologies, economic integration and competition, and wild card actors. Trump's trade wars, his abrogation and violations of international nuclear and climate treaties, his authoritarianism, humiliation of U.S. allies, his threat to obliterate Iran and continuing tensions with North Korea all reinforce this dangerous dynamic.

U.S. power has declined. China has risen. We are challenged by the classical Thucydides Trap between rising and declining powers. Russia too is reasserting itself as a great, if economically weak, power. Responding to NATO's reckless expansion to its borders and Moscow's imperial traditions, Putin is fueling turmoil in Europe, checking the U.S. in Syria and Venezuela, challenging the U.S. with asymmetric capabilities, and increasing its reliance on its nuclear arsenal,

Elsewhere, the E.U. is in the early stages of developing its own nuclear-capable unified and independent great power military. India's bombing in Balakot was the first time that one nuclear power directly attacked another, making the Indian-Pakistani nuclear arms race possibly the most immediate threat to human survival. North Korea is now a de facto nuclear weapon state, fueling Japanese and South Korean right-wing nuclear ambitions. And, with

Trump's help, Saudi Arabia is preparing to join Israel as the second Middle East nuclear power.

The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* has repeated that nuclear dangers and climate change have brought humanity two minutes to midnight. With its Nuclear Operations doctrine, the Pentagon has reiterated its first strike nuclear war fighting doctrine, stating that nuclear weapons "can radically alter or accelerate the course of a campaign...[They] could be brought into the campaign as a result of perceived failure in a conventional campaign, potential loss of control or regime, or to escalate the conflict to sue for peace on more-favorable terms." To implement the doctrine, the U.S. is moving to deploy more usable low yield (Hiroshima size) nuclear weapons and has withdrawn from the INF Treaty.

Despite murmurings about possible low level negotiations between Washington and Moscow, with the earlier U.S. withdrawal from the ABM Treaty, Trump's violation of the nuclear deal with Iran, and Bolton saying that there's no future for the New START Treat, Russia's Foreign minister Sergey Lavrov was right to say that: "A new era has begun... [with the U.S.] destroying the entire arms control system."

Our responsibility, we know, is not only to understand the world, but to change it.

For years, with Gensuikyo, we have been discussing the possibility of holding a World Conference against A & H Bombs in the U.S. Of course, Hiroshima and Nagasaki are the necessary sites for World Conferences. And next year, with the 75th anniversary, commemorations, testimonies and movement building here in Japan will be of supreme importance.

But, with U.S. leaders refusing to face the criminal history of the A-bombings, allocating hundreds of billions of dollars in preparations for nuclear apocalypse, rejecting the Ban Treaty and refusing to fulfill its NPT obligations, a World Conference in New York will provide a great opportunity to focus world attention to the lessons and legacies of the first A-bombings and to marshal international people's power for a nuclear weapons-free world.

Next year will also be one of our last opportunities to provide Hibakusha and their testimonies the forums and visibility they deserve. Let's all do what we can to ensure that Nihon Hidankyo receives the Nobel Peace Prize that it so richly deserves. And, as the masters of war threaten human survival, with the Hibakusha signature campaign, the Ban Treaty, the Back from the Brink and common security initiatives, we must use the anniversaries to demonstrate that another, nuclear weapons-free, world is possible.

Let me share two stories to underline the importance of our World Conference

This spring, I spoke with a staff member of the U.N. Office of Disarmament Affairs to prepare for next year's World Conference. I referred to Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's remarkable speech at our conference on the eve of the 2010 Review Conference. He surprised me, saying that he'd been on the UNODA staff back then.

He went on to say that Secretary General Ban was energized by delivering his speech. More, he was so deeply moved by the extended standing ovation he received from the 1,000 strong audience, that he made nuclear disarmament a higher personal priority and he gave U.N.'s Office of Disarmament Affairs greater priority and more resources.

Five years later, on the eve of the 2015 Review Conference, we held another inspiring international disarmament and peace conference in New York, followed by a Times Square rally, a march to the U.N., a festival and the presentation of nearly seven million abolition petition signatures to Ambassador Feroukhi, the President of the Review Conference and the High Representative for Disarmament. What was remarkable was that when she opened the Review Conference, Ambassador Feroukhi lectured the assembled diplomats, instructing them that our conference, march and petition signatures represented the will and expectations of international civil society.

The actions and sacrifices of everyone involved in those events made our impact possible. Now, with the Doomsday Clock at 2 minutes to midnight, next year's New York World Conference provides us with a unique opportunity to pull humanity back from the brink of nuclear war and environmental disaster, to press for the fulfillment of the promises of the NPT and BAN Treaties, and to build our movements for the struggles ahead.

As we begin our organizing, we have brought together an impressive core of nuclear disarmament organizations to build our World Conference and mobilization: the American Friends Service Committee, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Campaign for Peace Disarmament and Common Security, Gensuikyo, Gensuikin, Hidankyo, International Peace Bureau, Peace Action, PSPD in Korea, as well as the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, the International Confederation of Trade Unions and the UNI Global Union. In the coming months we will be reaching out to environmental, justice, religious and other organizations.

To accommodate what we anticipate will be a large Japanese delegation, the conference will be held in the prestigious Riverside Church, where Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his seminal "Beyond Vietnam" speech. And, U.N. Secretary General Guterres has

been invited to deliver a keynote speech.

In addition to our World Conference, our rally, march and presentation of the more than 10 million Hibakusha petition signatures to the Review Conference will send powerful messages to the assembled diplomats and the world.

Friends, the hour is getting late. With the great powers on the verge of launching unrestrained nuclear arms races, with tinder boxes set across the planet from Taiwan and the South China, to Iran and Korea, and the Baltic to the Black Seas, the need for united and determined action has never been greater. Our people's movements and the governments which brought us the Ban Treaty are our greatest sources of hope. Together we must prevail!

Hannah Kemp-Welch London Region CND/ Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament U.K.

Thank you to the conference organisers and all those who made this event possible. It's my honour to be here today, representing the United Kingdom's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

CND celebrated its 60th anniversary last year. Founded in 1958, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has a rich history of mobilising people to protest against nuclear weapons.

Working with others nationally and internationally, we have been an important force in pressing our government and others to conclude accords such as the Partial Test Ban Treaty, the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. We also worked to oppose the introduction of the Neutron bomb; plans for this appalling device were abandoned as a result. We are part of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which as you know, recently successfully campaigned for a global ban on nuclear weapons at the United Nations and won the Nobel Peace Prize for this work. But despite all this there is much work still to be done.

In 2016, the British government voted to renew the Trident Missile System. Our main Opposition party has still not changed their policy favouring Trident renewal, despite now having an anti-nuclear Party Leader. Our Government boycotted the negotiations on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and took part in a US press conference outside the room to protest them. This is unacceptable and CND must continue to lobby, to raise public awareness and to apply pressure on the Government and all political parties to adopt a new

and moral stance on nuclear weapons - to unilaterally disarm.

We are a grassroots movement, comprising local groups, regions and nations, as well as specialist sections. One example of such a section is Christian CND, who recently mobilised against an utterly outrageous event planned by the former Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson – a National Service of Thanksgiving to mark 50 years of Britain's nuclear weapons system. The service, which took place in one of Britain's most high-profile places of worship, Westminster Abbey, and was attended by Prince William, actually celebrated weapons that we know to be capable of killing millions in the blink of an eye. Led by Christian CND, hundreds took part in the protest and vigil outside the abbey, and there was a 'die-in' on the pavement outside in memory of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – gaining significant media coverage.

Next month, Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) will hold one of the world's largest arms fairs in the UK. DSEI features over 1600 exhibitors who display weapons ranging from sniper weapons to tanks, and promotes arms sales to countries with records of grave human rights abuses. The fair has also hosted representatives from some of the world's most authoritarian and repressive regimes. What is more, in previous years, the arms fair has been found to sell weapons that are banned from sale in the UK due to their heinous nature, such as electro-shock and torture equipment and cluster bombs. Despite these violations, the UK government has failed to withdraw its support for the fair. Led by the Campaign Against Arms Trade, CND is working with other groups to protest the DSEI arms fair, partnering to host a 'No Nuclear Day' on Wednesday 4th September 2019, as part of Stop the Arms Fair's two-week programme of protests to the fair.

In December, Heads of state from NATO countries will gather in London, with Donald Trump expected to be among those attending. The NATO summit will be a crucial opportunity for our movement to oppose Trump's nuclear warmongering and highlight the dangerous role NATO, as a nuclear alliance, plays in raising international tensions. CND will be working with British and international partners to co-ordinate protests in London.

For these protests to be effective, citizen activism must play a decisive role. 5,000 people turned up to the first CND meeting in 1958, yet my generation are now rarely seen at meetings. For those of us who weren't alive to witness to the horrors of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and can't remember the Cold War, perhaps the threat of nuclear war seems distant. Yet Trump's nuclear posturing, tensions with Iran, and our new Prime Minister's remarks on nuclear

weapons as "vital" for the UK, are of deep concern. We must do all we can to ensure young people learn this history and feel empowered to take active roles within the peace movement.

In an era when protests are weekly events, the CND logo has been hijacked by fashion brands and the threat of nuclear war seems like the problem of an age gone by, we have much work to do. We must harness the energy of young people, and empower them with the strategic insight, knowledge and memory of veteran campaigners. To do so, we must be flexible in our methods, celebrate difference and, essentially, listen to each other. I work in London Region CND, where we recognise this challenge, and have moved towards simplifying structures in our organisation to bring them up to the present-day, recruiting members with digital skills, and engaging with new audiences at festivals and events through creative workshops and mass campaigns. But we must go further.

Last year, I visited Barrow-in-Furness, a town in the north of England where submarines are built – including the Vanguard class which carry the UK's nuclear missiles. BAE Systems, currently the world's fourth largest arms producer, are a major employer in the area and seem to own this town. I was appalled to discover the BAE Systems logo on public services around the town. Since the Government made changes to our schooling system, corporations are now able to 'sponsor' a school, not just providing funding, but also actually creating teaching resources. I found an example of such a resource – a paper worksheet for children aged 11 which instructs the child 'If you were asked to design an unseen, underwater fighting machine, make a list of the things you might have to consider before you began your design'. As such, children are taught that war and fighting is a normal, acceptable feature of society, that it generates jobs and should be prepared for in advance of any conflict. This view goes largely unchallenged in the remainder of their education.

It's critical that we oppose such bias in our education system. We must provide an alternative to the narrative of endless war, and ensure young people have access to a wide range of information and viewpoints. I frequently work with school students and young people, and see the transformative influence that open dialogue with young people can have. CND's education programme engages thousands of school students across England each year. Our Peace Education Officer and volunteers deliver talks in schools, training for teachers, and create classroom activity packs for all ages. We empower students with knowledge of nuclear weapons and peace issues, so that they can come to their own conclusions on these crucial matters.

Our work in education would be futile if it didn't

include the whole family in the discussion. We must also address parents and talk openly about how getting rid of nuclear weapons will affect jobs. Trade unions are an important part of the fight against Trident replacement and supporting diversification of defence jobs in places such as Barrow. In 2017, the Trade Union Congress passed a motion urging the Labour Party (in opposition) to set up a defence diversification agency as part of its national industrial strategy. The evidence is clear that scrapping Trident would only be good news to parents - as well as reducing the threat of total planetary extinction for their children, it would also save £205 billion, which could be pumped into education and healthcare for all.

The need for generations to unite is clear. We must, as individuals, look at our particular skill sets and harness them for this mission. Thus, when we speak of citizen activism, this is not limited to the visible work of organising rallies and protests. Protests already seem to take place weekly on the streets of London, and many are increasingly dispirited at the minimal effectiveness of these methods. We must be visible, but we must also spread our roots and branches widely within society - sharing information and discussing our views with colleagues, students, parents, and politicians. We can all find our way of supporting the peace movement - whether by leading a rally, or through the quieter work of posting newsletters, designing flyers, writing to the papers, speaking at a school, building a website, or running a local street stall. We must do all we can to work harmoniously to unite the collective power we hold. Through this multi-pronged approach our movement grows, reaches new people and thus advances the cause. Together we can succeed.

Kim Jinyoung **People's Solidarity for Social Progress** **R.O.K.**

Escalated Nuclear Crisis in East Asia

The Hanoi summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ended without any agreement, and the fate of the Korean Peninsula stands at the crossroads, with the chance of returning to the war crisis faced in 2017. As we all know, the major issue here is North Korea's nuclear program. We can also see that the (nuclear) arms race is in full swing throughout East Asia, like the Abe administration's attempt to "make Japan a war-capable state" again.

Escalating tensions between the countries are clearly driving people to support aggressive foreign policies. This June's poll conducted by the Bulletin of

the Atomic Scientists (BAS) shows 33 percent of American people said they would approve of a US preemptive nuclear attack on North Korea, even if it caused the death of more than one million North Korean civilians. The support for nuclear weapons has grown greater in South Korea and Japan since North Korea's declaration of the completion of its nuclear force in 2017.

Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and Peace in East Asia Cannot be Separated

Since North Korea's first nuclear test in 2006, how to view North Korea's nuclear weapons has become one of the most controversial issues within the South Korean social movement. It is not hard to find people who support the North Korean nuclear program as "mere nuclear weapons", and a legitimate means of defense against US imperialist oppression, or denounce the call for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula as a "betrayal of the country" and an "abandonment of bargaining leverage." In these contexts, the North's declaration of the completion of its nuclear force has led to a de facto division of the South Korean peace movement.

But there are other people, including those who have been constant allies to this World Conference against A & H Bombs, who argue that we should eliminate all nuclear weapons, and that peace and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula are inseparable. I believe that nuclear weapons are a deadly force beyond the democratic control of the people, and preventing the threat of a nuclear war can be achieved through anti-nuclear peace movements, not through the use of nuclear weapons.

The history of the Korean Peninsula shows this. Hopes and expectations for peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula peaked when the two Koreas signed "the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" (December 1991) and the US-South Korea Combined Forces Command (CFC) declared the suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise (January 1992). That Joint Declaration has provided strong leverage for the South Korean peace movement to criticize the deployment of US nuclear strategic assets on Korean Peninsula territory and in territorial waters, and Japan's attempts to reprocess nuclear fuel and develop nuclear weapons technology. The September 19 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks in 2005 also had a similar effect. In this agreement, North Korea promised to eliminate all of its nuclear weapons and return to the NPT and IAEA. A peace treaty and a pledge not to preemptively attack North Korea with nuclear weapons was proposed as a corresponding measure.

On the other hand, a nuclear-free and peaceful East Asia with a nuclear-armed North Korea's is

impossible in the long run. If North Korea is officially treated as a nuclear-weapon state, it is clear that Japan and South Korea will also pursue nuclear development. Since North Korea's nuclear test in 2006, right-wingers in South Korea and Japan have continued to insist on the need for nuclear armaments based on the existence of North's nuclear weapons.

Japan is the only non-nuclear country with an exceptional right to reprocess nuclear fuel because of the US-Japan Nuclear Pact, having uranium enrichment technology and tons of plutonium for thousands of nuclear bombs. This means that Japan is capable of manufacturing nuclear weapons at any time.

In South Korea, even the largest conservative party has consistently insisted on the necessity of South Korea's nuclear armament. They claim that South Korea no longer has an obligation to stay nuclear-free given that North Korea has already left the NPT and violated the Joint Declaration. The only thing required is a new nuclear pact like the one between the US and Japan.

Let's Urge Our Governments to Sign and Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons!

It is true that the Korean Peninsula experienced Japanese colonization from 1910 until the end of World War II, and since then has been plagued by US military involvement. This does not, however, justify the nuclear armament of Korea, North or South. Some people justify North Korea's nuclear program, saying it will prevent countries like the US from monopolizing nuclear weapons and "ultimately" lead to global denuclearization someday in the distant future. But, the reality is that this is not the path towards global denuclearization, it is the path towards a nuclear arms race. The path that the people of the Korean Peninsula should take for humanity, must go in the opposite direction. We need to declare a nuclear weapons ban and lead the way to a nuclear weapons-free world right now, pressing all nuclear weapon countries to abolish their nuclear powers.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), adopted by the United Nations in July 2017, could be a means of such pressure, replacing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which failed to enforce nuclear disarmament. The fact that countries like Vietnam, Venezuela, and Cuba, which have been under US oppression joined the TPNW proves that developing nuclear weapons is not the only way to stand up to American imperialism. But, nuclear-armed countries including the US and North Korea have not joined the treaty. South Korea and Japan, which are under the US nuclear umbrella, also boycotted the TPNW.

I propose that the Korean and Japanese peace movements work together to call on both countries to join the TPNW. At the same time, we can call on North Korea to take bold steps towards denuclearization, including by joining the TPNW. This is the true starting point for resolving the crisis on the Korean Peninsula.

The US-led Military Alliance and the Arms Race Must End

I also would like to emphasize that a nuclear war cannot be prevented simply by removing nuclear weapons. We should seek to abolish the US-led military alliance among the US, South Korea and Japan and dismantle their weapons systems. US foreign policy has strongly promoted the US' East Asian allies' military build-up, which causes neighboring countries to respond, triggering a permanent arms race. Let me give one example. The THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) Missile system, currently deployed at the US military base in Soseong-ri, South Korea, is a weapons system focused on intercepting nuclear missiles. It is part of the US Missile Defense System in East Asia, which includes South Korea, Japan and Taiwan. The deployment of THAAD shows Washington's willingness to assume the possibility of a nuclear war on the peninsula and prepare to win it. The pursuit of a "perfect" defense system has always been paired with aggressive and preemptive nuclear weapons policies.

For now, we should keep up the momentum created by the mutual freeze of North Korea's nuclear and missile tests and joint US-South Korea military exercises ("freeze for a freeze") and oppose all hostile military actions and military build-up in the East Asia region.

Through the important peace campaigns going on now, like the struggle against Abe's attempt to revise Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, the struggle to remove THAAD from Korea and the struggle against building the US military base in Henoko, Okinawa, we can create a cycle of preemptive disarmaments, breaking the vicious circle of the arms race.

Solidarity between the Korean and Japanese Peace Movements

The Korean and Japanese peace movement has long been in solidarity, but our capacity for joint response to the tumultuous situation of the 2010s is still weak. In this regard, it was very meaningful that the Korean and Japanese peace movements jointly hosted the international peace forum this past May for the first time in 12 years since 2007 at the proposal of the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen

Bombs (Gensuikyo). At the international peace forum, we agreed to cooperate in preparation for the 2020 NPT Review Conference and on a campaign to ratify the TPNW. I believe this cooperation will also play a very big role in the elimination of nuclear weapons and the building of peace at the global level. Furthermore, I hope to strengthen the solidarity between Korean and Japanese social movements not only in building peace, but also in achieving democracy, labor rights and equality in both countries.

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

I welcome all of you, dear friends coming from Japan and abroad to this 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs.

In the Opening Session today, I was very much encouraged by Mr. Gallhofer of Austria when he said, "While these are challenging times, they are also inspiring times." I want to express my resolve to play a due role in the civil society movement.

This year's World Conference is being held at a very important juncture for our movement to achieve a world without nuclear weapons on the eve of the 75th commemoration of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the 50th anniversary of the coming into effect of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) and the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

The average age of Hibakusha now exceeds 82 years. Their desire to see nuclear weapons eliminated while they are alive is impelling. In order to respond to their pressing call, our movement must achieve a big leap forward.

The world is at a decisive crossroads in the process towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. At the third Preparatory Committee of the NPT Review Conference held this year at the United Nation's Headquarters in New York, the forces promoting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) challenged the nuclear weapon states over the implementation of their past agreements and commitments, in particular the NPT's "Article 6" obligations and the "unequivocal undertakings" for achieving the complete elimination of nuclear arsenals.

The focus of their confrontation was whether nuclear weapon states continue to cling to their nuclear arsenals that can only lead to catastrophic consequences as seen in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or on the other hand, they put a definitive end to the nuclear threat by engaging in the path towards a world

without nuclear weapons.

The Trump Administration strengthened the U.S. strategy for the use of nuclear weapons through the “Nuclear Posture Review (NPR)” released last year by developing “small” nuclear weapons and unilaterally leaving the INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty, leading to the treaty’s expiration just two days ago.

The Russian government of Putin has also embarked on the development of new types of nuclear weapons and is enhancing its strategy to pre-emptively use tactical weapons. The current new nuclear arms race between these two nuclear powers clearly shows that “nuclear deterrence” does not bring security but a threat to humanity.

Globally, the world is advancing towards the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons as demonstrated by the broadening extent of support for the TPNW. The resolution of the U.N. General Assembly on the TPNW was in fact supported by 126 countries, accounting for more than two thirds of U.N. membership.

Two years have passed since the TPNW was adopted in July 2017. Seventy countries have signed it and the number of countries that have ratified the treaty has steadily increased to reach 24. This fact allows us to expect the treaty’s entry into force in the near future. Equally important is that the TPNW is putting substantial pressure on the nuclear powers.

At the third PrepCom, the five nuclear weapon states made a hostile declaration saying that they were opposed to the TPNW because it is contrary to the NPT and may weaken the NPT regime. The fact that the nuclear weapon states have to form a joint front to oppose the TPNW despite the contradictions and conflicting interests among themselves demonstrates the power of the TPNW. Its entry into force will surely put further pressure on these nuclear powers.

In order to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, we must defeat the obstructions posed by the nuclear powers. The key for this is the mobilization of public opinion and the movement as well as the strength of cooperation between civil society and national governments that led to the adoption of the TPNW. If we can develop it further, we will surely open the way for a further advance.

The “Hibakusha International Appeal Signature Campaign” calling on each national government to support the conclusion of a treaty or a convention on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons continues to spread: in the last year alone, the number of signatures has increased by 6 million to reach almost 10 million. 1,135 heads of municipalities, accounting for two thirds of the total have also appended their names. Anyone who wants to see nuclear weapons eliminated supports the TPNW

regardless of the difference in their positions. To develop public opinion and the movement, let us give a pair of strong wings to the Hibakusha International Signature Campaign in Japan and the world. Let us act around the world for making the year 2020, the 75th anniversary of atomic bombings, the year of decisive turn towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Dear friends, at the International Conference held in New York last May, “Growing Nuclear Risks in a Changing World: New Thinking and Movement Building”, our friends from the U.S., Europe and the International Peace Bureau (IPB) proposed to organize a “World Conference against A and H Bombs in New York”.

The World Conference in New York will be held inheriting the fundamental spirit for the prevention of nuclear war, a total ban on and the elimination of nuclear weapons and support for and solidarity with Hibakusha, the principles that we have dearly observed since the very first World Conference against A and H Bombs in Hiroshima in 1955, as well as the New York Actions staged on the eve of NPT Review Conferences in 2010 and 2015.

The World Conference in New York, the venue of the 2020 NPT Review Conference, is a very important opportunity to join our voices to those of Hibakusha to spread a call for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the U.S., the largest nuclear power, and to develop globally public opinion and the movement. I call on the Japanese movement as well as our friends around the world to work together to make this event a success.

Friends, it is an international duty for the Japanese movement to make the Japanese government assume a role worthy of a country that has Article 9 in its Constitution.

In the House of Councilors election that took place on the eve of this World Conference, we campaigned to achieve a change in politics to make them commensurate with a country that experienced the atomic bombing. We demanded that the government place the endeavor for peace provided for by the Constitution at the core of Japan’s politics and take the lead of the effort for the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons by signing the TPNW.

Although the Abe government focused its campaign on the revision of Article 9 and tried to maintain two-thirds of the seats in the House of Councilors, the Liberal Democratic Party, the largest party in the ruling coalition, lost 9 seats and failed to preserve the two-thirds majority, necessary for proposing any constitutional revision, falling short of 4 seats. What prevented the revisionists from obtaining the two-thirds majority was the victories won by unified candidates of the opposition parties in 10 out of 32 single-seat constituencies.

Through talks on political demands among the opposition parties to choose joint candidates for single-seat constituencies, the demands for the cancellation of construction of a new base at Henoko, an immediate stop to Futenma Base operations and the closure and reversion of the base were agreed upon in Okinawa. In Akita, the joint demands agreed on were no deployment of Aegis Ashore, the land-based missile defense system. Joint candidates won in both Okinawa and Akita constituencies. In Gunma, Kumamoto and Nagasaki, the joint demands included the ratification of the TPNW.

Representatives of opposition parties supporting the TPNW as well as representatives of the citizens' movement for the abrogation of the Security Laws or War Laws and recovery of constitutionalism, and members of the All Okinawa Coalition opposing the construction of a US military base in Henoko will join us in this year's World Conference. Building on the gains we achieved through the recent election campaign, we want to significantly develop the movement to press the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW.

I would like to conclude by reassuring you that we are resolved to give further momentum to the International Hibakusha Appeal Signature campaign towards the U.N. General Assembly this autumn and the 2020 NPT Review Conference, to win a majority of municipal assemblies (now 407 out of a total of 1,741) to adopt a resolution urging the national government to sign and ratify the TPNW, to organize many initiatives in local communities, workplaces and schools in each municipality, with Hibakusha testimonies and A-bomb exhibitions revealing the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and to build a nationwide movement strong enough to make the government change its policy.

Statements:

Manisha Gaur Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space - India

Dear Peace Friends,

Once again we are here to spread peace and in the process of making this world peaceful this time I want you to feel the feeling of a girl Vani Tiwari of 12th class from Indore that she has written in her poem about **A Bomb Disaster**.

With my tongue frozen in my mouth, I stutter when I try to speak my lungs out! In the writhing sea of Scarlett stains all dead and barren I couldn't see the escape around...

The bomb dropped with deep noise turning homes into tombstones and vaporized shadows bleach the walls of the city colored with the ashes of its own citizens.

I can't get off my mind this enigma which happened that day at Hiroshima and remember who were burnt alive on 6th of August, 1945.

That 10 pound 'little boy' swallowed everything like a grand ripple of cyclonic sea, BANGGGG was that sound! Before my eye could see the creams of mushrooming smoke coming one after the other, I fainted.

My heart drummed like 1-2-3000 drums beating around but all silent, all silent when I saw my son dying of the burns given by that ugly bomb and rest all as dead as burnt coals. I stood, walked, fall, and crawl! I crawled to get him water, to save his flaming spirit but I didn't let him drink that.

You might be thinking what a brutal soul I'm but I saw, I saw people dying of water. It was venom with no antidote and I can't fetch to my son, he died that night.

Once jubilee streets turned into grave arena, it all happened that day at Hiroshima; I lost my happy family of 5, on 6th of August 1945.

My house was obliterated as a piece of rusted monument, that trembler deserted the breeze. I couldn't understand this fate. The people you love the most won't talk anymore won't see anymore, won't play anymore won't breathe anymore.

They're not here anymore; they're no more, no more, no more! Under that rubble wasn't anybody your or mine, no toddler nor a senile, under that rubble was our city, our kin, our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters who died that night.

The aftermath tempered my mind like a reversed movie playing on repeat like a reversed movie playing reels playing reels changing sounds of reels playing reels changing and my heart beating lub dub lub dub lub dub lub dub lub and stop! Reverse, play and, never repeat!

A war might seem like just few pages of the history to be never reminded of! Everybody did what they found righteous and stories like mine are memored dateless.

Nothing can replace that atomic trauma that happened that day at Hiroshima and the world remembers it yet in my mind that 6th of August 1945, that 6th of August 1945.

"The world is with you..."

The world is with Peace"

Ogata Yasuo
Member of Committee of Chairpersons,
Organizing Committee of the World
Conference/ Vice Chair, Director of JCP
International Commission

The next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the effectuation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the 25th anniversary of the decision on the indefinite extension of the treaty. In the same year, the NPT Review Conference, which is held every five years, will be held from April 27th to May 22nd. It will also be the first RevCon meeting to be held since the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted in 2017, which is now under ratification processes in many countries. Thus, the meeting is expected to provide an important opportunity in which the nations and NGOs which seek the total abolition of nuclear weapons will confront the P-5 powers which obstinately refuse to abandon their nuclear arsenals.

Although three sessions of the preparatory committee for the 2020 RevCon were held, the committee failed to reach a consensus on the recommendation for the final outcome document to be discussed and adopted in the RevCon. The discussion in the committee clearly shows where the P-5 truly stand in their unveiled hostility toward the movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons, their unconstrained penchant for continuing with the nuclear arms race, and their irrational reliance on the nuclear deterrence doctrine. All the more, the challenges facing us are seen more clearly as we are aspiring to make progress toward the enforcement of the Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Indulging in the self-claimed privilege to possess nuclear weapons while neglecting to honor Article 6 of the NPT to move toward nuclear disarmament, the P-5 powers are now racing to modernize and expand their nuclear forces. The U.S., Russia, and China are competing with each other in the nuclear arms race to gain the advantage in the domains of ground, sea, space and cyber warfare capabilities, and are seemingly united in opposition to the movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

When you assess the argument made by P-5 in the preparatory committee sessions, you easily notice a remarkable point: they have not been able to come up with a logical argument to convince the international community of the necessity to maintain their nuclear arsenals. The P-5 cannot deny the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, which has been brought starkly to light by Hibakusha testimonies and has become a focal point of discussions in a variety of international arenas in recent years. The P-5 powers

cannot placate the mounting international anger and frustration regarding the nuclear arms race and the sabotage of the implementation of the disarmament duty under Article 6 of the NPT. And now, the P-5 are politically and morally constrained by the creation of the Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Thus, the P-5 are on the defensive politically and morally and do not have the power to defeat the global public demand for total abolition of nuclear weapons. Thinly veiling the coercive nature of nuclear deterrence doctrine, what the P-5 are doing is essentially just making excuses on why they refuse to honor their treaty-bound responsibility to implement Article 6 of the NPT by arguing that disarmament would require the creation of “environments” or “conditions” conducive to do so. This is the crucial weakness which the P-5 inevitably have and the next NPT RevCon should be the venue in which we squarely confront the P-5 and thoroughly and logically discuss the matter. The International Meeting at which we have gathered here is the preparatory session for us to be ready to fight back by incorporating the public demand for total abolition from across the world and forging coalitions between NGOs and governments which support the Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Firstly, the NPT review conference offers a significant opportunity to refute the illogical stance of nuclear-armed States in order for them to implement their duty under Article 6 of the treaty by demonstrating the immovable stance of governments and NGOs calling for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The conference has an accumulation of crucial lessons reflecting on anti-nuclear mobilization. The final document of the 2000 NPT RevCon includes “An unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament”. The document in 2010 notes “All states need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.” The U.S. representative at the last review conference accepted the creation of a legal framework for a ban on nuclear weapons. Although the final document was not adopted because of disagreements on another issue, the draft which all States agreed upon noted, “The Conference recommends that the United Nations General Assembly establish at its seventieth session an open-ended working group to identify and specify effective measures to accomplish the full implementation of article VI, including legal provisions or other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.” It is this statement adopted by the nuclear weapon states that provided the momentum to create the UN Treaty on the Prohibition

of Nuclear Weapons.

The struggle to motivate the nuclear weapon states to support nuclear disarmament has added momentum to the global movement working for the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Secondly, although the NPT review conference is held by the governments of signatory countries, international “civil society” is playing an important role. Grass roots movement have played an essential role in influencing the course of international politics. As a Hibakusha-led movement in Japan, mobilization efforts with global NGOs and peace activists is growing in strength, especially in U.S.-allied nations. A barometer of it is the “International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons”.

Thirdly, we need to keep on fighting against the Japanese government which shamefully ignores the demands of Hibakusha and aim at establishing a government with anti-nuclear policies because, after all, we are the only nation which experienced the horrors of atomic bombings. Although the Japanese government has been behaving as a “bridge-builder”, it continues to refuse to sign, let alone ratify, the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty. In fact, they support the U.S policy of “Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament” (CEND), which actually calls for possessing nuclear arsenals permanently forward forcing countries to accept the irrational logic of the P-5. Mobilization for nuclear disarmament in Japan is essential to force the government to change its stance. Let’s demonstrate the strength of our movement to make the Japanese government take a responsible stance to support the total abolition of nuclear weapons as the only nation that experienced the horrors of atomic bombings.

Rabindra Adhikari **Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council/ World Peace Council**

Dear friends and fellow fighters for peace

I am conveying our warmest peace greetings to the Organizing Committee of this important conference and to all Japanese and overseas delegates. Our special greetings go to the Japanese Peace Committee, which is completing this year the 70th anniversary with a glorious history and committed participation from the founding days in the World Peace Council, which also celebrates its 70th anniversary.

The WPC feels much close to the peace sentiments of the Japanese peace loving people, especially with the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki,

who suffered 74 years ago the murderous and inhuman US bombing of these cities with uncountable consequences and sufferings till today.

We express our solidarity with the victims and the families of the ones who died. Reminding and remembering those crimes committed by US imperialism, we are expressing our condemnation and anger as well for the direct military presence soil of the USA, with the huge number of Military bases all over this country, disturbing both the everyday life of the Japanese people and threatening peace and security in the whole region.

We declare our full support to the demands of the Japanese Peace Movement, for the complete abolition of all nuclear weapons in the world and the dismantling of all foreign Military Bases around the globe.

It is today more than proved that US imperialism and its allies around the world are getting more and more aggressive. Its crimes did not stop in August 1945, maybe they just had started then.

It is the same concept the US administration applied by bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki, amongst others, the collective punishment of the people when the war was already over, or when they entered into a war in the 1950s on the Korean peninsula and maintain till today 28,000 troops in the South or later in their dirty war in Vietnam, which ended with millions of dead and an ongoing suffering for generations from the toxic Agent Orange.

The same philosophy stands behind the aggression of the biggest war machinery ever, of the US led NATO, against Yugoslavia in 1999, the later the occupation of Afghanistan and the invasion and occupation of Iraq, the aggression against the peoples of Syria and Yemen and so many more.

It is the same concept which lies behind the 70 years of occupation of Palestine and the slow genocide of its people by the terror-State Israel, which does not allow the establishment of an independent and viable State in the borders of 4th June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

It is always the imperialist drive to dominate over peoples and regions, to impose their rule for the sake of the control of energy resources, markets and spheres of influence. This has been witnessed as well on the African continent, as well as in Eastern Europe. Dear friends,

Next year we will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the crime against the Japanese people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the same time a new round of talks and negotiations will take place for the abolition of nuclear weapons with the NPT Review Conference in New York. The WPC honoring the legacy of its “Stockholm Appeal” of 1953, which was signed by more than 400 million people, will actively

be present in the above events. At the same time and as an active oriented International Organisation, we are not just sitting on our sofas and counting the number of countries ratifying or not the important treaties, but we are organizing and calling for daily struggles against wars and injustice, against occupation and aggression in dozens of countries. The WPC is aware of the danger and threat of the nuclear arsenal in the world, but we also know well that the ongoing wars and aggressions today are all of kind of types.

But dear friends, allow us in this conference to refer shortly also to the developments in and around the Korean Peninsula.

We witnessed and received with hope, however being cautious, the news about the meetings between the Presidents Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump, which opened a path for the normalization of the diplomatic relations between the DPR of Korea and the USA and after almost seven decades of outrageous, offensive policy of the US and its allies against the DPR of Korea, the peace loving forces are observing the dialogue's development with renewed commitment for the complete denuclearization of the peninsula. We welcomed the Inter-Korean summits under the spirit of the peaceful national reunification, however we underline that the Military presence of US in South Korea and its joint exercises in the regions, as well as the sanctions, do not constitute the ground for the goal desired by us.

Being here with you in Hiroshima, I think and believe that while commemorating the victims of this city and the people, we cannot miss our duty to condemn all atrocities of US Imperialism in the world and especially the current ones in the Middle East, while expressing our solidarity with the peoples in the region who are in need of our support. Likewise we express our solidarity with the peoples of Latin America and particularly the people of Cuba and Venezuela, which are facing the imperialist interference and violation of the International Law by the USA the European Union and regional allies.

I think that this would be also in the spirit and the values of this conference, as it has been marked and outlined for so many years since 1945.

Kawamura Reiko
Executive Central Committee Member,
New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin)

The Japanese government led by Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, without showing reflection over Japan's war of aggression, is bringing about a deterioration in the relationship with its neighboring country. On

August 2, the Abe Cabinet decided to amend the government ordinance to remove the Republic of Korea from the "whitelist" of countries entitled to preferential treatment in trade. The decision has invited criticism both at home and abroad. The Abe government should withdraw the decision and start a dialogue with its Korean counterpart. We call for peaceful diplomacy in accordance with Article 9 of the Constitution.

The New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin) co-hosted with other peace and civil society organizations in Japan and Korea the "Japan-Korea International Forum for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful East-Asia" held in Seoul last May and I had a privilege to attend it. The Forum aimed to make the most of the historic opportunity provided by the summit talks of South and North Korea, and of the US and Democratic People's Republic of Korea, for creating an order of peace based on dialogue instead of antagonism. The Forum was of great significance as it provided a space for women and the civil society of Japan and Korea to interact and develop solidarity.

Shinfujin also organized the workshop on "Women and Peace" with the Korean Women's Associations United (KWAU), where women of both countries were able to deepen mutual understanding by directly exchanging experiences of the Korean women's movement which led the Candlelight Revolution as well as Japan's grassroots efforts that have successfully been blocking Prime Minister Abe's attempts to revise the constitution.

The joint statement adopted at the Forum states that women have been most likely to become victims of gender-based violence in war and military conflicts, and that the participation of women in the peacebuilding process must be ensured. It echoes the reference in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which says that women's participation is "an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security". We are reminded and convinced that women have a significant role to play for peace.

Despite being the government of the only atomic bombed country, the Japanese government opposes the TPNW, standing in the way of the effort to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. It further attempts to make Japan a war-waging nation by increasing the military budget to a record high of 5,257.4 billion yen for a buying spree of expensive weapons from the US, including the purchase of more than 100 F35 warplanes, and forcing the construction of a new US military base offshore at Henoko in Okinawa as well as the deployment of Ospreys.

Shinfujin has been focusing on the two signature campaigns in support of the appeals of "No to Nuclear Weapons", and of "No to Abe Cabinet's Article 9

Revision.” Considering these signatures as a tool to pressure the Abe Cabinet to resign, our members have taken to the streets to talk to the public, responding to their concerns and anxieties over cuts in medical and nursing services, and in pension benefits. We have collected 1.14 million signatures for the Hibakusha International Appeal for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, and 1.18 million for No Article 9 Revision. It was the power of the citizens’ grassroots movement centered on the signature campaign and the alliance of opposition parties that prevented in the latest Upper House election in July the pro-constitutional revision forces from retaining a two-thirds majority, the level necessary to initiate constitutional revisions in the chamber.

2020 will mark the 75th year after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Shinfujin is committed to promoting the holding of A-bomb photo exhibitions everywhere, as the photos are effective tools to let the public know the facts about the atomic bombs. We also value the effort to pass the movement

on to the next generation. One of our members from Tokyo who participated in the World Conference last year said that at the World Conference she realized our movement had the power to resolve the problems facing the world, and that she became confident of what she was doing. She has been telling this to her peers encouraging them to participate in this year’s World Conference. With the conviction that the World Conference can provide a valuable opportunity to directly feel the changes taking place globally, we have worked hard all over Japan to increase the number of younger members attending the Conference.

For a world without nuclear weapons where the Constitution is fully implemented, Shinfujin will continue to work to collect more and more signatures to express No to Nuclear Weapons toward the 2020 NPT Review Conference. We will also do our utmost to bring younger members to contribute to the success of the World Conference against A & H Bombs in New York.



Plenary Session III:

Cooperation and Solidarity for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons -- with Movements for Peace and No War; Zero Nuclear Power; Environment; Human Rights and People's Living (August 4)



Introductory Reports:

Rosalie Brooks
Peace Action
U.S.A.

First, I would like to thank, my host, Gensuikyo for your kindness and generosity. I am excited and grateful to be among you at this the 74th anniversary commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today, across the United States, peace activists are taking part in annual commemorations and we use this act of remembering as an opportunity to reach out to our communities and educate and remind them of the dangers of nuclear weapons and invite them to take action for a more peaceful and just future.

I honor Gensuikyo's tenacity and steadfast diligence in organizing for nuclear weapons abolition

in the world and their tireless efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, 74 years ago the U.S. government made the decision to detonate nuclear bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On behalf of Peace Action's 200,000 supporters and a significant number of Americans who believe we should abolish nuclear weapons, we offer our apology for that horrible event.

It is apparent that Gensuikyo plays an immeasurable role and continues to remind humanity of the horrors of nuclear weapons. Thank you for this opportunity to focus outside of my daily activist experience and be an advocate for nuclear abolition in another part of the world. In actuality, we all share this earth. Your leading role in organizing this conference every year is a testament to making sure that what happened 74 years ago does not happen again.

While this is my first year in attendance, I have heard over the years about the great experience each one of the Peace Action staff members and associates

shared upon their return. I have been told how the conference enriched and changed their lives and fueled more energy and purpose to work towards a nuclear free world.

Peace Action was born in 1957 with the main focus of preventing the deployment of nuclear weapons and promoting a new United States foreign policy based on common security and peaceful resolutions to international conflicts. We believe that every person has the right to live without the threat of nuclear weapons, that war is not a suitable response to conflict. Peace Action is the United States largest peace and disarmament organization with over 100 affiliates, chapters and associate groups in 36 states, and as I previously mentioned, 200,000 members and supporters.

Through our grassroots network, we push to move U.S. nuclear weapons policy towards nuclear disarmament. We work to connect nuclear weapons and war and peace issues to other movements and constituencies, especially environmental and social justice concerns. Spending on nuclear weapons vs human needs is always a priority for us.

Another strength of ours, pretty unique in the US peace movement, is our Peace Voter electoral work. I think because of concerns about Trump's instability, his threats of fire and fury, many Americans have been reminded that nuclear weapons are still a threat to our very existence.

Peace Action's Peace Voter campaign has already endorsed 'the Squad', four Congresswomen of color Representatives Omar, Ocasio-Cortez, Tlaib and Pressley, who have already taken strong stands against nuclear weapons and militarism.

Our activists are already on the ground working, bird-dogging presidential candidates in New Hampshire, the first primary state, where our folks have been doing this in presidential election cycles for close to 20 years. They are heavily focused on nuclear weapons issues, especially getting the US to adopt a No First Use of Nuclear Weapons Policy and ending the sole authority for any president, not just Trump, to be able to start a nuclear war without a declaration of war by Congress.

Right now, much of our attention has been focused on recent developments in the U.S., where the Trump administration's threats and intimidation are increasing the risk of war with Iran. Peace Action opposes this potential war and is rallying Congress to take steps to exercise good-faith diplomatic efforts to protect important gains of the Iran Nuclear agreement and to reduce tensions between the U.S. and Iran. President Trump has backed down somewhat, but is now challenging Iran's nuclear weapons program and stated on Twitter: "Iran cannot have Nuclear Weapons!" – even as he hypocritically expands and

upgrades the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

The upcoming 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation conference is another opportunity to awaken public concern to the very real threat that nuclear weapons present and mobilize our fellow human beings to act to protect our common future. Let us organize for this event to make it the stronger ever, and make our collective voice be heard around the world that we want the elimination of nuclear weapons.

While preparing to attend this conference, I learned more about the human struggle the Hibakusha experienced and the devastation visited upon the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as the result of the atomic bombs. While I was not born when the bombing occurred, I am touched in my heart to read of the magnitude of the pain, suffering, and devastation caused.

The more I learned of the Hibakusha the more parallels I see with civil rights movement in the U.S. Like African-American leaders of the civil rights movement, the Hibakusha has not been deterred by governmental indifference or societal privilege. Progress is slow and setbacks are common, but it is never time to accept defeat or abandon our goals.

The movement for nuclear abolition and the civil rights movement both demand recognition of our fundamental humanity. But just like the women's movement and the labor movement we have to first battle the lie that our humanity is somehow hostage to other concerns which have less to do with humanity and more to do with power and greed.

Peace Action and its affiliate partners stand with you in remembering the past. If lessons are not learned from the past, history can repeat itself. This is one event we do not want to ever see happen again to any people. Hibakusha's spirit to achieve and thrive has shown the world that nuclear disarmament is a moral imperative that must be accomplished.

Choices can be long lasting and life changing. We can choose a course of action however, we cannot choose the consequences that result.

Peace Action stands in solidarity with your efforts to reduce the use of nuclear power. The meltdowns in Fukushima and Chernobyl remind us of what happens when an enormous amount of radiations is released overtime. Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated and many communities were displaced. With many nuclear facilities aging, and, if the industry's current track record is any indication, we must act now to prevent major meltdowns in the future.

We all know there is no safe reliable solution for dealing with the storage of radioactive waste produced by nuclear plants and weapons. In the U.S. radioactive wastes have leached into the environment in sites all over the country. There simply is no safe place to store wastes that will remain hazardous for tens of

thousands of years. Future generations will likely pay for poor choices made decades ago and those being made today as well.

Peace Action supports the Green New Deal. Climate change is a real issue that has begun to affect the environment as a whole. Sea levels are rising, temperature climbing, and we continue to see many effects of the climate chaos we already face that harm and exploit poor and indigenous communities, while enabling business as usual for wealthy polluters.

The U.S. military is the single largest consumer of fossil fuel in the world and has the biggest carbon footprint. It is also the planet's single biggest polluter. And the U.S. military knows – and has said on numerous occasions – that climate change is a clear and present threat to international stability and our own national security. They call climate change a 'threat multiplier'.

Tomorrow's conflicts are most likely going to result from resource competition, drought, famine and extreme poverty. Climate change will hasten these conflicts and make antagonists all the more desperate. All this increases the threat of nuclear war.

It is illogical to think that threatening nuclear war can resolve conflict or the use of nuclear weapons can win a war. The creator of all that is on the earth put it here to provide, nurture and sustain, not kill, maim, and destroy. The development of such horrific ammunition is an attack against creation. There is no conflict so great and urgent that should cause the use of such dangerous weapons.

Yes, as humans there will always be conflict, no two people are alike. However, there are many ways nations can resolve conflict without going to war or using nuclear weapons that would do more harm to the innocent than the guilty.

Why can't we learn to work out our differences without using nuclear weapons? What is the real reason that countries have these dangerous weapons? Why can't the funds that are used for bombs be used for humanity? These and many more questions just like them have been asked over and over again. When we wonder why progress toward a future of peace and justice seems to be blocked by an immovable force, we find that something, usually greed is preventing forward movement.

Let me end with reminding us that no big success occurs without the collective forces of many small voices organizing through grassroots efforts. There are so many movements that have achieved great success after much suffering. Your work is already a part of history and your purpose has and will continue. It took many years for other great movements in human history to achieve triumph and so will Hibakusha and Gensuikyo.

Thank you for the friendship that has been

fostered over the years between Gensuikyo and Peace Action. We will continue to work with you toward a world that would be free of nuclear weapons. Helen Keller says it simply, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Chloé Meulewaeter Centre Delàs of Studies for Peace Spain

Dear Hibakushas, dear organizers, dear participants, dear friends of peace. My name is Chloé Meulewaeter. It is an honour for me to attend the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs as a collaborator of the Centre Delàs for Studies for Peace in Barcelona, as a phd student of Peace Culture at the University of Granada, and as a peace activist.

Before the world conference began, I had already had the privilege of hearing Hibakusha's testimony on two occasions. In 2015 the Peace Boat docked at the port of Barcelona, and last November it stopped near Granada. I was shocked by the horror of their experience as much as I was impressed by the strength they deploy so that the world would never again have to regret such a disaster. I welcome the incredible efforts that all of you are making to raise awareness among civil society, the media and politicians about the dangers of the atomic bomb. Thank you.

From the Delàs Center for Peace Studies, we work to denounce the dangers of the increasing militarization of our societies, which inexorably leads to suffering, human rights violations, the deterioration of the planet, and war. We participate in various international campaigns such as ICAN, GCOMS (the Global Campaign on Military Spending), and the Armed Banking, working to raise awareness among media, civil society and politics. The Centre combines the work of research and publication with divulgation and social mobilization against militarism's consequences, such as military expenditure, military R&D and the manufacture and trade of arms. Besides, it works to denounce governments' lack of compliance with the international agreements regulating these issues.

Personally, I have been working on the issue of military spending, and its relationship to the arms trade, armed conflict and global warming. The thesis we argue is that military spending is the first step in the process of militarization of a society, which we call the military economic cycle. It states that the responsibility for the facility with which military violence is committed stands in the inertia of the military economic cycle, which is based on the annual approval of the defence spending of a country. Indeed,

through the demand the Army puts on the arms industry, the defence budget - and military expenditure in general - is responsible for ensuring that military industries are able to maintain sustained production and supply in the arms markets, and that arms are thus produced, exported and imported, and finally used in armed conflicts contexts.

Did you know that the latest SIPRI data estimated world military spending in 2018 at \$1,822 billion? If we counted one dollar for every second, it would take 58,000 years to reach this figure, which has never been so high in history. Indeed, over the past decades, military expenditure has drastically increased. SIPRI estimates that global military spending was US \$1005 billion in 1997 and rose to US \$1686 billion in 2017, which means almost 60% increase in 20 years. This figure is the highest since the end of the Cold War and increases significantly after 5 years of stagnation.

As a theoretical framework, the military economic cycle provides an understanding of why military spending must be reduced to keep the possibility and probability of war at bay. Indeed, the increase of the military spending supposes more military R&D, more arms production, more arms trade, and finally the use of these weapons, which obviously causes human disasters, but also environmental disasters. The following renewed need for arms, leads to the annual approval of public defence budget, again and again. In addition to that direct violence committed to humans and the planet, military spending generates structural violence by creating a huge opportunity cost limiting the possibility to finance disarmament policies. Limiting the opportunity to finance social policies for gender equality, education and health. The economic resources for the military cannot be allocated to policies for a culture of peace, to learn to transform conflicts in a nonviolent way. They cannot be used to mitigate climate change and foster climate resilience. Military spending is an enormous opportunity cost that prevents the financing of policies that are truly related to the security of people and the planet.

When I first redacted this speech, I was asked to share some news about the Spanish agreement to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Indeed, in September 2018, two left-wing political parties in Spain agreed to sign the Treaty if the results of the next elections would allow them to run the country. Back then we were hoping Spain would be the next European country to position itself against the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. Despite the results of the elections that would have allowed the left to govern, the negotiations between the social democrat party and the progressive party have failed. It seems now that Spain has lost a unique opportunity to sign the Treaty.

Also, in Belgium, my home country, two political

parties, also left-wing and greens, have presented a bill to prohibit the presence of nuclear weapons in Belgium following a report confirming the presence of American nuclear weapons on Belgian territory. Although this information is not officially confirmed, Belgian peace movements can finally lobby to ban nuclear weapons from Belgium, and hopefully it will lead to a massive social reject of nuclear weapons.

Yesterday I was amazed to hear my colleagues speaking about climate change and its link to the military. As you know, the CO2 emissions by the military were explicitly excluded from the Kyoto Protocol in 1992, and although included in the 2015 Paris Agreement it is not mandatory for a country to reduce its military CO2 emissions. That's nonsense when the US Department of Defence itself admits that it is the world's largest consumer of oil. The military's responsibility on the threat of climate change is undeniable, and it is urgent to put this subject at the heart of our actions and research.

We have to work to build peace and provide it with the economic resources it needs, to ensure that the future is free of armed violence, and full of tools for the well-being and security of people and the planet.

As Vicent Martínez Guzmán, a Spanish philosopher who has worked all his life for peace, said, "we pacifists are the realists". And today I will add: "What is real is that the atomic bomb is inhuman. What is real is that the atomic bomb is the most despicable human invention. We, the pacifists are the realists".

Guerrero A.G. Saño Teach Peace, Build Peace/ International Youth Relay Marcher The Philippines

Greetings of PEACE!

10 years ago a French-Canadian man finished walking all the landmasses on planet earth and it sparked a small movement in the Philippines that walked for various causes. I was part of that group. 3 years after that, the strongest typhoon in recorded human history hit my father's hometown while I was there visiting friends and relatives and its powerful winds brought in 15 foot waves that killed 15,000 people instantly. Scientists pointed to global warming as the primary culprit.

I survived the supertyphoon but I lost 3 loved ones in that event. My brother was the Philippines' top climate diplomat that time. He stepped down from his government position and together we started walking for activism.

We vowed to tell the world about the climate

effects and the sufferings that comes with it so with 12 other peace and environment advocates, we chose the peaceful action of walking. We walked 1000 kilometers from Manila to Tacloban City, my father's hometown and ground zero of super typhoon Haiyan. Along the route, a college friend named Malaya Fabros arrived and joined in solidarity for 2 days. She happened to be the organizer of the Japan International Youth Relay and daughter of well respected peace activist and veteran anti nukes campaigner Corazon Fabros.

This paved the way for me to join my first Heiwa Koshin in 2015. That walk opened my mind and heart to the plight of the Hibakusha, instantly embracing their cause and adopting their call for a nuclear free world.

My 2nd walk in 2016 brought me to Fukushima where I witnessed devastation not just of the physical structures but of the society itself. The 3 kilometer radius zone was practically a dead zone, nothing but countless giant black bags filled with contaminated material that no other prefecture wants to have anything to do with.

Joining 2 more Peace Marches in 2017 and 2018 made me realize that the world faces 2 monsters that could be a real cause for humanity's demise: Climate Change and Nukes.

Both have the potential to cause widespread sufferings and permanent damages to the world and humanity. But both can be stopped if a majority of the global population will decide to take action.

As far as anti-nukes is concerned, the Hibakusha have taken action. They have been sounding the alarm since the 1940s and as the 75th year of the A-bombing approaches, we must go all the way behind them to push their call further.

As an activist, I chose the path that the Hibakusha had taken, which is to walk and connect to communities along the way. So far, I have walked more than 1500 kilometers in Japan and 3000 kilometers in Europe. As an artist, I chose to use my skill to advance the cause and amplify the message.

Art has changed society for centuries and it is not just about to become obsolete even in the fight versus our own extinction. In the past 5 Peace Marches that I joined, I collaborated with Gensuikyo, high schools, elementary schools, university students, teachers, laborers, medical practitioners, artists, musicians, advocates in communities In Saga, Okinawa, Tokyo, Shizuoka, Osaka, Fukushima, Miyagi and Aichi for art projects.

Last May, I started producing a book about 75 Hibakushas so that I can help further in amplifying their message of peace to the world in the hope of seeing their wish for a nuclear free world be transformed into reality or at least come close to it. 75

portraits, 75 pairs of eyes, 75 hand written messages, 75 witnesses to the horrors of nuclear bombs shall be immortalized in my book, for the world to see, feel, and understand. With the assistance of Gensuikyo, I hope to launch this book in 2020.

As we approach the 75th commemoration of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I call on all our partners from the different international delegations to rise above the status quo and push the hibakusha's peace agenda further to the world and involve the youth more, and employ creative means to fight for peace. Let us encourage young advocates from our own countries to join the international youth relay of Heiwa Koshin 2020.

We the Filipino activists will always be ready to walk with you.

Toguchi Osamu

All Okinawa Coalition Against New Construction of Henoko Base/ Head of the Japanese Communist Party Group in Okinawa Prefectural Assembly

I am Toguchi Osamu, head of the Japanese Communist Party Group in the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly. I also work as secretary of the All-Okinawa Council. I sincerely thank all of you, dear chairpersons and delegates from all over Japan and the world, for your support for Okinawans' struggles.

Thank you for allowing me to speak for the second time at this International Meeting, as I already spoke here in 2017. For the last two years, even in adverse conditions, our struggle has been making steady progress. I will focus on this in my speech today.

It has been 74 years since the Battle of Okinawa and 47 years since Okinawa's return to Japan. However, our prefecture which accounts for only 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area, is still made to host 70.4 percent of all U.S. military facilities in Japan. Okinawans continue to suffer from accidents, crimes committed by U.S. soldiers and all other incidents that occur because of the presence of U.S. bases. Although it is officially claimed that the nuclear weapons were removed from Okinawa on its return to Japan, a secret agreement between Japan and the U.S. still allows the U.S. to bring them back into Okinawa in the event of emergency.

The Japanese government is now conducting landfill work in one of the world's richest and most precious seas at Henoko in Nago City, mobilizing riot police to remove the protesters sitting in by force. It aims at building a new base capable of serving for 200 years that will be offered to the U.S. for military use.

There is no other country in the world that dares

to deny the will of its people, to deny democracy, human rights, and local autonomy, and to oppress its own citizens in order to build a base for the free use by foreign troops.

The Abe administration can no longer claim that Japan is democratically governed. What it is doing in Okinawa is no different than the actions taken by a high-handed dictatorial government.

However, the more the government attacks Okinawans to force them to give up, the more united they become to continue fighting. Their struggle is now expanding widely in Japan and the world.

Regarding the abolition of nuclear weapons, the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly on July 6 of last year unanimously adopted a statement calling on the Japanese government to officially nullify the bilateral secret nuclear agreement; maintain the Three Non-Nuclear Principles; firmly refuse the redeployment of nuclear weapons in Okinawa; conduct an investigation into the situation regarding ammunition depots in Henoko and Kadena, and support, sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

In November 2017, the All-Okinawa Council received the Seán MacBride Peace Prize from the International Peace Bureau. This distinction has given tremendous courage and bright prospects to Okinawans who have been fighting for a long time. I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the IPB president and the people concerned.

Right before this World Conference, IPB Co-President Reiner Braun visited Okinawa, observed the sites of struggle and interacted with the residents. At a symposium held a few days ago, he said, "Okinawa is not isolated, [that] the People of Okinawa can win a victory if they fight [together] with people around the world, [and that the] IPB would like to invite the All-Okinawa Council to become [a] member." I was so touched and encouraged by these words that my body trembled with resolve. We are proud to be able to fight with the IPB. Thank you very much.

On July 31, 2018, former Okinawa Governor Onaga Takeshi's tenacious approaches bore fruit when the National Governors' Association, representing governors of all 47 prefectures, unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Japanese government to apply domestic laws to the U.S. forces and to drastically revise the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement to that end. This was a landmark event realized for the first time in Japanese political history. At its general meeting this year, the association confirmed that it will continue to work on this issue. Former Governor Onaga's life-risking struggle, Governor Tamaki Denny's steadfast efforts and Okinawans' fight have moved the National Governors' Association to take such a clear position.

To our regret, Governor Onaga Takeshi suddenly passed away on August 8, 2018. However, residents of Okinawa have overcome their sorrow and keep fighting unyieldingly.

In the gubernatorial election on September 30, we won the victory of Tamaki Denny, Onaga's heir, with the largest number of votes ever.

I am the head of the general planning committee of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly. In late January, the committee visited Germany and Italy to investigate the status of forces agreements these countries concluded with the U.S. forces. In Italy, we had a meeting with a former commander of the NATO Fifth Air Force.

First, it was sobering for me to see the huge difference between these countries and Japan, in terms of the actual status of U.S. bases, emphasizing the aberrant situation in Japan. Second, while these two European countries are striving to preserve their sovereignty, the Japanese government remains so abnormally subordinated to the U.S. that we felt ashamed of being Japanese citizens. Third, conversely, I realized that we can change the status of Okinawa and Japan if the Japanese government resolutely faces the U.S. to defend Japan's sovereignty.

In Italy, a former prime minister and a former military commander expressed their outrage by saying that U.S. bases in Okinawa are "so aberrant" that it is impossible to imagine such bases in any other part of the world. They said that the problem is the Japanese government which has left the issue for a long time since the end of World War II. At the same time, they encouraged us by telling us that they believed the situation in Okinawa could change if we stood up with reason.

Last February, a prefectural referendum was held directly asking residents if they supported or opposed the landfill work for the construction of a new U.S. base in Henoko. The result shows that an enormous majority of 72% of voters were opposed to the landfill work.

All-Okinawa candidates won two successive overwhelming victories in the House of Representatives by-election in the 3rd Okinawa district in April and the House of Councilors election in July. We will continue to demonstrate Okinawans' collective will at every occasion.

The House of Councilors election in July was an epoch-making event for Okinawans' struggle. Opposition parties were able to jointly support their united candidates in all 32 single-seat constituencies throughout Japan. As a result, 10 of them got elected. In their jointly agreed policy, opposition parties for the first time took up an Okinawa-related agenda including cancellation of the construction of a U.S. base in Henoko and an immediate halt to operation of

the Futenma base and its closure and return. This was a major historic step showing that the All-Okinawa struggle is expanding to become an All-Japan struggle.

To bring together the struggles of Okinawans and other Japanese citizens in order to force the Abe administration to step down is the shortest path to dismantle the Futenma base and scrap the Henoko base construction plan. This is also a way to advance towards a bright future for Okinawa and the rest of Japan. Let us take steps forward along this path.

Friends, our struggle is directed against the Japanese and U.S. governments and thus it is accompanied by very difficult challenges. However, reason and justice rest with us. We are never isolated. Our struggle is steadily expanding in Japan and the world. We will never give up. Let us fight together to win a victory. The future is in our hands.

Reiner Braun International Peace Bureau (IPB)

Thank you so much for the invitation. It is always an honor and a pleasure for IPB to take part in this conference and the various events commemorating the first nuclear bombing.

This international conference was and continues to be an open place to express thoughts and opinions, and this is exactly what I want to do today. I am deeply concerned about the current international situation; we are facing not only the outbreak of a great war, but also an increasingly threatening environmental and climate disasters, both disasters of which could irreversibly destroy our world.

Nevertheless, aren't we already living in a time of war? A study conducted by the Swedish Peace Research (SIPRI) highlights 12 wars and 36 armed conflicts in 2018. We are also currently experiencing a tremendous wave of arms race, emphasized particularly through the \$729 billion armament expenditures of the United States and the 1.2 trillion of NATO.

We know that most conventional weapons that are produced and acquired are also used somewhere in the world.

We are witnessing a major modernization of nuclear weapons by all nuclear powers, possibly even a deployment of new land-based medium-range missiles in Europe. The global arms control system, which was even in the past very limited, is still significantly lacking.

The success of the Ban Treaty - as important as it is for the anti-nuclear weapons movement - is not even a drop in the ocean against this modernization of all kinds of nuclear weapons by all nuclear weapon

countries.

We are also waging war daily against nature; the capitalist profit system but we as individuals are destroying our own livelihoods and our planet as if we had three. Forests are being burned and resources are unrestrainedly exploited for profit. The imperial system and consumerism threaten to destroy not only our livelihoods, but those of future generations as well.

The peak of this irrationality is man-made global warming, whereby man-made is only one part of the truth. It is the profit of the multinationals and the returns of the 1% that significantly affects our lives and are currently making us burn up, in the truest sense of the word.

Is this our destiny? How can this madness be averted? Can it be stopped at all?

The answer is yes and yes again! War and destruction are caused by the people, so they can also be stopped by the people. It is us, the people, who write and shape history. We should never forget that!

The first step which is needed is developing solidarity and cooperation between all those who want to save this planet from war, destruction and profit. We are damned to work together!

To quote "the international," the most famous anthem from the socialist movement: We can only save ourselves from injustice if we do it ourselves.

The hundreds of thousands, even millions, of schoolchildren who leave school and take to the streets all over the world - in Germany every Friday called the Fridays for Future Movement - are telling us loud and clear that they are taking their futures into their own hands. We are currently witnessing the beginning of a significantly unique youth movement that has taken a clear stand in their documents: "Climate change threatens world peace." Developing a strong cooperation with this growing movement would be, without a question, an unbelievable opportunity for the peace movement.

Here it is also important to consider:

The young people act against climate change but many of them not work against nuclear weapons. Climate change needs for them urgent actions, nuclear weapons not. They are used to nuclear weapons, they are not an urgent danger. What an illusion and what a challenge for us.

While climate change is currently being considered above all by the young generation as one of the greatest climate crises facing humanity, the threat of nuclear weapons is often being pushed aside or downplayed by individuals and countries. This explains why we have so many active players in climate change but not in the prevention of nuclear weapons. The situation was very different in the 1980s, where nuclear weapons were perceived as a much greater threat than climate change (the movement was

only beginning at that point). What we must realize, and what I want to emphasize today, is that these are two major challenges that have to be tackled *together* rather than separately. Nuclear weapons and climate change are the great challenges and we will only win and survive when we overcome both.

One thing is clear for me: there are many social movements. To name a few examples:

- The women's strike in Switzerland
- The anti-racism and migrant movement in the USA
- The protests against the right-wing radical president in Brazil
- The worldwide movements against neoliberal globalization and unfair trade
- For Democracy in Hong Kong

This shows that we do not stand at the mercy of ruling politics. Protest is quite everywhere. The current approaches and actions are promising but not strong enough. What we need is a worker's movement that puts its original idea of social emancipation back at the center of action.

The progressive religious actions are mostly missing - but also solidarity and cooperation in general. An almost egocentric individualism, a component of the neoliberal ideology, is preventing the development of solidarity actions. The fear that right-wing radical currents, authoritarianism, competitive thinking and xenophobia are currently on the rise is not entirely wrong.

These remarks are not meant for an introduction to a university seminar or a sociological work, but are meant to raise a question that moves us all: what is the current standing of the worldwide peace movement, perhaps the most important traditional movement for humanity? In 2003, the New York Times called it the "2nd superpower."

Let me summarize my conclusion: the peace movement is currently too weak in almost every country in the world to be a socially moving factor. It is present and active, but far too small to be able to become a powerful opposition force. It is a popular force, but it is currently not moving people to the extent that it is leading to big actions.

To change this is our challenge - In the words of Berta von Suttner, the first female Nobel Peace Prize laureate: "as long as our heart beats for peace, we must win over the hearts of all people for peace". It is clear that we will only find answers to this challenge together, so the following remarks are just a few thoughts for discussion and controversy:

- No action that mobilizes or sensitizes people is pointless if it is embedded in education and information. This is the basis for future mass

movements.

- We must seek, develop and shape cooperation with the youth movement in order to save our planet. Climate and peace are two sides of the same coin.
- Rejuvenation is an international challenge for IPB and many other national peace movements. The acceptance that each generation has its own approaches to peace is vital.
- The environmental movement and the peace movement must come together to save the planet – It is not only the rejection of the "Nuclear" unites us.
- We will have no future if we do not develop a closer network of the various social movements. All of them need peace and disarmament for their own important issues and interests.
- We must find a way to make social media ours and use it much more extensively to spread information and become connected.
- International cooperation among the various peace movements worldwide must be expanded: we need to develop a global network of peace and social movements. IPB can actively contribute to this. In many countries, mainly due to historical and repression reasons, peace organizations need yet to be founded and developed.
- Within the peace movements, on a national and international level, we must also think about content and structural improvements and innovations that must be made. Here IPB would like to introduce two core demands: Worldwide disarmament and the abolition of all nuclear weapons in order to ensure our survival and a political transformation.
- Without greater commitment on the part of women - who are much more strongly represented in grassroots activities than in international and national decision-making bodies - there can be no peace. This applies to peace movements in quite all countries.

Every great transformation begins with a first step: I suggest that we start rebuilding ourselves through the diverse actions planned against nuclear weapons in 2020, the actions taking place before and after the NPT Conference (World Congress and demonstration), as well as the worldwide actions that will be taking place on the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, including the anniversary of the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Undoubtedly, we must also launch campaigns against NATO's desired armament upgrade to 2% of GDP and against arms exports. We have to strengthen

the campaigns against military spending.

Peace is the “Ultima Ratio,” said Nobel Peace Prize laureate Willi Brandt. In order to achieve this, we need to act together.

Statements:

Nagao Yuri

Vice President, National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren)

I am Nagao Yuri from Zenroren, the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Japan. The runaway politics of the Abe administration aimed at disrupting Japan-Korea relations is continuing. Feeling like I cannot sit still, I am taking the floor.

On August 2nd, the Abe Cabinet made a decision to exclude the Republic of Korea from the list of favorable status nations called “whitelist”. It was because they failed to obtain a satisfactory solution on the problem of the “Korean forced laborers” and hence because they thought that the relationship of mutual trust with the ROK was seriously undermined. Yet, it was a totally unreasonable response to mix the political problem with the economic relations. Besides, their allegation that Korea’s export control system and its management are inadequate is not supported by any specific evidence. Nor is it raised by any other country. It is apparently a measure of reprisal.

I want the Abe administration to make sincere effort to have correct cognizance of history on Japan’s colonial rules, or at least try to understand it. Above all I want to demand that it should sit at a diplomatic table. The Abe Administration intends to divide between the ROK and Japan. But we are continuing our interaction on civil society level. This stream cannot stop.

I used to be a high school teacher, and my students had school trips to the ROK, where they learned history, studied each other and thought about our future. In a short period of time high school students of both countries experienced warm learning process.

In this last May 30 to 31, civil society organizations from Japan and Korea, including Gensuikyo, jointly organized the “Japan-ROK International Forum for a Nuclear-Free and Peaceful Northeast Asia.” Very lively and energetic discussions at the forum provided an opportunity for our participants to think over the importance to change the Japanese government, which was desperately pressing for the revision of the Japanese Constitution, including Article 9, while refusing to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Testimonies by Korean Hibakusha struck me greatly at the Forum as they had done at the World

Conference last year. Taken to Japan by force due to Japan’s colonial policy and having suffered from the A-bombing, they are dual victims of Japan’s colonial rule and as Hibakusha. Deeply understanding their hardship, the Forum participants had a fresh determination to promote together the campaign for the relief and solidarity with the Hibakusha. The fact that there were Hibakusha in Korea, too, weighed anew upon me. With the joint-statement adopted by the Forum, we renewed our commitment to make every effort to reach the goal of the International Hibakusha Appeal signature campaign. Our cause for solidarity between Japan and Korea thus took new steps forward in abolishing nuclear weapons and building support for and solidarity with the Hibakusha.

Following the Forum in Seoul in May, a Japan-Korea solidarity rally and a symposium were held in Tokyo on June 7 and 9 sponsored by the “All-Out Action Committee to Stop the War and Scrapping of Article 9” and some others.

Zenroren and the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, KCTU, have agreed that as trade unions in Asia we would strengthen cooperation on many issues, including equal treatment of the non-regular workers and increase in minimum wage. Further, working in the backward countries in gender equality index, we both agreed on the importance of the mutual cooperation on this issue, too. We are confident that nothing can stop the interaction on the civil society level, as it goes in everywhere, such as Korean movie, TV drama or K-POP music.

The World Conference has been a place of gathering and exchange of views between representatives of governments and civil society movements for the abolition of nuclear weapons and peace. I am so excited to hear a proposal that we will have a world conference in New York next year. Let us get together in New York in April, as well as Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 2020.

Now Korean people at rallies in Korea uphold a sign saying “NO ABE”. Japanese people, too, have put up “ABE NO” sign for 6 years. We had enough of it and it’s too long. To help to build an East Asia of peace, let me conclude my remark by reaffirming my commitment to the struggle to end Abe politics, defend and revitalize Article 9 of the Constitution, and have a government that will participate in the TPNW.

Raja Nafa
Oleander Initiative/ University of the
Middle East Project
Jordan

It is a statement I want to share and not a question.

Good morning, I am Raja from Jordan an educator for the past 30 years of my life. I am a member of the Oleander initiative which is one of the programs of the UME projects that bring educators from all around the world to exchange experiences and skills and to discuss relevant issues that are of our students' well-being. We are impressed and thrilled to listen to all the presenters in this meeting.

Listening to the Hibakushas stories of survival and their description of the ugly face of wars and the suffering they endured since the atomic bombs was a great lesson for all of us that touched our hearts and our souls. One of my American colleagues was in tears so many times when she saw the suffering of people from the Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and felt so guilty that she asked students from schools we visited "I am American, do you hate me?"

As teachers, we promise the Hibakushas that we will take all their testimonies about their suffering of the atomic bombing to our classrooms and the lesson we learned about the great resilience of the Japanese people, who showed great tolerance, that is our promise to them.

One more thing, I would like to share my personal fear from the growth of the nuclear weapons in the middle East, where there is always conflicts and wars, as I live next to Israel State who did not sign any agreement with any of the world agencies about their nuclear programs and close to Iran who is accused of working on atomic bomb program. It is amazing how Israel atomic bombs production is blessed by the United States president and while the Iran program is pursued aggressively.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Mercedes Llarinas-Angeles
Peace Women Partners International

Greetings of peace to all of you. I pay my respects to the great people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and most of all to the Hibakusha.

The Peace Women Partners, founded in 2005, is an organization of women who are united by our vision of a world where war and all forms of violence against women are ended. We have gathered women from Asia Pacific and Oceania together in two International Conferences on Women, Peace and

Security, where we shared stories of women's actions towards creating a Peaceful and Just world.

Today I shall speak about how women are continuing to re-discover our POWER TO CREATE a better life and a different world – through our work in our own communities. In the Philippines, women farmers of KASAMMAKA (Unity of Women Farmers in Western Mindanao) have emerged from their poverty and powerlessness during Marcos martial law days. They are taking control of their lives through organic farming and seed production. They provide food security to their families and community, and they are recognized leaders in advancing economic, social and political rights.

In Mindanao, Philippines, Moro (Filipino Muslim), Lumad (non-Muslim indigenous peoples), and the migrant women of the Mindanao Tri-People Women Forum and Mindanao People's Peace Movement campaigned together with other sectors to pass the Bangsamoro Organic Law. Filipinos hope this would finally bring peace to Mindanao after decades of civil war. Indigenous women from various tribes, such as the Teduray, are chieftains and leaders in the setting up of communities of peace. They also lead opposition to mining and other government projects that deprive them of their ancestral lands and destroy the environment.

In Jeju Island, South Korea, women are at the forefront of the resistance to the construction of the Jeju Naval Base, and the building of a second airport, knowing that these shall make Jeju Island another lily pad to launch the US wars in Asia. Daily they show their resistance through prayer, dance, demonstrations and other peaceful actions in front of the gates of the Naval Base. This July 29, the people of Jeju Island began the week-long Grand March for Life and Peace to tell the world that they will not stop till they regain their island.

Here in Japan, women Hibakusha are active in the global campaign to ban Nuclear Weapons. This has culminated to the ratification of the 2017 United Nations Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons, the first legally-binding instrument outlawing nuclear weapons in the world.

In February 2020, the Peace Women Partners shall hold in Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines, our third International Conference on Women, Peace and Security with the theme: WOMEN CREATE: A DIFFERENT WORLD. I invite you to come and share your stories of women empowerment.

Let me end by reciting lines from this poem of the Peace Women Partners' Vision:

We will not be silenced
We will not accept their wars
We shall pray speak sing dance

write fight for peace

*until all flames of war
are extinguished.*

*Peace and harmony shall reign
over all our lands.*

Nityalila Saulo

DAKILA - Philippine Collective for Modern Heroism/ International Youth Relay Marcher

The Philippines

*(Statement at the Exchange Forum for Citizens and
Overseas Delegates, August 5)*

My name is Nityalila Saulo from the Philippines.

I am a singer-songwriter, a peace and climate justice advocate, and council member for a non-profit organization, Dakila – an organization campaigning on human rights through the arts.

I am one of the international relay peace marchers. I marched with Yamaguchi San together with the people of Okayama prefecture and Hiroshima Prefecture. Together, we walked the distance of 300kms for 20 days. Throughout my journey as a peace marcher, I met with many individuals, families, Hibakushas, and saw many beautiful places of Japan.

This is why joining this peace march is very important to me because war has destroyed many families, homes, dreams, and our environment. And I am here today because I want to add my voice in putting an end to using nuclear weapon and I want to tell stories of giving instead of grieving.

Greed has occupied the hearts of many politicians, world leaders, and corporations and their actions are threatening our rights, our freedom, our dignity, and our lives.

Walking for me is the most simple way to participate in this peace movement. When we walk, we are choosing to W – Wake up, A – Action (acting together), L – Listen to each other's stories, and K – Kindness, planting the seed of kindness in every footstep.

I see a lot of old people in the crowd and I want to thank all of you for being my inspiration. I want to honor Mr. Yamaguchi San – he is 87 years old and he marched from Tokyo to Hiroshima to light the torch of hope and to continue to defend peace. My hope is that, we gather and mobilize more youth to continue what the likes of Mr. Yamaguchi has done and continues to do.

Thank you Japan for being a symbol of home and peace and as a peace marcher, Hiroshima may be our physical destination, but our real destination are your

hearts.

Art has the power to illuminate, transform, educate, and inspire, during my peace march, I wrote a song called “Sama Sama” – which means To Come Together (*Issho ni*). Let me invite you to sing with me and together, let us walk and march forward in defending PEACE for all humanity.

Emily Rubino

Peace Action New York State U.S.A.

*(Statement at the Exchange Forum for Citizens and
Overseas Delegates, August 5)*

There's almost nothing I can say about the situation in the U.S. that many of you are not already aware of. The US was founded on slavery and genocide, and continues to perpetuate violence domestically and abroad. The US has over 800 military bases in over 70 countries and territories around the world, and the presence of these bases is another form of US imperialism and colonialism.

Though the US has always been a violent and militaristic country, under the Trump Administration we are facing even more challenges in our work towards peace. From the rise of overt white supremacy and right-wing ideology to our aggression and disregard of treaties globally, it is difficult - if not impossible- to stay focused on only one cause. The climate crisis, the crisis at the southern US border, the attack on LGBTQ rights, and the threatening of war with Iran- these are just some of the urgent tasks that we must work together to solve. Though Trump's erratic and hateful behavior is meant to overwhelm and exhaust activists, our work is tireless. It began before he was president and will continue long after he leaves office.

At Peace Action New York State, we are doing our best to end the endless US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, prevent war with Iran, end US involvement in the world's worst humanitarian crisis in Yemen, and of course, we are always working to abolish nuclear weapons. We do this by engaging our network, creating educational materials, contacting elected officials, organizing demonstrations, and engaging in electoral work.

Our big emphasis is on youth engagement. We currently have 20 campus chapters across New York State that I work closely with. We provide them with the education, resources, and other tools they need to advocate for peace on their campuses and to engage their peers. The students I work with are also very good at connecting domestic social justice struggles with international peace issues, which is extremely

important if we want to see the peace movement grow and expand. One thing we always make sure that we do is to center the voice of those most affected by US foreign policy. The same way the Hibakusha have led the anti-nuclear movement, we must always work in solidarity with and follow the lead of other victims of US war and violence.

In order to expand the peace movement, we must also continue to build strong relationships with related movements and make sure that we are not just inviting other people to join our movement through our words, but also through our actions: by going out and supporting other movements as well.

In New York City, we have already begun working to prepare for the 2020 NPT Conference and the world conference in New York City, and we are also working on a new campus incubator project through a grant we received through the Ploughshares Women's Initiative. This grant will allow us to bring students to our annual student conference to engage in intensive anti-nuclear education and work together to plan and develop campus-specific projects to bring this information back to their peers. We hope that this will include expanding Hibakusha appeal signature campaigns, working on a no first use nuclear policy, and locally working on city-level campaigns such as the ICAN cities appeal, the Back from the Brink Campaign, and the Move the Money campaign. Also in the US, there generally needs to be more education on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Since the US did not participate in the TPNW conference, many people do not know that it happened, as it was not covered in mainstream media.

We have a large task ahead of us, but I do believe by uniting movements and using our collective pressure and power, we will one day see a peaceful and just world.

Abdesslame Jebli Oleander Initiative/ University of the Middle East Project Morocco

Ladies and gentlemen, I am Abdesslame Jebli from Morocco. I am an educator, but I am here as a learner about the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing. My prior knowledge about this issue was limited to a mere event, a date and a few casualties that occurred in a distant Eastern land called Japan; it was more like a piece of news than an atrocious act of dropping a thunderous bomb resulting in inexplicable harm causing plights have affected generations to come. The only explanation provided by the teacher was that it was a means to end what could have an endless

war....No empathy, no sympathy, not even a critical discussion followed that lesson... Now I am more knowledgeable and have gained more insight into the plights and the ubiquitous suffering triggered by the so-called "wise decision to end a war" thanks to the insightful speeches we listened to and the Hibakusha testimonials we were exposed to, which will enable me to convey a more emotional and empathic attitude to my students and surrounding.

As a believer in peace, I am aware now more than ever before that peace education can have a say in this respect and we educators can pave the way towards a better world by changing the mindset of future generations. Generations that will think twice before pressing the button to cause death with lethal weapons for any reason (hegemony or survival). When educators are true believers in peace, they will not change the world, of course, but they can change people who will change the world into a peaceful globe where genius is used to fight death rather than invent its tools! So, ladies and gentlemen, EDUCATION is a strong weapon that can be used to abolish A and H bombs, by changing the minds of war wizards into peace angels!

Before closing my intervention, I would like to shed light on a quotation that has been repeated in precedent speeches: **FORGIVE, BUT DO NOT FORGET**. I would humbly suggest a slight change for the nuance and say: **Forgive AND forget** so as to start afresh for a new better future and let bygones be bygones! Sometimes harm is a blessing in disguise!

A final message is in the name of the Oleander Initiative Program, which has made my attendance to this prestigious conference possible. It is different in form and protocol and I hope it would be of good taste to Mr Joseph Gerson who is going to thankfully read it.

An oleander twig from Morocco- *bowing to the lowest height in humility to the local 'hibakusha'* oleander- that will share a piece of advice with mankind in a small manuscript wrapped in a Moroccan tarboosh- a token from country-, which I will hand in to Mr Joseph Gerson to read:

".....So there is considerable irony in a US American receiving this in the conference, but with humility I'll read it:

In the name of all creatures of the world I solemnly remind mankind that:

**DARKNESS CANNOT DRIVE OUT
DARKNESS ; ONLY LIGHT CAN DO SO,
HATRED CANNOT DRIVE OUT
HATRED ; ONLY LOVE CAN DO SO.**

And this is a quotation from another American: Martin Luther King:

"Thank you very much sir! Since people have ceased listening to one another, I hope we can lend a

sympathetic ear to the oleander twig so to “forgive and forget.”

Ellen Thomas
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - US Section
U.S.A.

Twenty-five years ago I was invited to speak at the Japan Peace Conference in Misawa City, to share the news that Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton had introduced legislation into the U.S. House of Representatives calling for abolition of nuclear weapons and conversion of the war industries to provide for human needs, which she introduced as a result of a voter initiative that the antinuclear vigilers in front of the White House had brought to the people of Washington, DC. At that time the vigil had existed for 13 years.

Eighteen years ago Gensuikyo invited me to come to the World Conference Against A and H Bombs to give you all an update about that legislation, and about the 20th anniversary of the antinuclear vigil.

Since then two of the founders of the White House peace vigil, William Thomas and Concepcion Picciotto, have died, and I have moved to the mountains of North Carolina to take care of my mother, but the White House vigil continues, day and night, thanks to Philipos Melaku-Bello and others. If you have a chance to visit Washington, DC, please stop by and say hello!

Thankfully, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has continued to introduce her "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act" into the House of Representatives every two years for the past quarter of a century. The language of the bill (HR-2419) has been revised this session to require that the United States ratify the 2017 U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and to use the 1.7 trillion dollars President Trump wants to spend on modernizing the nuclear weapons program instead to transform our war economy to a carbon-free, nuclear-free peace economy. You may have heard about the "Green New Deal" that several legislators have introduced to address the very real dangers of climate change. Norton's bill would provide the funding for workers to retrain and industries to re-tool their factories to create this peace economy.

Every session, Norton's bill has been referred to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees, where it has remained stuck. This session, perhaps because of the U.N. Treaty, it has been referred to the Armed Services'

subcommittee on Strategic Forces. We are hopeful that if enough U.S. residents ask the Committee members to approve the legislation, they may move it along for a vote by all 435 Representatives. And we hope that we can find a Senator who will introduce the bill into the Senate.

I am delighted to be able to be with you this year, along with Nuri Ronaghy and Alan Shorb, representing Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US Section. We have brought with us greetings from dozens of people we met with on a tour of California before flying to Japan, and over 8,000 signatures collected by WILPF members at events all over the country on our petition to the US Senate asking for ratification of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which we will deliver in Nagasaki to Hidankyo to be included with the "Hibakusha Appeal."

Thank you for your continuous efforts to create a nuclear-weapons-free planet!

Nuri Ronaghy
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - US Section
U.S.A.

I was born in Iran and have been in the US for over 50 years working for Peace with Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women for Racial and Economic Equality, and have established the US Department of Peace as a Peace organization because the US government refuses to be peaceful. I am sickened by the US government currently trying to drum up war with Iran, particularly since Iran is nearby to 5 nuclear countries (Israel, India, Pakistan, China and Russia) and any US aggression against Iran would almost certainly spiral out of control and become a nuclear conflagration that would end human life as we know it.

On behalf of my fellow American citizens, I apologize for and am ashamed of the US atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I am deeply pained that we can't bring back the people who suffered and died as the result of these attacks. We need to use our humanity and knowledge to stop nuclear and any kind of war. I also apologize for the US internment camps for people of Japanese descent in the Second World War. The US is currently treating refugees from countries we have oppressed in the same way, and even in some of the same camps. I am honored and proud that Japanese-Americans are vigorously protesting this treatment. And I finally apologize for the presence of so many

huge US military bases in Japan, and particularly in Okinawa. I want to recognize Ms Kozue Akibayashi of Japan for her recent international leadership of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, especially her work against the Okinawa bases.

When I was young, I used to read the Japanese Peace constitution written after the second World War, and particularly the reference to Peace in the Preamble:

"We, the Japanese people, ... resolved that never again shall we be visited with the horrors of war through the action of government.

"We desire peace for all time and we have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world." as well as the text of Article 9:

"Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes.

"In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized."

Iran has mutual respect and commercial relationship with Japan that benefits both countries, while the US is trying to destabilize that relationship. We must try our best to stop imperialist war and destruction, and maintain peaceful global relationships between our countries.

Shankar Lal Shrestha **Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization of Nepal (AAPSO Nepal)**

On behalf of Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization of Nepal (AAPSO Nepal), we extend our warm greetings to all the delegate members gathered here to attend the commemorative seventy four anniversary of the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. We sincerely thank to the Organizing Committee for inviting us to participate in 2019 World Conference.

The first atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima on August 6 and in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, the biggest ever man-made holocaust in the history of human civilization. The nuclear bomb was used against the innocent people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In Hiroshima about 200000 and in Nagasaki 1,40000 peace-loving people were instantly killed, the most heinous crime against humanity. The August 6

and 9 are listed as the black-days and black spot that mark all of us ashamed.

The nuclear weapons pose great threat to world peace and human civilization, but nuclear power countries still are not prepared to destroy them to ensure the avoidance of the tragic past.

According to the data of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, approximately 23000 overall nuclear weapons in the world are possessed by 9 countries USA, Russia, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. Likewise, according to the World Nuclear Association (WNA), there are around 435 nuclear power reactors and about 55 safe nuclear power plants are already under construction. Nuclear terrorism has become a great risk and the spread of nuclear weapons and expansion of nuclear program have further aggravated the world situation.

The geopolitical location of Nepal in Asia with China in the north and India and Pakistan in South, is surrounded from all sides by nuclear power countries. The nuclear program of these countries are of great concern to Nepal too. So, we have a common cause with the peoples of Japan and other countries.

China, India and Pakistan produce nuclear arsenal and weapons and stockpile them every year, threatening peace, prosperity and development in South Asia. These countries have competition with each other in producing nuclear weapons and arsenals. It has resulted in fears to the world community of an arms race openly declared in South Asia. It may cause, radiation hazards to ecological condition of Himalayas Region, including Mount Everest (Sagarmatha) in Nepal. Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, the SAARC countries that do not have any nuclear plants.

We believe that the stockpiles of nuclear weapons is a serious threat to the world peace and human development. Both cannot go together. We must strive and promote solidarity for nuclear free world through nuclear disarmament process and peace movement in the world. We believe that the huge money and resources is being spent for the manufacturing of nuclear weapons should be diverted towards the poverty reduction by making good hospitals, educational institutes and creating employment of the underdeveloped countries in the world. This will help to pave to create peaceful world.

Under the threatening situation, our joint effort should prevent first regional and worldwide nuclear arms race. We should pressurize nuclear weapon countries for signing (those who have not signed) CTBT & NPT treaties.

Nuclear weapon detonation brings various undesired consequences detrimental to human environment. If nuclear power and radioisotopes are properly used they are boon for solving energy needs and nuclear medicine. But, if we make misuse of them

it will become bane and destroy the whole world. Therefore a total ban and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons is an urgent task for the survival of the human civilization. The world, without nuclear weapons, is an urgent demand the human community to preserve the world and the human beings.

In this context, Gensuikyo is playing a vital role by spreading messages through International Conference to make the lasting peace of the world free of nuclear weapons and has far reaching consequences in maintaining peace and harmony on a global level.

AAPSO Nepal's regular participation in the International Meeting of the World Conference against nuclearization shows our firm commitment towards the peace movement and we express our sincere solidarity with the Hibakushas, the atomic victims and the people of Japan against nuclear weapons aiming to abolish nuclear weapons and build a more peaceful and secure world.

On this 74th memorial day, on behalf of AAPSO Nepal, I would like to offer my utmost respect to the souls of those who died of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We wish very success of the 2019 World Conference organized by Gensuikyo.

No more nuclear weapons !

No more Hiroshimas !

No more Nagasakis !



Reference Paper:

Gediminas Rimdeika

Medical Doctor/ Green Party of Lithuania

A year will pass and for the 75th time we will tell the World:

NO MORE HIROSHIMA

NO MORE NAGASAKI

NO MORE BIKINI.

We will tell the World, that these wounds will never heal, and so the memories will stay alive. The president of the USA Barack Obama has once said that our generation is the first to feel the threat of the global warming, but at the same time we are the last generation, who can stop it. In other words, I would like to highlight that our generation must be the first and the last one on Earth to witness, understand and evaluate the disastrous consequences of nuclear bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hydrogen bombs in Bikini Atoll.

A numerous amounts of nuclear trials have been carried out on our planet Earth. During the period of 1946-1958 the USA alone has carried out 67 nuclear tests in the part of Pacific Ocean. The pressure of the international community forced to stop these attempts, but the great damage has been already made. The nuclear waste was buried in the crater in 1980, which was formed by one of the tests and it was filled just with 45cm concrete layer. It has buried 85 thousand cubic meters of radioactive ash and other radioactive waste. Over 40 years the concrete cap has been worn out and radioactive materials have already entered the ocean. In May, Antonio Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, spoke on this issue during climate change debates in the Pacific Islands.

Also, over the decades, testing of nuclear weapons have been carried out at polygons in Russia, China, the USA and other polygons. It is hard to imagine the size of pollution for nature accidents at Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear power plants have left.

TODAY scientists are presenting new data on newly discovered worrying nuclear gatherings in the craters. 17 studies from different locations have been carried out (Arctic, Antarctic, Iceland, European Alps, etc.). All samples have been found to contain radioactive particles in the form of radioactive dust. The research confirms the great distances that radioactive dust is able to overcome. They tend to settle on the snow and ice to form sediments over time. Scientists studying ice cores (cylindrical shape specimens) have noticed leaps in activity after the Chernobyl accident and due to extensive nuclear weapon testings in the sixties and seventies of the

century. So, radioactive dust that has once fallen with snow, remain in the ice for decades, and when it melts again, it enters the ocean again, pollutes the environment and the food. There is a risk of repeated nature pollution.

When the time will come, when finally the Humankind will say ENOUGH, enough of nuclear weapons, rocket testing, enough of armament competitions, uranium enrichment programs, enough of aggression and politics from the force position.

This year, a five-series Chernobyl film appeared on the big screens, created by the USA. Its popularity was so huge, that it even overtook the popular TV series Game of Thrones. The secret of its popularity is clear – it reveals true facts, shows true stories that took place in Chernobyl before and after the accident. It is a historical drama that reveals the truth about the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The films shows how Russian leaders were trying to hide the truth. However, by spreading the information on time, it was possible to take safety measures and avoid many meaningless deaths.

There are many more questions about the active and newly built nuclear power plants in the world – the safety of peaceful atom power plants.

Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania was closed down in 2009, but today Lithuania is facing a new major threat. Just on the border of Lithuania, 50km from the capital Vilnius, in the territory of

Belarus, Russia is building Astrava nuclear power plant of two blocks, 2400 megawatts. Its first block is expected to be released this autumn, while the second block in the year of 2020. It has been confirmed that the site for the nuclear power plant is inadequate, unsafe and safety deficiencies of the Astrava nuclear power plant have been identified. However, Belarus denies and does not comply with the recommendations and decisions of international organizations. In this respect, Lithuania appealed with written notice to the Heads of the European Commissions, as well as to Yukiya Amano, the IAEA (International Energy Agency) Director General, to personally urge Belarus not to start operating Astrava nuclear power plant until all safety issues have been resolved.

Let's ask ourselves – if we do everything we can, or if we have done everything, in order to keep nuclear weapons out of the world, if we have done everything to prevent Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents from happening again. Are we doing everything to leave the world for the future generations without danger, a peaceful and pleasant place to live together?

We, the people of the world, must say a sincere thank You and bend down to Japanese people, to your organization for the tireless fight in order to eliminate nuclear weapons. We must actively demand our countries' governments to participate in this movement in every possible way.



Closing Session (August 5)

Reports from Workshops:

Workshop I: Damage and Suffering from A-Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Inhumanity of Nuclear Weapons; Struggle of the Hibakusha

Jun Hamamoto
Arts in Corrections Teacher
San Quentin State Prison, California
U.S.A.

Major themes and take aways from the workshop as discussed by the moderators: Hiroko Yamada, Noriko Yamamoto, Albert Lozada and Jun Hamamoto are the following:

Compensation to the Hibakusha -- Who should they ask?

America dropped the A bomb and is responsible. Since Japan signed the treaty to end the war, they must take on the responsibility for reparations. This was brought up by several individuals.

The declining numbers of Hibakusha brings concerns on who and how the Hibakusha stories will be carried on. Reading Hibakusha stories is not as effective as engaging with Hibakusha directly, their descendants and people who are passionate about keeping their stories alive.

There is power in consolidation. Bringing people together in solidarity makes for a stronger united front that is more effective than working alone or in small groups.

Delegates learn from each other as we're exposed to new ideas and perspectives from overseas friends. The value of an international meeting was emphasized.

Albert suggests that the Hibakusha follow the example of the struggle in the Philippines and consult with international lawyers. Some cases were won in the Philippines using international lawyers or kasamas, indigenous groups and unions. Propose to introduce Hibakusha to international lawyers at the April meeting in NYC.

People who lived outside the black rain map area were treated totally different from those inside the radius. Those inside the map area qualify for medical treatment and continue care and observation.

Continue to advocate for medical and services for Hibakusha living outside the officially accepted area.

Education of high school students:

The program of Hibakusha visiting a private high school and presenting the history. The A bomb and the struggle of the Hibakusha was successful. This was presented 9 consecutive days to classrooms throughout the school. It was suggested that all the Hibakusha presentations be recorded on DVD, edited and captioned with English subtitles. It was suggested that this example be expanded and brought to public schools.

Connect with young people. Involve them to learn their history and help tell the Hibakusha stories.

Secure funding to fully study the effect of fine particle radioactive fallout on health.

Fundraise to reprint Umebayashi's booklet containing Hibakusha testimonials.

A young teacher said he came to Hiroshima to learn about the A bomb and teach his elementary school students. He was enthusiastic about how the children engaged with Hibakusha history and their personal stories. He wants to learn more and find new ways to engage with his elementary students. He said that there is hope for a bright future.

Workshop II: Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Role of Citizens and Peace Movement - Tasks and Prospect for 2020, 75th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing

Saito Shunichi **Association for a Non-nuclear Government**

Participants: 75

Speakers: 21, total number of speeches: 24 (including 4 speeches by overseas delegates)

Chairs: Sanjay Dhanwate, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space - India; Akari Izumi Kvamme, Executive Director, No to Nuclear Weapons, Norway; Nagao Yuri, Vice President, National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren), Japan; Saito Shunichi, Secretary General, Association for a Non-Nuclear Government, Japan

In general, Workshop II had active discussions with confidence on major political trends toward the year 2020, 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing, and turned out to be a forum of exchanging rich and significant experiences of participants on creative ideas and efforts to overcome the difficulty faced in our day-to-day activities.

One feature of the discussion was a number of positive opinions expressed by many speakers on

how to view the 75th anniversary of 2020.

A delegate from Kanagawa Prefecture introduced an appeal of a Hibakusha who was over 90 years old and took part in the Peace March this year. He said, "Our time is running out" and stressed that next year must not be a mere passing point but a "major milestone and a turning point toward achieving a total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons". A delegate from Nepal suggested to discuss "how to bring a great success in our movement as we work for 2020 and mark a great progress during the 75th year of the atomic bombing." A delegate from Yamanashi said, "I'd like to set a clear target for the number of signatures to bring to New York to make the year 2020 a milestone year". A delegate from Nagano Prefecture also expressed his emotion, saying, "When I heard of the idea to hold a World Conference against A and H Bombs at a very location inside the nuclear power, I was so moved, looking back on what our effort has achieved thus far. Aside from the Tokyo Olympics, I'd like to put my best effort to make the New York Action a great success".

Another focus of the discussion was how to spread widely Hibakusha's voices and testimonies of the atomic bombing, as we agreed that this would be the key for making the next year a historical turning point toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. Diverse ideas and experiences from local activities were exchanged.

A delegate from Yamanashi prefecture shared about exhibitions of the "A-bomb drawings" created by Motomachi High-school students of Hiroshima City based on their dialogues with hibakusha on their experiences. The exhibition was held at different places in Yamanashi Prefecture and sympathy and such feedbacks as "So moving" or "Felt sad and angry" were expressed. A delegate from Hyogo reported that Hibakusha have taken strong initiatives in the signature campaign to lobby local governments for their involvement. In response, they are changing from "supporters" to "actors" in this signature campaign. Some cities prepared their own petition forms and distributed them among citizens to send in their signatures in an envelope with postage covered by the city governments (Nishinomiya and Takarazuka Cities). Kawanishi City set up a "signature table" inside the city office building. A delegate from Nepal pointed out that we should make more use of media and SNS to share the information on the A-bombing among the public more widely, and appealed that "the Hibakusha Appeal signature is an effective way to spread such information. Every nation should work on it toward the 75th anniversary."

Regarding the Hibakusha International

Signature Campaign, we had more speeches representing different communities, including Kanagawa, Hiroshima, Tokushima and Nagasaki prefectures, expressing their respective determinations to achieve their own goals toward 2020.

The third feature of the discussion was frank exchange of opinions and actual ideas to find solutions for issues and difficulties that our movement faces. And the workshop became a place where participants were convinced of a new step forward.

During the discussion, requests were made for advice and successful examples on how to deal with such mayors who refuse to sign the Hibakusha Appeal, saying, "We will decide what to do after checking the actions by other mayors" or how to successfully secure space for a table for signature collection at a city facility. In response, Nagano and Hyogo delegates advised that it would be effective if Hibakusha make such requests to municipal authorities. "Regarding setting up a signature corner, it's important to discuss with city authorities by linking our campaign with the nuclear-free and peace promotion policy of the city government", Hyogo Gensuikyo delegate said.

Throughout the discussion, we also heard about other efforts and projects. An Indian delegate spoke on the effort of educating people, especially children, on negative impact caused by the use of nuclear weapons on economic life of the people. A delegate from the U.S. said, "In the US, we can make a proposition of a bill on the conversion (of nuclear weapons budget to peace policies) to the Congress by collecting signatures from the people. The signatures are submitted to the Congress every year." A member of the New Japan Women's Association-Hiroshima said, "We published the 53rd volume of 'Burned Like Fallen Leaves', a collection of Hibakusha testimonies. Please make good use of it." A delegate from Hyogo showed her hand-made patchwork quilt banner featuring a paper crane and said, "I can share the design if requested, and it will be nice if we can sew different patches together."

Regarding the common agenda of citizens and opposition parties, some speakers emphasized the need to include at both national and prefectural levels in the agenda Japan's "signing and ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons."

**Workshop III: Cooperation and
Solidarity for the Abolition of Nuclear
Weapons -- with Movements for Peace
and No War; Zero Nuclear Power;
Environment; Human Rights and
People's Living**

**Mercedes Llarinas-Angeles
Peace Women Partners International**

Participants from India, Philippines, Russia, USA and different Prefectures in Japan attended the workshop. They discussed personal experiences of violence due to US military intervention, the presence of US military bases, and nuclear disasters.

The participant from the US said that violence is the “bread and butter” of US military, banking and pharmaceuticals industry through profit accumulation from military spending. Trillions of dollars of the American people's money are spent to fund around 800 bases outside the US, and more than 800 bases inside the country. American people are busy building war machines that will be used to kill people of other countries.

In Iran, the CIA supported the 1953 coup d'état to overthrow the elected President, and installed the brutal regime of Shah Reza Pahlavi. Iran became the biggest purchaser of US arms while it provided oil to the US.

In the Philippines, the US maintained military bases from which soldiers were deployed during the Vietnam War. The US backed the martial law regime of Marcos by providing arms which were used to suppress the Filipino people. Marcos imposed neoliberal economic policies, such as low tariffs to provide cheap raw materials to the US and Japan. These led to impoverishment of Filipinos. In 1991, the Filipino people ousted the US military bases when the Philippine Senate rejected the Treaty that would extend US Bases stay.

A participant with American Indian roots shared how her people, the native Indians were abused and enslaved by the American colonizers. Today, while US government military budget is \$ 738 B, higher than during the Vietnam War, American people can't afford medical insurance and nursing homes are in horrible condition. As young people are suffering, there are weapons in the streets so they can kill themselves.

A Japanese participant who lives near Iwakuni Base in Yamaguchi said they have filed a case against Iwakuni Base for noise pollution, but the Japanese Court has no jurisdiction over Iwakuni Base. He described how a mountain was flattened to build houses and the Kizuna baseball stadium for

American soldiers, while the Japanese people who lost their homes due to the earthquake still have no housing.

A 19-year old girl was raped in Hiroshima, 11 criminal cases against American soldiers were reported, but no lawsuits could be filed. He concluded that with the Security Treaty with the US, Japan has lost power. If the US goes to war, Japan will be driven to war. Japanese people are suffering economically and socially. To increase military spending, the Abe Government plans to increase consumption tax and to lower pension for the elderly; wages for workers including young people are lower. Students have problems with higher scholarship payments.

A Japanese physicist reported that prenatal mortality increased after ten months of the Fukushima disaster. There was a sudden spike in thyroid cancer, with more than 200 deaths reported, and the incidence depends on proximity to the power plant. The Japanese Government underestimates the effects of internal exposure, which are invisible; but it is known that the cells divide after exposure to radiation. More research on the effects of internal exposure to radiation need to be done.

The participant from Russia shared how his personal experiences of a nuclear accident involving a submarine nuclear reactor and Chernobyl converted him from a nuke optimist to a peace activist. He organized a group that publishes the truth about the dangers from nuclear power plants in Russia. They share their publications with other countries as all people need to work together as “one team” to protect the planet.

Russia is developing new models of nuclear reactors to export to Finland, Hungary, Bangladesh and India. These reactors use re-processed nuclear fuel from Russian submarines. People do not know that re-processed nuclear fuel is 20000 times more radioactive. In Russia, radioactive waste is discharged to the environment and the ocean where fish and seafoods will be contaminated.

The participant from India said that their people should be informed of the dangers of nuclear war. There are people who are happy that they are attacking another country.

A Japanese union leader said they conducted an international symposium last May with participants from US, Korea and UK to discuss labor issues like privatization. They also tackle poverty and support for the TPNW. The issues are interlocked and interrelated.

Actions Taken for Peace:

Workshop participants shared actions that are being done for peace.

During July elections, opposition parties

united so the Abe Government did not get 2/3 of the seats in the Japanese Parliament, and they cannot revise the Constitution to remove Article 9. There is a call to unite various movements in Japan so that they can change the ruling party politics and make it possible for Japan to ratify the TPNW.

- In Kobe, all nuclear-armed warships are not allowed to enter the Port, and this should be disseminated widely.
- On every 26th of the month, groups in Nagasaki collect signatures to support the Hibakusha Appeal Signature campaign.
- Japanese Barefoot Gen members visited Chernobyl victims and maintain correspondence with mothers of Chernobyl. Japanese and school children from Chernobyl also correspond. Strong bond and solidarity among ordinary people such as mothers, fathers and children is important.
- Barefoot Gen uses comic books, video and film about the effects of nuclear bombs, which they distribute to different countries, such as Arab countries.
- Action for peace of Korean people which leads to possibility of peace in the Korean Peninsula is encouraging support in Japan for the TPNW. If there is peace in Korea, Japanese Government cannot use North Korea conflict as a reason to arm.

Interconnectedness of all issues:

Workshop participants agree that all issues - global warming, climate change, nuclear weapons, nuclear testing, nuclear power plants, military bases, poverty - are related. It is not possible to separate military and civilian nuclear industry. We must support abolition of nuclear weapons, and oppose the construction of nuclear power plants. We should not allow use of conventional weapons also.

All of our issues are interlinked; the issues that affect people of one country affect all. Therefore, there is a need for cooperation and solidarity actions at the local and international level.

A participant from Japan discussed the “threat theory”: how the Japanese government is controlling people by creating confrontations among them:

- Okinawan against Mainland people.
- Young people vs. senior citizens.
- Fulltime employed vs non-fulltime employed.
- In Okinawa and in Japan: supporters vs. non-supporters of the base.

The North Korea/China threat is being used by Abe Government as a reason for not signing the TPNW and for increasing military budget.

We do what government wants us to do because we feel threatened and we are not united.

We can learn from each other. Japanese peace movement can learn from the Filipino people’s experience of ousting the US military bases.

To eliminate violence, we must call on American and Japanese Governments (and all other governments) to shift military spending to people’s welfare and needs. We need to remove poverty, food shortage, diseases due to lack of sanitation, provide drinkable water to all people.

We need to increase our efforts to implement the TPNW. The philosophy behind the TPNW should be disseminated widely.

We need to talk to young people about how tax money is spent and the effects of war and nuclear weapons, so that they will understand the issues and become interested. We need to provide right information to the young people; and internet is an important source of information.

All people should join hands in solidarity. We need to know who is the real enemy so that we can work together.



2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs: Hiroshima Day Rally (August 6)



Greetings from the Hiroshima Mayor:

Matsui Kazumi

Mayor of Hiroshima City

(Delivered by Masauji Akio, Chief of the Civic Affairs Bureau)

On this occasion of holding the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs - Hiroshima, I would like to extend my greetings.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Hiroshima. On behalf of 1.19 million Hiroshima citizens, I'd like to express our heartfelt welcome to you. I also would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking positive actions on a daily basis for the elimination of nuclear weapons and to bring about an eternal global peace.

On August 6th 74 years ago, Hiroshima experienced the calamity of the atomic bombing for the first time in human history. Hibakusha, enduring great scars on their bodies and hearts, have continued to tell their experiences, and proclaimed their wishes for peace saying, "Never again should anyone be allowed to suffer such an experience".

I believe the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which was adopted at the United Nations in July 2017, was made possible

by the appeals of the Hibakusha, made based on their deep humanitarian belief, have moved the world.

Turning to the situation of nuclear weapons, however, some 14,000 nuclear warheads still exist in the world. In addition, with the rise of self-centered nationalism, the nuclear powers not only neglect to pursue negotiations on nuclear disarmament in good faith, as mandated by Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but rather they proceed with modernization of their nuclear arsenals. Moreover, there are concerns that, due to the expiry of the INF Treaty between the US and Russia, there is an increased risk of nuclear weapons being used. There are also other uncertainties, including the denuclearization of North Korea and the future of the nuclear deal with Iran.

Given the current situation, it is ever more important for global civil society to have larger numbers of people who can sympathize with the wishes of the Hibakusha, and to establish a common perspective that a "world without nuclear weapons" is the first step toward an eternal world peace.

For this goal, the City of Hiroshima is working to disseminate Hibakusha's experiences and wishes for peace widely to the world, as well as to the next

generation. Along with the nearly 7,800 member cities of the Mayors for Peace in 163 nations and regions, we are delivering with all our strength the wishes of civil society to the leaders of the world and creating an environment supportive of leaders taking courageous action for nuclear abolition.

In order to achieve a “peaceful world without nuclear weapons”, it is important that all members of civil society wish for it and take action together hand in hand. In that sense, it is truly significant that the World Conference, working along with Hibakusha’s aspirations, is being held today, and I sincerely hope that the Conference will provide people with significant opportunities to renew their commitment for peace.

In closing, I wish the conference great success, and everyone the best of health and good luck with your activities.

Greetings from the Hibakusha:

Mimaki Toshiyuki

**Representative Director, Nihon Hidankyo/
Acting Director, Hiroshima Hidankyo**

My name is Mimaki Tomoyuki. I am speaking on behalf of the Hiroshima Hidankyo. I am also the representative director of Nihon Hidankyo.

I was born in 1942 in the Shimura district of Tokyo’s Itabashi Ward. I left the capital for my father’s hometown in Hiroshima following the Great Tokyo Air Raid on March 10, 1945 and was exposed to the atomic bomb attack.

In 2017, I joined a Gensuikyo delegation to visit the UN Headquarters in New York to attend the UN Conference to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons. We presented an international petition bearing 2.96 million signatures calling for a ban on nuclear weapons to the conference chairperson, Elayne Whyte, and UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Nakamitsu Izumi. In December that year, I had the privilege to visit Oslo when ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Since the NPT Review Conference four years ago failed to reach an agreement, Hibakusha had almost lost hope for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Then Hidankyo launched an international signature campaign two years ago for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and Hibakusha, despite their old age, plucked up their courage to pursue their last ditch hope.

In Hiroshima Prefecture, we are doing our best to achieve a set goal of 1.4 million signatures, or half the prefecture’s population.

As the average age of Hibakusha now exceeds

82, we feel that our faculties are declining. There are about 140,000 Hibakusha around the country today, but the number will be well below 50,000 within 10 years or so. We do not wish to end our lives without seeing nuclear weapons eliminated. About 210,000 people died in Hiroshima following the atomic bombing. The lists of the names of over 310,000 A-bomb victims are kept in store under the A-bomb cenotaph in Hiroshima.

We want young people to know how horrible nuclear weapons are and to take active part in the effort toward a world without nuclear weapons. High school student peace ambassadors, filled with youthful energy, are working to develop the signature drive and to reach out to people abroad. The task now for Hibakusha is to find ways to hand down their work to their successors.

In prewar Japan, education was aimed at driving young people into war. In the 21st century, we must promote education devoted to building a peaceful country without nuclear weapons.

You have come here to attend this rally from around the country. I want you to visit the A-bomb Museum, which was recently opened after renewal. Photos and other items left by A-bomb victims will help you understand the truth of what happened 74 years ago in Hiroshima. I hope that when you go home, you will tell your friends and co-workers about what you have learned and invite them to think and discuss what would happen if nuclear weapons were used.

Imagine what would have happened to you if you had been in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Just look up at the sky over Hiroshima and try to imagine the scene of the B29 bomber Enola Gay dropping an atomic bomb nicknamed Little Boy on Hiroshima. What do you think is the probability of nuclear weapons being used somewhere in the world? I bet you think that it varies depending on changes in the international situation.

My deepest regret is that the Japanese government cannot be relied on for achieving the elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is impossible for the human race to survive unless we get rid of nuclear weapons, the most dangerous weapons, from our planet. The treaty banning nuclear weapons has been adopted in the United Nations. We will see what the nuclear weapon countries as well as Japan and those relying on the nuclear umbrella, including Japan, will do to move politics forward.

Pope Francis will begin his tour in Japan on November 24. He is to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let us pay attention to the message he will send from the atomic bombed cities to the world.

I hope his visit will offer an opportunity to

disseminate to the world the belief that nuclear weapons are an absolute evil.

Hibakusha are aging rapidly, but we will never give up appealing to the world on the urgency of eliminating nuclear weapons. Let us do our utmost, believing that the day will come when our movement bears fruit.

Statements by the National Government Representatives:

George-Wilhelm Gallhofer Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Republic of Austria

It is a great honour for me to speak before this audience in this historic place. No other place than Hiroshima and Nagasaki can showcase the urgency for nuclear disarmament better. Here, history is very much alive. Here, nuclear weapons are not theoretical. They are real. They are personal. They have touched peoples' lives. The Hibakushas' powerful testimony shows what "security" is really about – the security of every individual. Not of countries in abstraction. I bow before the hundreds of thousands of victims of the nuclear bombings, before the Hibakushas and their descendants. Their unwavering commitment and resolve has guided us towards the long overdue prohibition of nuclear weapons in 2017 and it continues to urge us on to get the treaty into force and work further to eliminate nuclear weapons once and for all.

That said, we are also living in arguably the most challenging time for disarmament in decades. Hard fought-for diplomatic achievements to reduce the unacceptable risks of nuclear weapons are rapidly unravelling. The INF treaty just ended, allowing for the re-stationing of land-based intermediate-range missiles for the first time in over 30 years, endangering Europe and the world and reducing the reaction time for nuclear attacks to mere minutes. The New START treaty and the JCPOA are also under threat.

Until recently, nuclear disarmament was steadily progressing. There had been large stockpile reductions, in particular by the two countries with the largest arsenals. But this progress has come to a standstill; and worse, a new nuclear arms race has begun. Described as modernisations, nuclear arsenals are being upgraded and modernised to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars with the aim of keeping them in service for decades to come. New types of nuclear weapons are being developed to make them "more useable", such as so-called

small tactical nuclear weapons. Some of these so-called small or low-yield nuclear weapons are actually of a similar size to those dropped in 1945.

Clearly, some have drawn the wrong lessons from the unspeakable tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nuclear weapon possessing states and their allies still believe that their security depends on nuclear deterrence - that a professed readiness to wipe out populations, if not civilisation itself, actually prevents war. And yet, as we know, the concept of deterrence simply does not stand up to scrutiny. There have been direct military confrontations between nuclear possessor states, for example India and Pakistan.

The argument that we need nuclear weapons to keep us safe also ignores the vast technological developments of late. For example, the real danger of cyber attacks has made nuclear deterrence unreliable, even for those who believe in the concept. Hybrid threats and the weaponisation of disinformation have increased the risk of escalation and miscalculation.

In the wise words of Mikhail Gorbachev "It is becoming clearer that nuclear weapons are no longer a means of achieving security; in fact, with every passing year they make our security more precarious." And indeed in these dangerous times, the famous Doomsday Clock has now returned to a time not seen since the 1980s.

And yet, while these dangerous developments dominate the headlines, a revolution of sorts is also taking place. The majority of countries in the world have declared that they are unwilling to ignore the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Unsatisfied with the repeatedly unfulfilled promises of disarmament in an indefinite future, a resounding 122 countries – nearly 2/3 of UN member states – adopted The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017.

Many of you personally contributed to this long sought-for achievement. Let me say a few words about Austria's role in the process. Austria takes a humanitarian approach in our foreign policy and that has guided us in all areas of disarmament. In fact, Austria's constitution explicitly prohibits nuclear weapons after strong civil society mobilisation.

Similarly, civil society mobilisation at the international level proved invaluable to creating a unique international coalition against nuclear weapons. Austria also heeded their call, in particular the powerful testimonies of the Hibakusha and the evidence gathered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Working in close cooperation with these actors, the broader International Campaign against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and a couple of like-minded countries, we

decided to together pursue a reframing of the nuclear weapons discourse around their unacceptable humanitarian consequences.

We held three humanitarian conferences -- in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna -- to gather and draw together existing and new insight into the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons, including through Hibakusha testimony. Drawing on their first-hand experience from the immediate aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing, the ICRC outlined that still today, no capacity exists to provide help in humanitarian emergencies caused by nuclear weapons explosions. The ICRC also made it clear that it would be difficult to envision a scenario where the use of nuclear weapons might be compatible with international humanitarian law, given their devastating and indiscriminate impact.

We learned that the consequences of nuclear explosions are much more grave and complex than previously understood or acknowledged. For example, even a limited exchange of nuclear weapons can lead to nuclear winter. Presenters also explained the risks inherent in nuclear weapons systems, which can be mitigated but not eliminated. For example, control and command systems are prone to errors, as shown by many historical examples. As statisticians pointed out, this means that the longer nuclear weapon systems remain in existence, the higher the likelihood of an accident.

Bolstered by this wide range of findings, Austria launched the "Humanitarian Pledge on Nuclear Weapons", joined by 127 countries, in which we committed to work with others to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

The resulting Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons prohibits the one class of weapons of mass destruction still without prohibition. Taking the humanitarian consequences and inherent risks of nuclear weapons as a starting point, it draws the line that nuclear weapons are simply too dangerous and consequently should be prohibited, just like other weapons of mass destruction. It is, as Hiroshima's own Setsuko Thurlow put it, "the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons."

Of course, we are without illusion that the Treaty will immediately reduce risks or nuclear weapon stocks. It is an important and necessary step, and we will need further instruments to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. But the Treaty clearly delegitimizes nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence, and aims to make it harder for states to rely on nuclear weapons in defence doctrines and strategies.

It is also a signifier that having a say on nuclear weapons is not exclusive to states who possess them.

The security of every person is equally important and each of our countries has the right to participate in the nuclear disarmament discourse. The Treaty has galvanised and energised a majority of states to make their voices heard and not accept empty promises of disarmament in a distant utopic future.

So where does the Treaty stand today?

The Treaty needs 50 ratifications to enter into force. I'm happy to say that it is well on its way! 70 countries have already signed, and 23 -- including Austria -- have already ratified. This is swift progress in multilateral disarmament treaties and we look forward to further countries signing and ratifying at the United Nations General Assembly next month.

We should not forget that some of the most powerful countries in the world are working against this Treaty. In the face of this, every additional signature and ratification is a clear assertion that the security of their citizens is equally important to that of countries possessing nuclear weapons. Already 70 countries have proved their unwillingness to compromise on their moral and legal understanding of the threat of nuclear weapons. They have decided that their safety is not improved by nuclear weapons but worsened. Indeed, the new arms race, the ongoing erosion of international agreements, and the reduction of channels to solve bilateral conflicts has elevated the risks from nuclear weapons to higher levels than ever before. This must be a call to action.

The Hibakushas' untiring resolve and commitment has shown the horrors of nuclear weapons' indiscriminate destruction. But in much of the world awareness has faded since the end of the Cold War. We need to ensure that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences are understood the world over. The information is already at hand, it just needs to be disseminated further.

And while these are challenging times, they are also inspiring times. With social media and rapid information dissemination, worthy causes get taken up faster and wider. We see how powerful grassroots movements can be, for example the current climate change activism. Citizens -- and especially youth -- are increasingly unwilling to back down in the face of existential threats. We need to ensure that they take up this cause. So let us engage them and educate them about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences, and inherent risks, of nuclear weapons. The scientific arguments are there and the personal testimonies of the Hibakusha provide profound insight into the individual tragedies. Let us get the TPNW into force and continue to work towards eliminating these weapons to extinguish the Hiroshima Memorial Flame once and for all.

Maylem Rivero
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim
Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in
Japan

First of all, I would like to thank the Japan Council against A and H bombs for this invitation. It is an honor for me to be among you and be part of this great meeting for the second time, and to have the opportunity to express the position of the government and people of Cuba against the use of the atomic and hydrogen bombs that cause so much damage to humanity and stability of our planet.

At 74 years of the criminal bombings against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there are still thousands of nuclear weapons in the world, of them more than 3,750 deployed and 2,000 in operational alert. Cuba reiterates its deep concern about the mere existence of these nuclear weapons.

It is very dangerous that the nuclear-weapon States have strengthened the role of these weapons in their military doctrines and reduced the threshold to consider the use of nuclear weapons, even in response to those so-called "non-nuclear strategic threats", therefore, Cuba reiterates its rejection of these military positions and doctrines based on nuclear deterrence. They are unjustifiable and contrary to the obligations contracted under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

As the Cuban President, Miguel Diaz-Canel expressed in this regard, in his first speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2018, "It is a fact that military and nuclear hegemony is perpetuated and expanded, to the detriment of the majority aspiration of the people to a general and complete disarmament, ideal that Cuba shares".

It is alarming that, in an accelerated qualitative vertical proliferation, every year millions of dollars in the war industry are invested, the existing nuclear arsenals are modernized and new nuclear weapons systems are developed; instead of allocating these resources to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to fight against hunger and poverty, which are themes for prioritized attention.

We hope that the nuclear-weapon States will rectify and show political will and responsibility towards the goal of nuclear disarmament. Cuba, the fifth State to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, will persist in the objective that this Treaty, which outlaws the use, existence and development of nuclear weapons and endorses that these are inhuman, immoral and ethically indefensible, be implemented and complemented with effective measures that lead to the total elimination of those arsenals in an effective, transparent and irreversible manner.

Cuba supports the prohibition and complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction, as the only effective guarantee to prevent their acquisition and use, even by terrorists.

Our country firmly rejects the use of any weapon of mass destruction by any actor and under any circumstance. We strictly comply with the conventions on Chemical Weapons and Biological and Toxin Weapons.

Regarding the Convention on Biological Weapons, Cuba reiterates that the adoption of a legally binding Protocol that strengthens and excludes forever the possible use of these weapons is fundamental.

All limitations and restrictions that impede the broadest exchange, in particular for developing countries, of materials, equipment and technology for nuclear, chemical and biological activities, for peaceful uses consistent with relevant international treaties must cease. We strongly condemn the imposition of unilateral and unjust sanctions.

In an international context characterized by the increase of bellicose and aggressive rhetoric; the use and threat of the use of force and the imposition of sanctions and unilateral coercive measures, the high world military expenditure amounting to \$ 1.74 trillion is a cause for concern, distrust and animosity.

Attached to its strong position of principles, Cuba will continue to defend multilateralism in the negotiations of disarmament and non-proliferation and demanding respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace. The number of nuclear warheads deployed in the world is more than enough to destroy civilization several times and most of the life on the planet, making it unacceptable and illegal for them to continue modernizing existing nuclear arsenals and developing new nuclear weapons systems.

In this context, we appreciate the important contribution of GENSUIKYO, in promoting the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We encourage that, in agreement with the Member States, all necessary efforts be made to achieve this prioritized objective.

Belonging to the first densely populated area in the world declared as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, Cuba reaffirms its firm commitment to continue promoting nuclear disarmament as the highest priority in the field of disarmament.

Cuba promotes the early entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and to that end, we urge all States that have not done so to commit themselves to this Treaty. The possessing States must offer legally binding guarantees that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against those States that do not possess them.

On the other hand, we reaffirm the legitimate right of all States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without any discrimination.

I must not finish without first mentioning that this year we commemorate the 60th anniversary of Ernesto Ché Guevara's visit to Japan, the first visit of the revolutionary government to this country, who made a visit to Hiroshima, being also the first one of a foreign government to this city, a necessary stop only 14 years after the nuclear disaster happened, and who upon his return to Cuba, in a press conference, expressed:

"In Hiroshima it was where we could feel the full danger that the atomic weapons mean today ... the atomic bomb monument is something of a unique impression that the whole world should know, as an experience to fight with more energy against everything that is an attempt to use atomic weapons, or simply against that resistance to nuclear disarmament."

74 years after the nuclear catastrophe in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and 60 years of Che's visit to this city, these words are fully valid, so we reiterate that we must join forces to save the peace, our planet and the lives of the future generations. We must never renounce the ideal that a better world is possible.

Sending Hibakusha's wishes to the World - from Hiroshima:

Yoshioka Yukio Secretary General, Liaison Conference of Hiroshima Prefectural A-Bomb Sufferers' Organizations

I am Yoshioka of the Liaison Conference of Hiroshima Prefectural A-Bomb Sufferers' Organizations. This morning, we, together with other representatives of the Hibakusha organizations, met over 30 government officials, including Prime Minister Abe, Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare and top staffs of Foreign Ministry and other government officials. Now the issue of nuclear weapons is attracting worldwide attention. But the government officials only said, "As an A-bombed country, Japan will be working diligently on building bridges between nuclear-armed states and non-nuclear-weapon states."

Today marks the 74th anniversary of atomic bombing in Hiroshima. We have never forgotten the fact that the United States dropped nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and we have been telling our experiences to the people. We are determined to keep on sharing our stories to bring

more awareness among people on the issue.

Currently, Russia and the United States still have quite a few nuclear warheads. We, the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki cannot accept the existence of even one nuclear warhead remaining. Even one nuclear weapon can cause grave inhuman consequences, much worse than what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. So we must continue our struggle, and the whole world must work together to eliminate nuclear weapons.

I sincerely hope each and every one of you here today will work together with us to vigorously promote our movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

Sakuma Kunihiro President, Hiroshima Federation of A- Bomb Survivors (Hiroshima Hidankyo)

I am Sakuma Kunihiro from Hiroshima Federation of A-Bomb Survivors, one of the 7 A-Bomb Sufferers' Organizations of Hiroshima. To collect many signatures from people broadly here in Hiroshima, we have formed the "Promotion Committee of the Hibakusha International Signature Campaign" on March 19, 2018. This Signature Campaign started in April 2016. Time flew by, and now there are only eight months left before spring 2020, our targeted time for the campaign.

Our goal is to collect 1.4 million signatures which would account for about half the population of Hiroshima Prefecture. So far we have collected over half a million, yet still haven't reached half of our goal.

Now the world is moving from banning nuclear weapons to a total elimination of nuclear weapons. The touching moment of adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the United Nations still rings in my heart. Let us make a renewed start in our campaign. We are determined to achieve our goal in the signature collection here in Hiroshima.

Kim Ginho Director, Hiroshima Prefectural Council of Korean Hibakusha

I am Kim Ginho of the Hiroshima Prefectural Council of Korean Hibakusha. Because time is limited, I will make my speech short.

Today, still many Hibakusha are alive in the Korean Peninsula. About 2,200 live in the south in the R.O.K., and about 200 in the DPRK, so-called North Korea.

We have repeatedly requested Prime Minister Abe to give support to the Hibakusha who live in the DPRK from a humanitarian standpoint, yet haven't received any reply. We see this reality with anger as well as great sorrow. I sincerely hope that Prime Minister Abe will consider our feelings and move this situation forward. It's also essential in terms of improving relations between Japan and the DPRK.

It is not only Hibakusha who wish to live in the world without nuclear weapons and wars, but this is the wish of all the humankind. We are determined to strive for this goal.

Nishimoto Tamiko Hibakusha of Hiroshima/ Ishikawa Association of A-Bomb Survivors

Hello, everyone. I am Tamiko Nishimoto from the Ishikawa Association of A-bomb Survivors.

I was born and brought up in Hiroshima. I came to live in the city of Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, when my husband was transferred to the city.

At the age of 4 years and 8 months, I was exposed to atomic bomb radiation at home, a few kilometres from the hypocenter.

On August 6, 1945, it was a sunny and hot day from the early morning hours. I was the youngest of seven children. My father left home for work and my brothers and sisters left to join the student mobilization or go to primary school. I was at home with my mother.

My mother was planning to take part in the demolition of buildings to make fire lanes on that day, but she felt ill and was lying at home. I was with my mother grumbling about the sweltering condition.

A boy suddenly shouted, "A B29 is coming!" The B29 was an American bomber. But there was no air raid warning. My mother rushed to the window. Looking up at the sky, we certainly saw a B29. When I stepped back, feeling our lives were in danger, we were struck by a tremendous flash. At the next moment, I wondered if it was a dream, as it had become dark all around me. Things began to fall on my head. They may have been roof tiles.

I was screaming in pain. Then my mother pulled me into the closet and protected me under her body. In a short while it calmed down. I fearfully got out of the closet to find our house completely collapsed. The roof and the walls had fallen and the rooms were covered with debris. Houses in the neighbourhood were destroyed as well.

My third grader sister came home crying with her back stained with blood. My mother heard that

the roads were covered with rubble and the clinics crowded with dying people. She managed to locate the emergency bag from under the rubble, but found only mercurochrome in it. She pulled out a little piece of wood from my sister's neck and applied mercurochrome. This was all she could do to treat her wound. My mother took her daughters to a vineyard in the suburbs of Hiroshima.

In the city of Hiroshima, buildings had caught fire from heat rays of 3000 to 4000 degree Celsius. The whole of the city was swept away by a blast at a height of 250 meters, immediately followed by a blazing inferno. The people who were outside escaped the fire and rushed toward the seven rivers, which were by now full of bodies. The people who were inside were crushed under collapsing buildings and houses and others were burned alive while desperately calling for help. The city of Hiroshima turned into hell from a single atomic bomb.

Many notes left by people say that hell, if it existed, would not have been as horrible as this. We reached the vineyard which we witnessed was filled with people suffering from serious burns and injuries. I saw a female student lying down on the straw mat. She had burned hair and a swollen face like a dodge ball, and I could not even make out her facial features. She could not even groan. There was nothing to eat so we took unripe grapes. Because of this, I think, I was vomiting, had a fever, diarrhoea, and like dysentery-symptoms. At that time, doctors were wondering why there were so many people with such symptoms but without the presence of shigella bacteria. Later we found out that it was an acute symptom caused by radiation.

Around that time, rumor had it that no plants would grow over the next 70 years in Hiroshima. A single atomic bomb annihilated the city of Hiroshima and took the lives of 140,000 people by the end of the year.

My brother's life was saved but he died at the age of 46. My father and my eldest sister came home to Hiroshima after the bomb detonated, and they were not directly hit by the bomb. My father had not been ill for many years. But after retirement, he began to suffer from many kinds of disease and became bedridden for 10 years until his death. My eldest sister had thyroid disorders and had to take medicine until her death. Even after 74 years, A-bomb survivors are still afflicted with various illnesses. The nuclear bomb is an evil weapon that cannot coexist with humans.

In fact, there is not much time left for us, the Hibakusha. I have been seriously thinking about what we can leave to the future generations in our lifetime. Three years ago in Ishikawa Prefecture where I live, we made a DVD featuring Hibakusha

telling their atomic bomb experiences. Hibakusha, who are aging and often with health disorders, told about their painful stories on camera by identifying themselves. We did this because we have strong desire that others not have to weather the inferno of the atomic bomb. We donated the DVDs to all primary schools, junior and senior high schools, universities and community centers in Ishikawa prefecture.

21 years ago, we built a bronze A-bomb monument titled: "Children of Peace" on top of the hill in Kanazawa. This was very nicely designed with a boy raising a crane and a girl standing close together with him. Every year, we organize a Peace Day here together with seven other organizations. One year after the completion of this statue, a local folk music group dedicated a song to the statue. This is a beautiful song that touches Hibakusha's heart. It is sung at the Peace Day event every year. This song is also performed in many primary schools.

In May this year, a team of 15 members produced a CD of this song and donated it to all primary schools in this prefecture. Thanks to newspapers and TV reporting widely, we receive many orders from around the country, from Hokkaido to Okinawa. It is our great pleasure to know that the DVD and CD make it possible to continue to pass on our messages for peace to young people even after our death.

In July 7, 2017, at the United Nations, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted. I was so pleased that I had tears in my eyes. This treaty will go into effect after it is ratified by more than 50 states. Today, 24 states have already ratified it. Regrettably, the Japanese government turns its back on this treaty despite being the only country to suffer the atomic bombings. It has refused to sign or ratify the treaty. This fact is not acceptable at all.

Friends, please speak out with your own words even after Hibakusha are gone. Let's heighten the levels of public opinion to press the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW. We are earnestly wishing for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Together let us go on fight.

Yamado Rina
Graduate of Hiroshima City Motomachi
Senior High School/ Student of Art,
Hiroshima University

Hello everyone, my name is Yamado Rina, a university student. From the summer of my second year to third year at Motomachi Senior High School, I spent the whole year working on the A-bomb drawing. "I fled while picking my way over dead

and dying people" was the title of the painting I worked on, which was based on the A-bomb experience of Mr. Harada Hiroshi.

My painting depicted a scene from Mr. Harada's A-bomb experience. Then-6-year-old Mr. Harada, together with his father, were fleeing from fires after the A-bombing at Hiroshima station, while picking their way among people already dead or on the brink of death.

First I would like to share with you why I decided to join this art work of drawing the A-bomb experience of the Hibakusha. When I was in my second year of high school, the A-bomb painting exhibition was held, where all of the A-bomb paintings by my senior students and graduates were displayed. I had an opportunity to help prepare and organize the exhibition and I saw all of the real works of the senior students of my school. I already heard about my high school's A-bomb painting project, in which students and Hibakusha together create paintings, but I never thought I would be able to do it myself. I felt it too tough for me, and I didn't have enough confidence to complete the work. However, seeing my seniors' works with my own eyes, I was so impressed and moved. The paintings keenly expressed the horrors of what happened when the atomic bomb was dropped in lurid details. I felt these students' passion of conveying the reality from these paintings. From the people who came to the exhibition, we received a lot of feedback: "It was amazing", "It's a wonderful activity", "Please keep this project going." It made me realize the importance of this project. At the same time, I learned how powerful a message one painting could carry. Through this experience, I made up my mind to take part in the project. My determination then was strong enough to get past the fear of not being able to complete the work.

There were two difficulties I experienced in the process of painting. The first was "depicting corpses." At my first meeting with Mr. Harada, we decided to focus on him and his father in this painting and not corpses. However, after having many discussions with him, Mr. Harada said, "There were so many corpses lying on the ground when we fled from fire and I just couldn't help stepping on them. Though I don't want to remember about it, without them, the reality of A-bombing cannot be delivered to others." So we decided to draw corpses in our painting. I had never seen any fallen dead bodies and of course, I had never drawn them. I tried many different ways to draw dead bodies, yet they only looked like fallen dolls. So I started to read books to find information about the time and my teacher gave me some advice as well. And after redrawing many times, I finally completed the painting.

The second difficulty I faced was how to describe the scene in colors. How can I express the dark sky even in the daytime and what colors should I use to express the texture of burnt skin of the victims? These were all beyond my imagination and I could not find any colored photos from those days. So I asked Mr. Harada to check the colors whenever I painted, and I made corrections little by little. I also carefully tried to depict the texture of burnt skin, fiber of people's clothes as well as their frizzled hair. I drew, erased and painted, again and again, to get the painting closer to the real scene.

This project made me aware of a lot of things.

I was born in Hiroshima and grew up receiving peace education at school. But I realized how little I actually knew. When I was taking peace education classes, I just thought, "Such tragedies must never happen again", or "We should never forget the horrors of the atomic bombing." Of course I knew the importance of learning the facts, but I realized that I had avoided thinking profoundly about, and imagining what happened at that time, because it's too painful and scary. However, if you open your eyes and face the facts, not looking away, even though it's painful, you can feel the horror of the atomic bomb more real. This is what I learned.

I also learned that though it's important to listen to the testimonies of Hibakusha, listening is not enough. We must share their experiences to others broadly, now that the number of those who actually experienced those days is dwindling. We have to learn, communicate and discuss with others actively on the issue so that the A-bomb tragedies will not be treated as things of the past.

I just hope this painting will help you to understand what happened at the time of the atomic bombing and also will lead you to think more and take action on the issue. Thank you.

Action toward 2020 for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons - Speeches by Overseas Delegates:

Akari Izumi Kvamme No to Nuclear Weapons Norway

My name is Akari Izumi. I will try to express my thoughts in Japanese, but please forgive me I stumble or mispronounce some words.

I am visiting from Oslo, Norway, where I am currently working as the Managing Director of a civil society movement 'No to Nuclear Weapons Norway'. It is a politically-independent, non-governmental organisation that since the 1970s have pursued the overarching goals of total nuclear

weapons disarmament; nuclear elimination through collective international efforts; and the discontinuation of nuclear energy production.

From 1979 to 2011, the organisation was led by the legendary peace- and environmental activist, Ole Kopreitan. Kopreitan visited the World Conference against the A and H Bombs on multiple occasions. Almost a decade after his passing, his anti-nuclear legacy is ardently recalled both by politicians, citizens and anti-nuclear activists in Japan alike. I feel humbled at the opportunity to follow in his footsteps and embrace his forward-facing spirit: - To not give up.

This is my first time to visit Hiroshima and in just three days it has already made an immense impression on me. I spent several hours at the Peace Memorial Museum and I was brought to tears as I walked through the exhibition, learning of the tragic fate endured by so many on this very day, 74 years ago.

Afterwards, I thought to myself that if all the sceptics of our nuclear-free vision and sceptics of the TPNW were to visit this city, its memorial monuments, museums and encounter its people, they too would perhaps understand why it is that so many of us dedicate so much time and energy to realise our common dream and finally embrace the mission of the victims of the atomic bombs, whom we are commemorating today.

Growing up, I felt it to be most natural that my motherland Japan - the country to have suffered the two most atrocious attacks in the history of human warfare - and my fatherland Norway - a so-called 'peace nation' and the home of the Nobel Peace Prize - would assume the position as a driving force for the global anti-nuclear movement and spearhead the promotion of the TPNW. I was wrong. And I stand here today, deeply disgruntled by the Norwegian, Japanese and other national governments who, to this day, refuse to join and support the global campaign to ban nuclear weapons once and for all.

Norway is world-renown for its peace efforts. In 2013, the country hosted the first-ever intergovernmental conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The Oslo Conference was attended by 128 nations and involved a strong representation of humanitarian relief agencies. However, the incumbent rightist government is failing to live up to Norway's reputation as a peace nation. It was disgraceful to watch the Norwegian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister as they abstained from applauding Beatrice Fihn's speech on several occasions at the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Award. They renounce the TPNW as a path towards nuclear disarmament and claim that it will weaken the NATO-alliance. As such, Norway continues to

undermine TPNW efforts and remains a nuclear-umbrella-state. But considering the current state of the world with a marked deterioration of trust and international relations and the elevated risk of nuclear attacks or accidents, I don't think there has ever been a more right time to implement the TPNW.

Luckily, we have a young and rising generation who do not accept the nuclear threat as part of national or international security politics. An increasing number of young people and youth political parties in Norway are challenging their mother-parties. Let's continue our efforts to involve more young people, the future leaders of the world, into the anti-nuclear movement.

Nuclear weapons cannot be treated as an isolated issue in global political realm. The nuclear question is linked to every living creature and every aspect of life. Together with climate change, it poses an existential threat to humanity. Every single thing we cherish in this life and on this Earth is at stake.

When you love something or someone, you do everything in your power to protect it. None of us can do it all, but we can all do *something*. Enough is enough. Let's not give up, but rise together. For the sake of the Hibakusha, for our children and for the future of our one and only Mother earth. What we don't win today, will be our victory tomorrow. No to nuclear weapons! Kakuheiki hantai!

Shankar Lal Shrestha **AAPSO Nepal**

On behalf of Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization of Nepal (AAPSO Nepal), we extend our warm greetings to all the delegate members gathered here to attend the commemorative seventy four anniversary of the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. We sincerely thank to the Organizing Committee for inviting us to participate in 2019 World Conference.

Atomic bombing was the biggest ever man-made holocaust in the history of human civilization. The August 6 and 9 are listed as the black-days and black spot that mark all of us ashamed.

The nuclear weapons pose great threat to world peace and human civilization, but nuclear power countries still are not prepared to destroy them to ensure the avoidance of the tragic past.

The geopolitical location of Nepal in Asia with China in the north and India and Pakistan in South, is surrounded from all sides by nuclear power countries. The nuclear program of these countries are of great concern to Nepal too. So, we have a common cause with the peoples of Japan and other

countries.

China, India and Pakistan produce nuclear arsenal and weapons and stockpile them every year, threatening peace, prosperity and development in South Asia. These countries have competition with each other in producing nuclear weapons and arsenals. It has resulted in fears to the world community of an arms race openly declared in South Asia. It may cause, radiation hazards to ecological condition of Himalayas Region, including Mount Everest (Sagarmatha) in Nepal.

We believe that the stockpiles of the nuclear weapons is a serious threat to the world peace and human development. Both cannot go together. We must strive and promote solidarity for nuclear free world through nuclear disarmament process and peace movement in the world. We believe that the huge money and resources is being spent for the manufacturing of nuclear weapons should be diverted towards the poverty reduction by making good hospitals, educational institutes and creating employment of the underdeveloped countries in the world. This will help to pave to create peaceful world.

Under the threatening situation, our joint effort should prevent first regional and worldwide nuclear arms race. We should pressurize nuclear weapon countries for signing (those who have not signed) CTBT & NPT treaties.

Nuclear weapon detonation brings various undesired consequences detrimental to human environment. Therefore a total ban and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons is an urgent task for the survival of the human civilization. The world, without nuclear weapons, is an urgent demand the human community to preserve the world and the human beings.

AAPSO Nepal's regular participation in the World Conference against nuclearization shows our firm commitment towards the peace movement and we express our sincere solidarity with the Hibakushas, the atomic victims and the people of Japan against nuclear weapons aiming to abolish them and build a more peaceful and secure world.

On this 74th memorial day, on behalf of AAPSO Nepal, I would like to offer my utmost respect to the souls of those who died of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We wish very success of the 2019 World Conference organized by Gensuikyo.

No more nuclear weapons! No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis!

Eum Mikyung
Korean Confederation of Trade
Unions (KCTU)
R.O.K.

I bring you greetings of warm solidarity from the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions to all comrades participating in the World Conference with firm determination to achieve a nuclear-free and peaceful Korean Peninsula and East Asia and to defend the peace of humankind. Here's to our struggle.

Comrades, we are at a crossroads as we seek to transform the era of aggression and war that lasted more than 100 years into an era of peace. East Asia nowadays undergoes a situation that is more turbulent than ever. A sharper confrontation is taking place politically, economically and militarily. This is why people in South Korea and Japan together held the "Japan-ROK International Forum for a Nuclear-free and Peaceful Northeast Asia" in May in Seoul with the aim of proactively intervening in the situation to explore our roles in creating a system of peace in East Asia. And in June, we had a meeting in Japan and joined hands under the enthusiastic slogan, "Let's establish a nuclear-free and peaceful Korean Peninsula and Japan." I believe that we will be able to develop greater solidarity in the struggle for a peaceful Korean Peninsula and East Asia and a world without nuclear weapons.

Comrades, we are well aware of what consequences aggression and war can have. Damage from aggression and war adversely affect innocent people. People know how atrocious they are.

Wounds and pains left by Japan's colonial rule still persist in South Korea today. The issue of comfort women who were forced to serve the Japanese military and Koreans *forced* to work by Japanese companies during World War II are not just things of the past. They are contemporary issues that remain to be settled. Today, South Koreans are infuriated at Prime Minister Abe Shinzo and other Japanese politicians who deny the history of the colonization and seek to destroy the peace constitution. It would be safe to say that these issues remain as consequences of Japan's inability to correctly resolve the problem of the imperialist war of aggression.

We know that Japanese people also fell victims to Japanese militarism and war. People underwent the worst kind of misery when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima on August 6 and on Nagasaki on August 9. Many Korean residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the time were left with unfathomable pain. They have told about their

atomic bomb experiences that are beyond description. We have, in turn, been informed about their horrible atomic bomb experiences.

We, the people who are victims of imperialism, militarism and war, have the historical duty to stage a powerful struggle by standing firm in solidarity for the rejection of nuclear weapons and for the defense of peace.

Comrades, peace will not come spontaneously. Universal values can be achieved through a tenacious struggle. Last year, there was a miraculous development on the Korean Peninsula. But this year, there are various challenges facing the Korean Peninsula. On June 30, the leaders of North Korea and the United States had a dramatic meeting at Pamunjom, which symbolizes the war and division of the Korean Peninsula. But confrontation remains. US sanctions on North Korea remain. They have, in fact, been strengthened. Joint US-South Korean military exercises are held in defiance of criticism, undermining the agreement reached at the US-North Korean summit in Singapore on June 12 last year. The South Korean government are purchasing and deploying F-35 stealth fighter jets and other strategic assets. The deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to ROK is underway.

The United States intends to retain its military hegemony at any cost. It is putting pressure to bear on South Korea and Japan under the name of the alliance. It is forcing South Korea and Japan to buy state-of-the-art weapons and even increase their share of burden of military spending and it is also pressing the two countries to send their troops to the Strait of Hormuz in order to carry out sanctions and even military actions against Iran. The US military is also holding joint exercises with the Russian and Chinese militaries, and North Korea recently fired short-range missiles.

We are at the crossroads of peace or war. With the standoff remaining unchanged, we the people must solidify our unity to transform the current era of turbulence into an era of peace.

North Korea and the United States should implement their Singapore agreement to "establish their new bilateral relations, achieve a system of peace on the Korean Peninsula, and totally denuclearize the Korean Peninsula" by building mutual trust and taking stage-by-stage simultaneous steps. The complete denuclearization means establishing a complete system of peace free of nuclear weapons or nuclear threats. Nuclear threats need to be expelled not only from the Korean Peninsula but also from the surrounding areas. That should be what non-nuclear peace demanded by people of Japan and South Korea is about.

The true realization of peace without nuclear

weapons will be made possible through ending the setup of aggression and war in the Korean Peninsula and the whole of East Asia. The historical task is for South Korean and Japanese people to end an era of aggression and war. In this respect, the South Korean and Japanese people are called upon more than ever to join in solidarity to help correct the worsening relations between their two countries.

The real issue involved in the present dispute between our two countries is a question of history and peace. The people's movements in South Korea and Japan have devoted themselves to the efforts to let people know about the miseries brought about by colonial rule, the war of aggression, and the reality brought about by the atomic bombings. Above all else, they have been fighting to disseminate information about these things and to hold fast to historical justice. Japanese people are developing a struggle for peace in East Asia and in defense of the peace constitution. I want to express strong solidarity with your struggle.

I would like to close my speech by expressing the determination of the KCTU to continue to develop cross-border solidarity of the workers and peoples of our two countries.

Ellen Thomas
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - US Section

What good is happening in the US Congress?

Today I am a co-chair of the Disarm/End Wars Committee of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in the United States, also known as "WILPF," which has been working for a world without weapons and war since 1915.

In 1994, in the 10th year of my 18-year vigil for global nuclear weapons abolition north of the White House, I was invited to speak at the Japan Peace Conference in Misawa City, to share the news that Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton had introduced legislation into the U.S. House of Representatives calling for abolition of nuclear weapons and conversion of the war industries to provide for human needs, which she introduced as the result of a voter initiative that we antinuclear vigilers in front of the White House had brought to the people of Washington, DC.

Since then two of the original vigilers, William Thomas and Concepcion Picciotto, have died, but the White House vigil continues, day and night.

Thankfully, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has also continued to introduce improved versions of her "Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act" into the

House of Representatives every two years for the past quarter of a century.

I am delighted to be able to be with you this year representing Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. We have brought with us over 7,500 signatures collected by WILPF members at events all over the country on our petition to the US Senate asking for ratification of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which we will deliver to Hidankyo to include when presenting the "Hibakusha Appeal" to the UN.

Thanks to all of you for your continuing efforts to create a nuclear-weapons-free planet! You inspire us! As Margaret Meade said, "**Never doubt** that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that **ever** has." The success of the Hibakusha Appeal proves that the work of a few can spread to millions. I plan to keep working for that critical mass that will bring us a world without nuclear weapons...in all our lifetimes!!!! Heiwa! Peace!

Hundreds of Millions of International Hibakusha Appeal Petitions to Urge Japan to Join the TPNW:

Shomoto Etsuko
Hyogo Gensuikyo/ Member of Hyogo Prefectural Assembly

Hello everyone. I come from Hyogo Prefecture, which has the Nuclear-Free "Kobe Formula" at Kobe Port, based on which the entry of nuclear-armed warships, especially U.S. warships, have been blocked for 44 years. I am a board member of Hyogo Gensuikyo and, at the same time, an elected member of Hyogo Prefectural Assembly from the Japanese Communist Party. In the simultaneous local elections last spring, 5 incumbent members of the JCP were re-elected. The struggles of the people waged across the country against the Abe government's outrageous policies have proven the value of our role in the assembly. I sincerely thank you for your hard work and support for us.

As of 2016, Hyogo was one of the 6 prefectures which had not issued a nuclear-free declaration. With the start of the "International Hibakusha Appeal" signature campaign that year, Hibakusha requested the governor to sign the Appeal, and the governor stated, "In support of the wishes of the Hibakusha for the abolition of nuclear weapons, I am signing it in the name of the Governor of Hyogo." However, regarding a "nuclear-free declaration", he maintained, "Issuing the declaration should be the expression of the entire population of the prefecture, so I will ask the

Prefectural Assembly to make a decision on the issue.” Finally, as a result of Gensuikyo’s petitions, as well as repeated questions and deliberations by the JCP assembly members urging the governor to issue the declaration, in December 2017, the Hyogo Prefectural Assembly unanimously adopted the nuclear-free declaration.

In Hyogo, Hidankyo and Gensuikyo have repeatedly held consultations on how to promote the signature campaign, and together paid visits to many different organizations in the prefecture for dialogue, with a written appeal signed by presidents of 14 local Hibakusha associations in Hyogo. Overcoming past barriers between organizations, we have visited not only Hyogo Trade Union Federation and the Family Doctors Association, but also associations of medical doctors, lawyers, agricultural cooperatives, consumers Co-ops and Soka Gakkai, asking them to join the campaign. Even the Association of Shinto Shrines, where the headquarters of Japan Conference (a right-wing organization) is located, promised to consider our request, saying, “There is no alternative but to abolish nuclear weapons, is there?” We generally received favorable responses from communities of faith, including the Hyogo District office of the United Church of Japan, Hyogo branch office of Tenrikyo, Kobe branch of Rissho Kosei-kai (Buddhist) and Kobe Muslim Mosque.

All mayors of cities and towns in Hyogo Prefecture belong to the Mayors for Peace. The mayors of Itami and Kawanishi, where the Self-Defense Force bases are located, for the first time responded to our request by signing the Hibakusha Appeal, saying, “We cannot decline the Hibakusha’s request.” So far, in addition to the Prefectural governor, 28 mayors out of 29 cities and all 12 town mayors have signed. Last year, we produced a poster featuring photos of endorsing mayors and the governor, urging people to sign the Hibakusha Appeal. There was a great response to this. With the 75th anniversary approaching we produced a new signature form featuring the photos of the governor and 17 mayors, including those newly elected last spring. With this new form, we are extensively collecting signatures and so far 170,000 have been collected by Hyogo Gensuikyo, 70,000 by Co-op Kobe and 34,000 by Hidankyo.

Ashiya is one of the cities where the signature campaign for banning atomic and hydrogen bombs was started in the wake of the 1954 Bikini Hydrogen Bomb incident. Ms. Chiba Takako, president of the Hibakusha association of Ashiya has requested signatures from a broad range of labor organizations, including Rengo-affiliates. To date she has gathered over 4,000 signatures. Among them are 950 from Ashiya Teachers’ Union, an affiliate of Japan

Teachers’ Union. Ms. Chiba is going to join the World Conference in New York next spring on the eve of the NPT Review Conference. Another Hibakusha, Ms. Kobayashi Aiko, who lives in Kakogawa City, is an elder sister of famous baseball player Harimoto Isao. She goes everywhere boldly to collect signatures and has gathered more than 2,000 so far.

Some city authorities are taking their own initiatives in the signature campaign. Nishinomiya and Takarazuka cities have requested their citizens to join the campaign by sending an envelope-type signature form to each household, with postage paid and pre-addressed to the city office. Sumoto City publicizes the signature campaign on the city’s website and Kawanishi City set up a permanent table in the hall of the city office where visitors can write their names. Takasago City is the only remaining city with the mayor continuing to refuse to endorse the signature campaign. There, in response to the Hibakusha association’s lobbying efforts, the city assembly unanimously adopted a resolution calling for people to “promote the International Hibakusha Appeal International Signature Campaign”. As a result, a “Committee to Promote the Signature Campaign” was set up there, including the elected members of the city assembly from the JCP, Greens and conservatives.

If we gain the endorsement of respective mayors in the community and involve diverse fields of groups/organizations and municipal governments, I believe we can promote the Hibakusha Appeal International Signature campaign at an explosive pace, leading to the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing.

This signature campaign has a special power to move people as it has been called for by the Hibakusha themselves. At a general meeting of the Hibakusha Association of Toyonaka City, the 90-year-old president of the association said, “We cannot die before all nuclear weapons are abolished.” How can we not respond to such a strong desire of the Hibakusha?

Hyogo Gensuikyo is planning to send more than 50 members to the World Conference against A and H Bombs in New York next year. I am determined to travel to New York with you, carrying a lot bigger number of signatures on the Hibakusha Appeal. Friends, let’s go for it!

Kosaka Shoichi Katsuhira Association on Aegis Ashore Deployment, Akita

I come from the Katsuhira district of Akita Prefecture. The district is a candidate site for the

deployment of a missile. In November 2017, we learned from reports that the Aegis Ashore missile defense system would be deployed to Akita and Yamaguchi prefectures in case of North Korean missile attacks. The missile defense system is said to cost 600 billion yen. That's far larger than Akita Prefecture's annual budget. Learning about the system, I joined several friends to launch a group against the Aegis Ashore missile deployment. We soon realized the need to organize a prefecture-wide movement and established a prefectural people's association against the deployment. My group is now part of the association.

The Araya-Katsuhira district is a densely populated area with 13,000 residents of 5,400 households. There are houses about only 300 meters from the proposed site for the missile deployment. Our opposition to the deployment began by questioning why a missile has to be based in this heavily populated area. There are various public facilities, including a kindergarten, an elementary school, a junior high school, and a welfare center. The prefectural government office and the city hall are within three kilometers from the proposed site. People are concerned about the possible effects of electromagnetic waves. They are also worried that the town might become the target of enemy attacks. These concerns became increasingly vocal, giving rise to growing opposition to the deployment plan. The Araya-Katsuhira district's economic development council, which consists of 16 towns, as well as individuals and various organizations, requested the city and the prefecture not to agree to the deployment. But the Akita Prefecture governor and the Akita City mayor have not taken any clear stand. The prefectural assembly and the city assembly were also waiting for the result of a Defense Ministry survey.

In June, the Defense Ministry came up with the result of the on-site survey and said the Araya Training ground is the best site for the missile deployment. On June 8, 120 residents assembled to hear Defense Ministry officials explain its plan. But immediately before the meeting, significant errors were found in the documents that were made available at the meeting. But the Defense Ministry officials opened the meeting in disregard of the errors. What's more, after the officials' explanation, a man on the floor took the microphone. Pointing to an official at the back, he said, "You were dozing off, weren't you? What do you think you're doing? Our lives are at stake!" This person's angry remarks were reported extensively and helped the issue of the plan to deploy Aegis missile in Akita become known throughout the country. Both the governor and mayor have come to say, "This issue begins with what is negative." This is a result of the various movements linking up.

In the House of Councilors election in July, the proposed deployment of Aegis Ashore anti-missile was a major issue in Akita. As you all know, a united candidate supported by opposition parties was elected, a great victory. Nevertheless, the Defense Ministry sticks to the conclusion that "Araya is the best place for the deployment" to push ahead with the plan just by modifying the organizational arrangement through personnel replacements. We have launched a signature campaign in response to an appeal by 10 prominent public figures in the prefecture for increasing the movement to demand that the deployment plan be retracted.

Learning from our friends in Okinawa, we will never give up! We will also continue to fight together with our friends in Yamaguchi Prefecture to get the deployment plan canceled.



Resolution of the Hiroshima Day Rally
2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs - Hiroshima

Call from Hiroshima

*Give back my father, give back my mother; Give back the elderly, give back children;
Give back myself, To connect to myself, give back humanity.*

“Atomic Bomb Poetry Collection” by Toge Sankichi

On this day in the 74th year of the suffering of Hiroshima from an atomic bomb, we remember the poem “Give back humanity” by an “A-bomb poet”.

The atom bomb neither allowed humans to die humane deaths, nor to live humane lives. Totally ruining human dignity, it was a weapon of ultimate inhumanity. We must never allow any use of nuclear weapons. Their elimination is the only absolute guarantee to root out the danger of nuclear weapons, and hence an urgent task for the survival of the human race.

It will soon be the 75th year of A-bomb sufferings. Bearing in mind the desire of the Hibakusha for the “elimination of nuclear weapons in our lifetime”, we have to make a leap to strengthen our movement in order to achieve “a world without nuclear weapons”. Let us stand up for the global action for 2020 set out in the “Declaration of the International Meeting”.

The danger of nuclear weapons is not something of the past. The United States is stepping up its posture on the use of nuclear weapons. The expiration of the INF treaty could lead to the nightmare of a nuclear arms race. The Nuclear Five are opposing the TPNW, turning their backs on the agreements reached by past NPT review conferences.

“Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine”, with the logic that “nuclear weapons are the guarantee of security”, is already bankrupt because of the revelation of their inhuman consequences. The entry into force of the TPNW is only a matter of time. The resistance by the forces that cling to nuclear weapons is an expression of their isolation.

To overcome the resistance and achieve further advance towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, let us build ever broader cooperation between grassroots movements, civil society and non-nuclear governments.

In cooperation with mayors and local assembly members, let us unfurl an international signature campaign in support of the “Hibakusha Appeal”, which aims to collect hundreds of millions of signatures worldwide, from our regions and local communities. Let us call on the Japanese government to break away from the US “nuclear umbrella” and join the TPNW.

The number of local governments that have adopted resolutions urging the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW exceeds 400. Let us drastically increase this number. We demand the abrogation of the Japan-US secret nuclear agreements, strict implementation of the three Non-Nuclear Principles and their legislation.

Let us bring success to the world conference against A and H bombs in New York and international joint actions on the eve of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. Let us send delegations from all over the country.

Let us strengthen our campaign to make known to the public the damage from the A-bombings and reveal the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. Let us organize “A-bomb exhibitions” and meetings to listen to Hibakusha in every region and local community. Let us intensify our support for and solidarity with the Hibakusha in their demand for drastic improvement of the A-bomb disease recognition system and the establishment of the principle of state compensation. Let us win an expansion of the designated “black rain area” and thus achieve the relief of many sufferers.

Let us strengthen our campaign for the prevention of the Abe-led revision of Article 9 and the repeal of the war laws. In firm solidarity with “All Okinawan” people in their struggle for their dignity, let us demand the cessation of the construction of the new base at Henoko Bay in Nago and the immediate return of the Futenma base to the Okinawa people. Let us oppose the military build-up, as well as the consolidation of the Japan-US military alliance.

For the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and peace building in East Asia, let us demand diplomacy from the Japanese Government based on the peace principle of the Constitution. The improvement of the now deteriorating Japan-ROK relations requires that Japan take a sensible attitude separating politics from economics and based on a critical reflection on its past aggression and colonial rule. Let us build on a huge scale solidarity between civil society movements for peace in Japan, the Republic of Korea and in the whole of East Asia.

We oppose the restart of nuclear power plants. Let us demand a break away from nuclear power and conversion to renewable energy. Let us strengthen campaigns for the protection of the global environment. We need to extend movements against the destruction of employment and people’s living, poverty and the widening economic gap, and for a cut in military expenditures and protection of social welfare and education. Let us end all forms of discrimination, achieve gender equality and expand the rights of LGBT people. Let us oppose all forms of violation of the freedom of expression.

Bringing these movements together and further building cooperation between citizens and opposition parties, let us press the government to play a role befitting of the only A-bombed country.

Carrying desires for peace and against nuclear weapons from all over the country through peace marches and other forms of action and now assembled in Hiroshima, we send out our call to the world: Let us build the broadest possible cooperation for the dignity of all people, hand in hand with all who desire to live lives befitting of human beings. Together with Hibakusha, and together with young people, let us open up our future.

No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, No More Hibakusha, No More War!

August 6, 2019
2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs - Hiroshima

Opening Plenary

2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs-Nagasaki (August 7)



Keynote Address on Behalf of the Organizer:

Anzai Ikuro
Member of the Committee of
Chairpersons, World Conference
Organizing Committee

On behalf of the organizers of the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs-Nagasaki, I have been asked to make this keynote address today. I am from Kyoto. As you may know, up to 2 weeks before the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, it was Kyoto that had been designated as the first target of the atomic bombing. The intended ground zero was the circle-shaped garage of the Umeko-ji locomotive district, located 1 kilometer west of Kyoto Station in the center of Kyoto Basin. In those days, they put a locomotive on a turntable to move it from one railway track to another. The diameter of the turntable was about 50-60 meters, and its round shape could clearly be identified even at an altitude of 10,000, from where the atomic bomb

was to be released. That turntable is still displayed in the Kyoto Railway Museum near Kyoto Station.

Back then, three conditions were considered essential as a target for the atomic bombing: 1) a city or district larger than 3 miles in diameter; 2) an area that could be effectively destroyed by the bomb blasts; 3) an area as yet left unscathed by air raids as of August 1945. Meeting these requirements, Kyoto was listed as one of the “AA targets”, along with Hiroshima. With many intellectuals among its population, Kyoto was regarded as ideal to get the meaning of the atomic bombing across.

Kyoto had a population close to 1 million and over 1,000 wooden shrines and temples. Given that the city was surrounded by mountains, if a Hiroshima-type atomic bomb had been dropped on Kyoto, with blast, radiation and firestorms, about half a million people would have been killed.

However, on July 24, 13 days before Hiroshima was A-bombed, Kyoto was eliminated from the list of targets and replaced by Nagasaki City. That day’s entry of the journal of U.S. War

Secretary Henry Stimson reads, “...if elimination was not done, the bitterness which would be caused by such a wanton act [a-bombing Kyoto, Japan’s cultural center] might make it impossible during the long post-war period to reconcile the Japanese to us in that area rather than to the Russians. It might thus, I pointed out, be the means of preventing what our policy demanded, namely a sympathetic Japan to the United States in case there should be any aggression by Russian in Manchuria”. This shows that the U.S. cautiously avoided A-bombing Kyoto in order to keep its political advantage in the post WWII international community.

On August 2, the Commander of the Fleet Air Wing Group 20 officially announced “Field Order No.13 (Operation Centerboard) and it was decided that the atomic bombing would take place on August 6. The first target that was set was Hiroshima. Kokura was the second and Nagasaki, the third.

At 8:15 on August 6, a uranium bomb nicknamed “Little Boy” was carried by the bomber “Enola Gay” and released over Hiroshima. With no wind in the morning and many people outside working, the Hiroshima bomb killed about 200,000 people. Many of those who barely survived the direct attack later suffered severe after-effects of radiation, discrimination and prejudice in the society.

Between the U.S and the Soviet Union there was a secret deal agreed upon in Yalta, in which the Soviets promised to join the war with Japan within 3 months after Germany’s surrender. As Germany had already surrendered on May 8, exactly 3 months later, the Soviets declared war against Japan on August 8 and launched attacks from Manchuria.

Knowing this, the U.S. immediately sent the second bomber Bockscar carrying a plutonium bomb “Fat Man” to Kokura, the second target for the atomic bombing. However, the sky over Kokura was covered with smoke caused by the air raid fires on the Yawata area the previous day. After 3 failed entries into the city, the plane banked and headed toward Nagasaki, the third A-bomb target. At 10:58, the bomb was dropped manually from an altitude of 9,000 meters. Four minutes later at 11:02, Nagasaki became the second nuclear hell. It is well known that Bockscar later ran out of fuel and made an emergency landing in Okinawa. The Nagasaki A-bombing consequently killed 110,000 people and survivors were forced to live inhuman lives in the ensuing years.

Some time ago, in the guestbook of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, someone from outside Japan scribbled, “Who is to blame?”

Indeed, if Japan had not conducted the war of aggression before the atomic bombing, the A-bomb would not have been dropped. But in spite of that, the fundamental belief of the Hibakusha is that nuclear weapons are inhuman and absolutely evil weapons, which should never be used, irrespective of the actual course of war. The Hibakusha’s appeal, that Nagasaki should remain the last victim city of an atomic bombing, reflects their determination.

Through their experiences of the war, the people of Japan declared in Article 9 of the constitution, that “the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes.” Upholding the banner of the “prevention of nuclear war; abolition of nuclear weapons and support for and solidarity with the Hibakusha,” the citizens of Japan have appealed for creating a nuclear-free world in unison with the Hibakusha. This World Conference against A and H Bombs, too, is one of such efforts.

At times, in the discussion on how to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, we hear some people say that possession of nuclear weapons guarantees security. It is another version of the argument on gun-control which claims that a society with guns is safer than a society where guns are prohibited. According to the U.S. Congressional Research Service, it is estimated that during 239 years since 1775, when the U.S. War of Independence was being fought, to 2014, 1.2 million people were killed in wars. But during only 46 years between 1968 and 2014, almost 1.5 million people were killed by guns. More people were killed by guns domestically than in foreign wars. If by extension someone argues that a world with nuclear weapons is safer than a world without them, the principle of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will be doomed to collapse completely.

Fortunately, the Hibakusha’s voices for the abolition of nuclear weapons echoed throughout the international community, which led to the adoption by the U.N. of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on July 7, 2017. The treaty established a new norm to render nuclear weapons completely illegal and marked an important step forward for their elimination. This treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and provides for their elimination. It has been supported by two-thirds of the U.N. member states. So far the treaty has been signed by 70 states and ratified by 25. The treaty enters into effect 90 days after the 50th country’s ratification, and is now well on its way for coming into force. The treaty enjoys support even inside the

countries with nuclear weapons or those under the “nuclear umbrella”. In the U.S., Washington, D.C., the nation’s capital, and the State Assembly of California, the largest state, have adopted resolutions unanimously to urge the government to join the TPNW.

We feel strong resentment on the refusal of the Japanese government to join this treaty. We are urging the government to support the TPNW and to sign and ratify it, as well as actively call on other countries which have not done so yet. For achieving this, too, we need to be determined to pull together more and stronger support to our efforts and change the present situation.

It is reported that after Hiroshima was A-bombed, one of the scientists of the Manhattan Project said that for the next 75 years, no grass or trees would grow on the soil of Hiroshima. Next year, 2020 will mark the 75th anniversary since then. It will also mark the 50th year of the birth of the NPT regime. Despite the unfairness of acknowledging five powers possessing nuclear arsenals, the NPT is supported by many countries as it stipulates in its Article 6 the obligation of nuclear weapon states to conduct negotiations on measures for nuclear disarmament. The Nuclear Five must not keep turning their backs on this treaty obligation and we must urge them to sincerely fulfill that obligation.

The International Meeting of this year’s World Conference, held for 3 days from August 3, unanimously adopted the Declaration of the International Meeting. While referring to the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in 2020, it reminded us of the first resolution of the U.N., which was on the elimination of atomic weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. The Declaration calls on us to rise to a global movement with the Hibakusha to make the year 2020 a historic turning point to create a nuclear weapon-free world. Most importantly, the declaration calls for strengthening our activities to let it be known to the world the damage and aftereffects of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings and the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. It states that for creating a majority force in support of the TPNW, it is essential to expose the catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and defeat the “nuclear deterrence” theory.

Dear friends taking part in the 2019 World Conference - Nagasaki, Anthropologist Gerald Weinberg, a software developer who joined the Hall of Fellows of the Computer Museum in 1977 along with Bill Gates, died a year ago today. Among the variety of viewpoints he proposed are changing the angle from which to view things upside-down and reversing the standpoints of

victimizers and victims. We should try to view the A-bomb hell not from above the mushroom cloud, but underneath. We should try to imagine and relive the hellish experiences of those who suffered the nuclear attack, not from the standpoint of those who dropped the bomb. We must make sure that the individual memory of the Hibakusha is succeeded by “societal memory.” To prevent the reproduction of these tragic memories, it is essential to exchange our experiences in activities, propose ideas and carry on our efforts for the prevention of nuclear war, elimination of nuclear weapons and support for and solidarity with the Hibakusha.

Friends, let us share the hearts and minds of the Hibakusha you have met through the World Conference and deeply learn from the Declaration of the International Meeting, which crystallized the wisdom and experiences of the worldwide movement against A and H Bombs. Let us further spread the International Hibakusha Appeal Signature Campaign for which already nearly 10 million signatures have been gathered, and bring the result of all these movements to the World Conference against A and H Bombs in New York next April. We will urge the forthcoming NPT Review Conference and UN General Assembly to sincerely respond to the earnest desire of the Hibakusha to see all nuclear weapons eliminated in their lifetime.

Greetings of the Hibakusha:

Tanaka Shigemitsu

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

Welcome to the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs. I bring warm greetings of solidarity to all participants from around Japan and abroad.

On August 9, 74 years ago, an atomic bomb dropped by the United States turned the city of Nagasaki into a hell on earth. People could neither die nor live as humans. The US government concealed the atomic devastation and the Japanese government left the survivors without any relief for 12 years.

On March 1st, 1954, Japan suffered nuclear weapon damage for the third time. The United States carried out a hydrogen test explosion codenamed “Operation Castle”. More than 900 fishing vessels were showered with radioactive fallout. Kuboyama Aikichi, chief radio operator of the Fifth Lucky Dragon, died in September after developing liver complications. This incident gave

rise to a petition campaign demanding the prohibition of hydrogen bombs. It started in Tokyo's Suginami Ward and quickly spread nationwide. In 1956, Hibakusha participating in the 2nd World Conference against A and H Bombs, amid a growing movement for relief for and solidarity with Hibakusha, pledged to each other that Hibakusha should fight to save themselves at the same time as trying to save humanity from the crisis by making use of their A-bomb experience. We then founded the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, or Hidankyo, to continue to tell people about our A-bomb experience and develop the movement demanding a hibakusha relief law based on state compensation.

Ever since, we have been campaigning for the enactment of a Hibakusha aid law providing state compensation, while bringing our stories into public debate.

During the last 74 years, there have been moments of crisis, including the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cuban missile crisis. It was world public awareness about the horrific nature of atomic bombs that prevented nuclear weapons from being used.

Unfortunately, nuclear weapons still exist, while the Hibakusha aid law that would provide state compensation is yet to be enacted.

You may be surprised to know that the Japanese government maintains that the principle regarding compensation for the damage to Hibakusha is that "damage caused by war to human lives, bodies and properties should be equally tolerated and shared by the people" (Japanese government, November 1980).

In April 2016, we Hibakusha, in our last-ditch effort, launched an international signature campaign saying that we request all the states to conclude a treaty that prohibits and eliminates nuclear weapons so that these weapons will be abolished for good in our lifetime.

At that time, we did not even imagine that a treaty answering to our demands would be adopted within one year at the United Nations with 122 countries voting in favor.

In Nagasaki, we rushed to the A-bomb memorial raised at the hypocenter to report this news to the dead.

Today, 70 countries have signed the treaty and 24 have ratified it.

The international signature campaign by Hibakusha has spread nationwide. The liaison committee for the promotion of the signature drive has been established in many cities around the country. In Nagasaki, five Hibakusha groups asked public figures to become campaign supporters. Nagasaki Governor Nakamura Hodo, Nagasaki

City Mayor Taue Tomihisa and other local personalities have agreed to work together to collect 500,000 signatures.

The government of Japan, the only A-bombed country, claims to be a bridge between nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states. However, it burned down the bridge by refusing to sign the TPNW and siding with the pro-nuclear camp.

Japan must take the lead in the movement towards a world without nuclear weapons by signing and ratifying the TPNW and turning Northeast Asia into a nuclear-free zone instead of relying on the US nuclear umbrella. This depends on public opinion and the popular movement. Since the end of WWII, to this day Japan has never been involved in any war. We believe this is thanks to the Constitution. The Japanese Constitution represents the silent will that those immolated in Hiroshima and Nagasaki left us. We must not allow Article 9 to be adversely amended to make the Self-Defense Forces fully-fledged armed forces and Japan a war-fighting country. Rather, we must make use of the Constitution for promoting dialogue and peace diplomacy.

The year 2020 is an important year in which we observe the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings. The NPT Review Conference is to be held also next year at the U.N. We will see whether the TPNW will go into force. We must absolutely make this year's World Conference a success if we want to be able to take up the challenge.

Let me close by reassuring you that Hibakusha will do their utmost.

Greetings from Nagasaki Mayor:

Taue Tomihisa Mayor of Nagasaki City

On behalf of the citizens of Nagasaki, I'd like to welcome the holding of the World Conference against A and H Bombs in Nagasaki, and I'd also like to extend my cordial welcome to all of you who have come from throughout Japan and from around the world.

Two years have passed since the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted. As some speakers mentioned earlier, as of August 6 yesterday, with Bolivian participation, the number of ratifying countries reached 25. However, this is only half way. Ratification by 25 more countries is still a pressing need.

While the treaty has brought us hope, the world situation surrounding nuclear arms is becoming extremely severe: The Intermediate-Range Nuclear

Forces (INF) Treaty is no longer effective; and the Iran nuclear deal is also in a parlous state. Under these international circumstances, we all must go back to our starting point and remember that civil society has power. In our "Peace Declaration" that will be issued the day after tomorrow at the peace memorial ceremony, I will call upon people to recall once again that civil society has power to bring about change and that we must build up our powers together.

The strongest power for the abolition of nuclear weapons lies in civil society, and one specific way to visualize such power is what was suggested earlier by Mr. Tanaka, Co-Chair of Nihon Hidankyo, i.e., the "International Hibakusha Appeal" signature campaign. I myself will work together with you to promote and spread this signature drive in order for more people to sign as a concrete action to raise their voices against nuclear weapons.

We are now coming to the end of the era where Hibakusha are still with us, and the start of the era without Hibakusha is approaching. I'd like to think together with you again what this really means. Listening to Hibakusha telling us of their experiences, we have been given a lot of opportunities to look at the issue of nuclear weapons. Entering the era without any Hibakusha, is it possible for us to really convey the horror of nuclear weapons to younger generations? This question is now posed to the whole world. There are many things that we must do while Hibakusha are still alive. At the same time, we must prepare for the upcoming era without Hibakusha. In cooperation with you, I will make sure to convey the dreadfulness of nuclear weapons to our children and will work even harder to make the best use of the power of civil society to achieve a world without nuclear weapons as early as possible, so that nuclear weapons can never be used again in our children's and grandchildren's times.

I appreciate that you gather here in Nagasaki every year to raise the cry, "No Nukes!" with us. It is very encouraging for us, Nagasaki citizens. The louder our voices in Hiroshima and Nagasaki sound, some people may misunderstand that this is a problem of our two cities only. However, that is not the case. It is the world's problem and not a thing of the past. It is a present and future issue. That is why we should continue passing our message down from generation to generation. I believe the message will be passed on to younger generations when non-Hiroshima/Nagasaki citizens begin sending this same message as their own.

Please take what you have learned in this conference back to your communities and countries and expand the circle of "No Nukes!" as widely as

you can. On behalf of Nagasaki citizens, and as your friend, I'd like to ask you to do so from the bottom of my heart.

Earnestly hoping that our common efforts will bear fruit and a nuclear weapons-free world will be established without delay, let me close my greetings of welcome and solidarity to you all. We continue to count on your efforts.

Solidarity Greetings:

Hirowatari Seigo Civil Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism/ Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

Dear participants,

I offer my sincere respect to you all and bring you my greetings in solidarity. I am speaking on behalf of the "Civil Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism". Our coalition was established in December 2015, to oppose the Abe government's policy of turning Japan into a country that can wage wars and mainstreaming military policy. We have since worked with opposition parties defending the Constitution to form a new majority in the Diet and in the national elections with a change of government as the common goal.

In preparation for the House of Councilors election in July, our coalition reached agreement with opposition parties on 13 common policy items in defense of constitutionalism, standing firm for new politics that can replace Abe government policies. The first item is to prevent the government from initiating in the Diet a process of constitutional amendment focusing on the war-renouncing Article 9. The second item is the repeal of the 2015 War Laws that allow the government to exercise the right of collective defense.

As you know, the three founding purposes of the movement against A and H Bombs are: the prevention of nuclear war, total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons and relief for and solidarity with Hibakusha. These are the foundation on which we are now working to have the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons go into effect as soon as possible.

One important contribution that Japanese people can make for the realization of this global task for humanity is to firmly defend and implement Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which provides in its original significance, for the renunciation of war and war potentials and absolute peace.

In the recent House of Councilors' election, those forces calling for constitutional revision fell

short of the two-thirds majority they needed to propose amending the Constitution to the Diet. Despite this, Prime Minister Abe is claiming that the government got a mandate for constitutional revision and has placed constitutional revision as a core item on the agenda.

The Civil Alliance is determined to work to further increase cooperation between the citizens' movement and opposition parties that defend the Constitution against Prime Minister Abe's plan. Making use of the pacifism of Article 9, we will work to establish peace and make East Asia nuclear-free. We will fight to remove the Futenma US Marine Corps Air Station in Okinawa and prevent the construction of a new base in Okinawa's Henoko. We will also increase our efforts to get the TPNW ratified by Japan. We will work in solidarity with the Movement against A- and H-Bombs and contribute to developing the movement in order to stop attempts by Abe that may push our country into the dangerous path towards war.

Speeches by the Representatives of National Governments:

George-Wilhelm Gallhofer
Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
Republic of Austria
(Please see page 61)

Melba Pria
Ambassador to Japan
United Mexican States

It is an honour to participate in the commemoration of the 74th anniversary of the atomic attacks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on 6 and 9 August, 1945. Let us not forget.

México pays tribute to the Japanese people, particularly to the survivors of the atomic bombs (Hibakushas) who have played a key role in the efforts to raise the awareness regarding the devastating effects of nuclear weapons.

Despite efforts made by some nuclear-weapon States, it is alarming that there are still around 14 thousand nuclear weapons, whose existence represent a major risk to the world population, to the environment, to the global health and to the food safety, as well as an obstacle to development and peace.

Our efforts towards nuclear disarmament are well known. Since the United Nations were

established, Mexico has insisted on the need to release the mankind from nuclear weapons.

Since the first nuclear detonation, Mexico unilaterally adopted the decision to never develop or allow the deployment of any other country's nuclear weapons in its territory. Therefore, our Constitution establishes that nuclear energy can only be used for peaceful purposes. Today, most of the international community supports this cause.

Precisely, the Latin American and the Caribbean region has played a key role in raising awareness on nuclear disarmament. Its commitment to this common objective was realized with the entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, best known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Mexico is proud to belong to the first nuclear-weapon-free-zone and to have contributed to the establishment of other four nuclear – weapons-free-zones.

All the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament -, must exert all efforts to guarantee its effective implementation, including achieving nuclear disarmament.

In this regard, Mexico welcomes the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July 7, 2017, which once into force, will ban the production, possession, use and transfer of nuclear weapons to the States who eventually decide to join it.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is consistent with Mexico's recognized and widespread diplomatic tradition in favour of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. This Treaty reinforces the legal framework established by the NPT in 1968, and the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will not replace the NPT, it will reinforce it, as it is consistent with the obligation contained in the article VI of the NPT. Both instruments will complement each other, strengthening the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

The Treaty will be added to other international instruments and shall constitute a key piece on the efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

According to the ultimate interest of the people, every State has the duty to support actions aimed to the collective security and, therefore, to contribute to the disarmament.

It is our historical and collective responsibility to make sure that the attacks like those which took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, never happen again. Thereby, Mexico will continue striving for the construction of a safer world based on the international law, international cooperation and the

peaceful settlement of disputes.

México will continue promoting that the inactive, false and - obviously - dangerous perception that arsenals, especially the nuclear ones, offer certain “stability”, end up by being irreversibly discarded.

Seiko Ishikawa
Ambassador to Japan
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

On behalf of the Government and People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it is an honor to convey to all participants a message of solidarity and fraternity at this World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, marking the 74th anniversary of the first nuclear attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that caused over those cities tremendous damages, destruction and massive humanitarian consequences.

This 2019 World Conference against A & H Bombs will serve as a prelude to the year 2020 which will be very significant in the context of achieving a world without nuclear weapons: the 75th anniversary of the US atomic bombings; the 50th anniversary of the entry in force of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the quinquennial NPT Review Conference.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's position towards nuclear disarmament is clearly stated in our National Constitution, which establishes the promotion of nuclear disarmament, the cooperation between nations, and declares the Venezuelan geographical space as an area of peace, and furthermore prohibits the possession, production and use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Under this firm ethical spirit, Venezuela has expressed its pacifist will, that has taken us to be a part of the first free zone of nuclear weapons of all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to underwrite the declaration of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), as a Peace Zone in 2014.

Venezuela unequivocally rejects the strategic defense doctrines of nuclear-weapon States that justify, with double standards, the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and uphold unacceptable international security concepts based on the promotion and development of nuclear deterrence policies.

We believe that the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons, signed and ratified by Venezuela, is the greatest development in recent decades for the maintenance of international peace oriented to the total

disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons.

Last year, Venezuela proposed the adoption of the UN Resolution 73/127, supported by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and voted overwhelmingly in favor for, which creates the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, celebrated and promoted for the first time this past April 24th. We must reaffirm the UN Charter and its principles of resolving disputes among countries through peaceful means and reject unilateralism.

A nuclear power, the one presided by Donald Trump, continues to apply illegal unilateral coercive measures against Venezuela, known as sanctions, which are contrary to the international law and the Charter of the United Nations, according to resolutions from the Human Rights Council.

The Government of Venezuela deplores such unilateral sanctions through arbitrary measures imposed by one or more States. We assume our full and firm commitment for peaceful coexistence among States, and uphold peace, dialogue, international security and nuclear disarmament as priority objectives.

On behalf of the Government and People of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I would like to transmit an especial message of friendship and solidarity to the Hibakushas, who have honored us with numerous visits to Venezuela for the last 10 years, on board the Peace Boat as part of the project for a Nuclear Free World. Hibakusha's powerful message of peace have touched the hearts of many Venezuelans, especially the younger ones.

Once again, in October 2019, Venezuelans will be privileged to welcome the Hibakushas during the Peace Boat Global Voyage #102. It will be an excellent opportunity for exchange through activities organized by the people and Government of Venezuela, its universities and national and regional civil organizations.

Venezuela reaffirms its support for the principles and objectives of the initiative of the Global Network of Mayors for Peace, founded by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, of which Venezuela participates with 25 member cities.

Finally, I am honored to convey to this meaningful World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs the message by the Non Aligned Movement, composed by 120 countries, under the presidency of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. *(Please see page 15.)*

For Phasing-out of Nuclear Power and Promotion of Renewable Energy:

Yoshiwara Tsuyoshi
President, Federation of Promotion of Zero-Nuclear Power and Renewable Energy (Genjiren)

Thank you for your kind introduction. I am Yoshiwara Tsuyoshi, President of Genjiren.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the victims who perished in the detonation of the atomic bomb in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. I would also like to honor the Hibakusha who have endured their long and painful lives and who had their innocent beloved families taken away. They and their families have suffered from the effects of radiation exposure for many years.

How cruel, horrible and inhumane the atomic bomb is! All humans have learned this through the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is truly regrettable, in fact unbelievable, that to this day the elimination of nuclear weapons has not been achieved. Rather, they are proliferating into many parts of the world. If we humans have any wisdom, we will take action immediately toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Not only nuclear weapons, but also nuclear power plants, which have been built one after another around the world under the name of the peaceful use of atomic energy, are a veritable danger which could lead to the extinction of the human race, as shown by the accidents at Three Mile Island in 1979, Chernobyl in 1986, and Fukushima in 2011. We must therefore achieve zero-nuclear power generation immediately.

Genjiren is a national organization founded to achieve zero-nuclear power and promote renewable energy. Among our leading members are two former Prime Ministers, Koizumi Junichiro and Hosokawa Morihiro, and we are carrying out our activities throughout the country.

Renewable energy, such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass, is inexhaustible, safe and low cost. The world is entering a period of great growth thanks to the “energy revolution”. However, Japan still sticks to nuclear power. Why?

It is because of human greed. “Greed” for money drives nuclear power. Just as there were western companies who were blinded by huge profits behind the detonation of atomic bombs on Japan, we see a structure of companies and other parties called Genshiryoku-mura (nuclear power village) seeking huge profits from the nuclear power industry.

Although everyone knows it is dangerous, because of the enormous amount of money involved people are swayed by ugly greed and cannot, or will not stop the system. This is true of both atomic bombs and nuclear power. The pursuit of profit and greed is causing all the problems in our modern society.

We have just one wish: the realisation of a nuclear weapon-free, nuclear power-free and peaceful world.

Before closing, I wish all the best to the people of Nagasaki, who have overcome the grave sufferings from the atomic bombing and continue to make efforts for world peace.

Action toward 2020 for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons - Speeches by Overseas Delegates:

Hannah Kemp-Welch
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament U.K.

Thank you to the organisers and all those who made this event possible. It's my honour to be here today, representing the United Kingdom's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

CND celebrated its 60th anniversary last year. Founded in 1958, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has a rich history of mobilising people to protest against nuclear weapons. We are a grassroots movement, comprising local groups, regions and nations, as well as specialist sections. Working with others nationally and internationally, we have been an important force in pressing our government and others to conclude accords such as the Partial Test Ban Treaty, the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. We also worked to oppose the introduction of the Neutron bomb; plans for this appalling device were abandoned as a result. We are part of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which as you know, recently successfully campaigned for a global ban on nuclear weapons at the United Nations and won the Nobel Peace Prize for this work. But despite all this there is much work still to be done.

In 2016, the British government voted to renew the Trident Missile System. Our main Opposition party has still not changed their policy favouring Trident renewal, despite now having an anti-nuclear Party Leader. Our Government boycotted the negotiations on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and took part in a US press conference outside the room to protest

them. This is unacceptable and CND must continue to lobby, to raise public awareness and to apply pressure on the Government and all political parties to adopt a new and moral stance on nuclear weapons - to unilaterally disarm.

Next month, Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) will hold one of the world's largest arms fairs in the UK. DSEI features over 1600 exhibitors who display weapons ranging from sniper weapons to tanks, and promotes arms sales to countries with records of grave human rights abuses. The fair has also hosted representatives from some of the world's most authoritarian and repressive regimes. What is more, in previous years, the arms fair has been found to sell weapons that are banned from sale in the UK due to their heinous nature, such as electro-shock and torture equipment and cluster bombs. Despite these violations, the UK government has failed to withdraw its support for the fair. Led by the Campaign Against Arms Trade, CND is working with other groups to protest the DSEI arms fair, partnering to host a 'No Nuclear Day' on Wednesday 4th September 2019, as part of Stop the Arms Fair's two-week programme of protests to the fair.

In December, Heads of state from NATO countries will gather in London, with Donald Trump expected to be among those attending. The NATO summit will be a crucial opportunity for our movement to oppose Trump's nuclear warmongering and highlight the dangerous role NATO, as a nuclear alliance, plays in raising international tensions. CND will be working with British and international partners to co-ordinate protests in London.

For these protests to be effective, citizen activism must play a decisive role. 5,000 people turned up to the first CND meeting in 1958, yet my generation are now rarely seen at meetings. For those of us who weren't alive to witness to the horrors of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and can't remember the Cold War, perhaps the threat of nuclear war seems distant. Yet Trump's nuclear posturing, tensions with Iran, and our new Prime Minister's remarks on nuclear weapons as "vital" for the UK, are of deep concern. We must do all we can to ensure young people learn this history and feel empowered to take active roles within the peace movement.

The need for generations to unite is clear. We must, as individuals, look at our particular skill sets and harness them for this mission. Thus, when we speak of citizen activism, this is not limited to the visible work of organising rallies and protests. Protests already seem to take place weekly on the streets of London, and many are increasingly dispirited at the minimal effectiveness of these

methods. We must be visible, but we must also spread our roots and branches widely within society - sharing information and discussing our views with colleagues, students, parents, and politicians. We can all find our way of supporting the peace movement - whether by leading a rally, or through the quieter work of posting newsletters, designing flyers, writing to the papers, speaking at a school, building a website, or running a local street stall. We must do all we can to work harmoniously to unite the collective power we hold. Through this multi-pronged approach our movement grows, reaches new people and thus advances the cause. Together we can succeed.

Oleg Bodrov

Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland/ Film Director Russia

Victims of Military and Civil Nuclear Technologies

Kon'nichiwa!

Dear participants of the conference! For 17 years I worked as a researcher and scientist in Russian military and civil industry. I will talk out of my own experience.

74 years have passed since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands of victims... It marked the start of an international sprint race of political leaders from different countries to obtain this tool of political blackmail.

Politicians claimed that creating and testing nuclear weapons is necessary to protect the citizens of the country. But in reality thousands of these citizens became victims of the development and testing of nuclear weapons!

This was also the case in Russia. Plutonium for the first bomb was produced in Russia in the mid-1940s in the production center Mayak in the secret nuclear town of Chelyabinsk-40 in the Urals region. Liquid radioactive waste, generated during plutonium production, was dumped into the Techa River and migrated to the Polar Ocean...

Dozens of accidents took place at the secret plant followed by emissions into the atmosphere and discharges of radioactive substances into the river.

The largest accident happened on September 29, 1957 when the tanks for storage of liquid high-level waste exploded at the plutonium production plant Mayak. 20 million Curies of radioactivity were thrown into the atmosphere. As a result, more than 20 thousand square kilometers were

contaminated.

After the accident some 250 settlements were relocated. The total number of officially registered affected civilians is more than 500,000 people, not including the military-liquidators of the catastrophe.

The plutonium bomb, which was just created to protect Russian citizens, killed many tens of thousands of Russian citizens in the Ural region of Russia.

After the invention of the bomb, there were numerous tests of nuclear weapons. One of them - involving 45,000 soldiers and 10,000 local residents - took place on September 14, 1954. A plane dropped a 40-kiloton nuclear bomb on the Russian territory. Many people became victims of these tests. Moreover, health problems continued into the next generation of victims of these tests.

So, the number of these victims in the country became comparable to the number of victims of nuclear bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Now about 1.5 million people live in 20 nuclear mono-industry cities. This is "Nuclear Russia" lobby for the export of "civilian nuclear technologies". It looks like a good alternative to military confrontation, as a positive process of technological cooperation.

But it is not!

Russian VVER-1200 reactor NPPs that are being built or planned to be built in Finland and other European, Asian, African countries plan to use a fresh nuclear fuel obtained from uranium after reprocessing spent nuclear fuel from Russian nuclear submarines and nuclear power plants.

Thus, consumers of electricity from these Russian design nuclear power plants outside of Russia will invest... in the Russian military programs. And these people have no information about these hidden investments.

In addition, the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel produces liquid radioactive waste. This liquid radioactive waste (up to 2,000,000 m³/year) is discharged into natural aquatic ecosystems and migrates with rivers to the Arctic Ocean and then to northern Europe.

So, the next generations of the inhabitants of the North of Europe will be potential victims of nuclear technologies.

Dear participants of the conference. There can be no separation of nuclear technology into "dangerous military" and "secure peaceful" spheres.

I was part of the research mission that visited the radioactive contamination zone just after the Chernobyl accident. This is a tragedy comparable to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukushima.

There are hundreds of thousands of victims of these technologies in Japan and in Russia. There should be no new victims!

We must stay together advocating our peaceful future without nuclear weapons and without nuclear power plants!

Baek Mi-sun

Korean Women's Associations United (KWAU)

R.O.K.

Let us work in civil society solidarity between South Korea and Japan to create a peaceful and gender equal world free of nuclear weapons

Greetings of solidarity to all participants in the 2019 World Conference against A & H Bombs - Nagasaki.

The Women's Association is the umbrella organization of South Korean women's organizations making efforts to achieve sustainable values of gender equality. Founded in 1987, the association has seven regional chapters involving 28 member organizations. Its activities cover a wide range of issues, including peace, violence against women, labor, prostitution, welfare, and family. This year, we are continuing with the #MeToo movement which we began last year. We have won a Constitutional Court ruling that criminalizing abortion is unconstitutional. As we prepare for the 25th anniversary in 2020 of the Beijing Platform for Action, we are examining how it is being implemented at home and internationally. We are also working to increase women's representation in parliament in the 21st general election next year.

Unity and peace are areas which our association has focused on since its founding. In the early 1990s, we held a discussion on "Peace in Asia and the Women's Role" in Pyongyang, Tokyo, and Seoul. Since then, we have continued to offer women's inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation and extend humanitarian assistance through a wide variety of solidarity actions. And, in exploring a new form of peace movement through international solidarity, the association has been continuing various activities such as the Northeast Asia Women's Peace Conference, the Women's Peace March, the exploration of discussions on feminism and peace through the women's peace task force, inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation.

I am very happy to be here for the World Conference and meet peace activists from around the world, who are working to achieve a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world. I want to thank our friends from the Women's Peace Fund and the New Japan Women's Association for inviting us to participate in the World Conference.

My thanks also go to the Organizing Committee of the World Conference against A and H Bombs for making every effort to hold the World Conference. We are always encouraged by and respect as co-workers for peace the Japanese civic organizations and activists, who are fighting hard to send Hibakusha's testimonies throughout the world and defend Japan's pacifist constitution. Today, mutual trust and solidarity between South Korean and Japanese civic societies are needed more than ever for the defense of peace in South Korea and Japan.

The 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang was followed by a series of inter-Korean summits and US-North Korean summits, which made us hopeful about peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Although the peace process remains very slow, we believe that it is possible for South and North Korea to achieve denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula if they continue persevering with discussions to reach agreement and make efforts to understand each other and to build confidence. Building peace on the Korean Peninsula can only be achieved with the cooperation of surrounding nations – Japan, the United States, China and Russia. There can be no denuclearization or peace in Northeast Asia without peace on the Korean Peninsula. I ask Japanese civil society to work with us to end the war on the Korean Peninsula and build a peace system.

Japan has responded to a South Korean Supreme Court ruling in a lawsuit over forced labor mobilization of Koreans under Japanese colonial rule by strengthening export controls on South Korea. This, along with the Abe government's pursuit of amending Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, has led to a rapid deterioration of South Korea-Japan ties, seriously threatening peace in Northeast Asia. The Abe government says Japan has made a good effort to resolve the historical issues. But any government-to-government agreement that deceives the victims or lacks real expression of remorse or apology cannot be taken as a true agreement. The Japanese government should make efforts to arrive at a real settlement of the historical issues by offering a sincere apology to the victims of Japanese military sexual slavery and the forced labor mobilization victims and by admitting responsibility for those acts based on international law. Retaliation and intimidation cannot help to resolve the issue. South Korean civil society wants to see our two countries cooperate for peace. South Korea and Japan should go forward together for peace.

War must not be repeated. Nuclear weapons must not be used anywhere on earth. We should learn from history so that the errors of the past are

not repeated. We are gathering in this atomic-bombed city to keep the terrible consequences of war in our memory and make them known to the world in order to eliminate nuclear weapons and war.

South Korean and Japanese women's organizations have been good partners on the path toward peace in Northeast Asia and democratization. The New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin) has been in solidarity with South Korean women's organizations. Since its founding, it opposed the Treaty on the Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea, which was signed in 1965. Calling for the resolution of the issue of Japanese military sexual slavery, Shinfujin members in Hiroshima and elsewhere in Japan hold Wednesday rallies in solidarity with our efforts. Women from South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, and the United States met four times for the Northeast Asia Women's Peace Conference from 2008 through 2012 to help build peace in Northeast Asia. Last May, women's organizations, peace organizations and civic organizations from South Korea and Japan met in Seoul to discuss ways to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula and Japan, as well as in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world. Let us build gender-free peace through our solidarity.

The peace process for the Korean Peninsula, the peace building efforts for Northeast Asia, and nuclear-free peace in Japan are inter-related issues. I would like to call on Japanese and South Korean civil societies to work actively in solidarity for peace in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world. Let us affirm the history that has for decades been built by Japan and South Korea for a future of peace and cooperation in order to help bring about peace in Northeast Asia. Our future must not be threatened by the inability to settle what happened in the past. Now is the time for the civic power of our two countries to re-establish bilateral relations based on a correct understanding of history and mutual trust.



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

Friends, it is a privilege to be with you again, I want to celebrate this year's collaborations with Gensuikyo: our conference during the NPT PrepCom, joining the Peace Forum in Seoul, and planning next April's World Conference in New York.

Tragically, criminally, U.S. leaders and others have failed to learn the lessons of the atomic bombings. Nuclear threats and first-strike nuclear preparations abound. This is a time of tensions between rising and declining powers, complex and unstable alliance structures, blood and soil nationalism, territorial disputes, great and lesser power arms races with new technologies, economic integration and protectionism, and wild card actors. Trump's and Abe's trade wars, U.S. abrogation and violations of international nuclear and climate treaties, rising authoritarianism, Trump's threat to obliterate Iran, and continuing tensions with North Korea reinforce this dangerous dynamic.

Our responsibility is to make the world safe for this and future generations. For years we have been discussing the possibility of holding a World Conference in the U.S. Of course Hiroshima and Nagasaki need to be the primary sites of next year's primary commemorations and movement building. But, with U.S. leaders refusing to face our criminal history, allocating hundreds of billions of dollars to prepare for nuclear apocalypse, rejecting the Ban Treaty and refusing to fulfill its NPT obligations, a World Conference in New York provides a unique opportunity to focus world attention on the lessons and legacies of the first A-bombings and to marshal international people's power for a nuclear weapons-free world.

Next year will be one of our last opportunities to provide Hibakusha and their testimonies the forums and visibility they deserve. What better place to do that than in the U.S.? And, as the masters of war threaten human survival we will use the anniversaries, our conference, rally, march and petitions presentation to demonstrate that another, nuclear weapons-free, world is possible.

Ten years ago Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon was energized by the speech he gave at our 2010 conference and he was so deeply moved by the extended standing ovation he received from the 1,000 strong audience, that he made nuclear disarmament a higher personal priority, and he gave U.N.'s Office of Disarmament Affairs greater priority and more resources. There's a similar story about the impact we had in 2015.

Actions and sacrifices made by everyone involved made our impacts possible. Now, with the Atomic Scientists Doomsday Clock set at 2 minutes to midnight, the New York World Conference provides us with a unique opportunity to pull humanity back from the brink of nuclear war and environmental disaster, to demand fulfillment of the promises of the NPT and BAN Treaties, and to build our movements for the struggles ahead.

We have brought together an impressive core of nuclear disarmament, labor and political organizations to begin building our World Conference and mobilization. In the coming months, we'll bring in climate change and justice organizations into the planning, with a major focus on involving young people.

Friends, the hour is getting late. With the great powers on the verge of launching unrestrained nuclear arms races, with tinder boxes set across the planet, and the Baltic to the Black Seas, the need for united and determined action has never been greater. Our people's movements are our greatest sources of hope. Together we must prevail!

Hundreds of Millions of Signatures of
"International Hibakusha Appeal" to
Urge Japan to Join the TPNW:

Sakakibara Miyuki
New Japan Women's Association
Yamanashi Chapter/
Yamanashi Prefectural Gensuikyo

I have good news for you. Yamanashi Chapter of the New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin) set the goal of collecting 16,000 signatures in support of the Hibakusha Appeal, encouraging each member to gather 20. We have visited and worked everywhere in Yamanashi with the "2 peace petitions (Hibakusha Appeal and the petition to stop Article 9 revision)" to reach out to as many people and organizations as possible, and in late July, we attained the goal of 16,000 before coming to this World Conference.

In Yamanashi Prefecture, at this very moment, our colleagues are holding exhibitions of the "A-bomb Paintings" produced by senior high school students in Hiroshima. Since July, five exhibitions have been organized in different municipalities, and four of them were held in the halls of city offices. Organizations co-sponsoring exhibitions include Shinfujin's branches and basic units called "han (group)", Citizens' Association to Promote International Signature Campaign in support of the Hibakusha Appeal, and Article 9 Association in

Yamanashi. These groups responded to the call of Gensuikyo to form the Organizing Committee last year and have since worked together to hold exhibitions of the “A-bomb Paintings”, the artworks of Hiroshima Municipal Motomachi Senior High School students, who depicted scenes of the atomic bombing on canvases based on the testimonies of Hibakusha. Since then, we held 3 exhibitions on in the pedestrian deck of the Kofu Railway Station on such occasions as the Peace Wave action in July last year to commemorate the first anniversary of the adoption of the TPNW at the UN, and the NPT PrepCom in May this year.

We decided to organize the “A-bomb Paintings” exhibitions because making the damage and aftereffects of the atomic bombing widely known would lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons, and help us also to have many more people to sign the petition to support the Hibakusha Appeal for the elimination of nuclear weapons. One visitor said, “It is hard to believe high school students with no firsthand knowledge of war painted these pictures. Listening to the stories of the Hibakusha, they must have felt as much pain as those who experienced the horror of the atomic bombing. I believe young people who see these pictures will truly think there should be no more war and nuclear weapons”. Another visitor expressed her impression, saying, “I was deeply moved by the pictures high school students produced, based on the Hibakusha’s testimonies. Their expression is so real that I was overwhelmed by grief and pain”. The three exhibitions that took place for 10 days altogether drew 1,914 visitors with 408 signatures in support of the Hibakusha Appeal and donations of 88,211 Japanese yen.

Our movement aims to “collect hundreds of millions of signatures in support of the Hibakusha Appeal and achieve Japan’s participation in the TPNW”. To this end, we have to reveal the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons to defeat the illusion of defending peace with “nuclear deterrence”. The high school students’ drawings have the power to make it happen. They have the power to press the Japanese government to become party to the TPNW. A university student who signed the Hibakusha Appeal petition, after seeing the paintings said, “I have heard about the atomic bombs and the Hibakusha, but have never seen these kinds of pictures. Horrible. Nuclear weapons indeed are evil”. “A-bomb Paintings” can also be a powerful tool to pass the movement to eliminate nuclear weapons on to younger generation.

A call for participation in the World Conference against A & H Bombs in New York to be held next April has been made. In order to develop the International Hibakusha Appeal

Signature Campaign into a global effort to have the nuclear weapon states fulfill their promise of nuclear disarmament and to endorse the TPNW, let us hold the “A-bomb Paintings” exhibitions throughout Japan as an effective tool to make the “damage and aftereffects of atomic bombs” widely known beyond generations.

Yamanashi Gensuikyo will send its representatives to New York. Let us all gather in New York!

Solidarity with the All-Okinawa Struggles:

Inamine Susumu All Okinawa Coalition Against New Construction of Henoko Base/ Former Mayor of Nago City

Heart-rending shouts and screams of people resound there today and every day. It is a place where riot police and Coast Guard officers wield their public authority to forcibly remove and restrain protesting citizens, while allowing illegal construction based on the government’s arbitrary interpretations of related laws. It is where the overwhelming will of Okinawans and their basic human rights are ignored, and the crises of democracy and local autonomy are apparent; this is the scene unfolding in front of the gate of U.S. Camp Schwab and on the sea of Oura Bay, where the construction of a new U.S. base in Henoko is underway.

This scene also shows the true nature of the Abe administration: how the Liberal Democratic-Komei coalition government has fallen to the lowest state, as vassal and subordinate of the USA, blindly worshiping the Japan-U.S. alliance, lying that they would lessen the burden of US bases on Okinawa, and being spellbound by the view that “the base in Henoko is the only solution.” As such, what goes on in Okinawa reveals that Okinawa is an “unaddressed land” where the Constitution is not applied and where “the US forces come first” before everything.

In all recent major elections in Okinawa the candidates who campaigned for the joint “Petition to the Government” opposing the construction of a new U.S. base in Henoko won overwhelming victories. In the prefectural referendum on February 24 this year, 72% of voters expressed their opposition to the construction of the new base. Nevertheless, the day after the referendum the Japanese government unabashedly and ostentatiously resumed construction work. Two

days later, Defense Minister Iwaya said at a press conference, “Okinawa has its own democracy, but the nation also has its own democracy.” This abominable and outrageous statement should never be tolerated.

Despite this situation, five times the Okinawa prefectural government filed a lawsuit in pursuit of a place for consultations and substantial legal deliberation. Each time, however, the court, far from entering into substantial deliberation, turned it down at the door, brown-nosing the central government. Thus, the fact that the principle of the separation of three powers is not functioning at all in this country has been thrown into relief.

It must be said that Japan is not a nation under the rule of law but an abandoned nation filled with contradictions. We continue to resist the structural discrimination and absurdity imposed by the powers that be and fight for our cause.

It is 74 years since the end of the war, 47 years since Okinawa’s return to Japan, and 23 years since

the conclusion of the bilateral agreement to return the U.S. Futenma Base. Why do we need a new base? Why does it have to be in Henoko in Okinawa? Our “whys” continue.

The Henoko base issue is an issue of the Constitution, human rights, and the environment.

It is an issue of democracy and local autonomy. In that sense, it is no longer an issue of Okinawa alone but of the whole nation.

A move is underway for the “Okinawanization” of the whole of Japan. I believe that now is the time for all Japanese citizens to recognize Okinawa’s issues as their own and try to deal with them.

We are not presenting unreasonable demands. We are calling for basic human rights which a sovereign and democratic nation must abide by and guarantee, and which every citizen should be able to enjoy.

With the motto, “Nonviolently, undaunted and resiliently - We never give up,” our fight continues today, tomorrow, and all the days after tomorrow.



2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs – Nagasaki

International Forum: “Dialogue between Governments and NGOs for the Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons” (August 8)



Panelist Presentations:

(Transcribed from oral presentations)

George-Wilhelm Gallhofer Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Republic of Austria

It is extremely impressive to come here to see both memorials to the atomic bomb explosions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki but also especially to meet all engaged and dedicated people working to keep the memories alive, to make progress to save the humanity from the scourge of war since 1945. I am deeply impressed already by your engagement I found here.

I will talk about three things very briefly.

One is about the heightened danger we face today, possibly the highest since the Cold War. Second, I will talk about Austria's role, what we do and our unique position. Lastly, I want to touch on how we plan to continue to work together with civil society to get both the TPNW to enter into force and

to make progress on the implementation of the NPT, in order to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

First let me address challenges. I think it is worth reflecting on the danger of the end of the INF Treaty. The INF took us away from an expert-estimated 5-8 minutes to react incoming missiles. That is an incredibly short time when you think about the time it takes to detect missiles and their direction and to make a decision on whether or not to launch a counter missiles.

Another important danger if medium-range missiles are redeployed to Europe is the question of warheads - countries seeing incoming missiles have no idea whether there is a nuclear or conventional warhead. It is easy to exchange them. So the dangers are extremely high and we are concerned about rumors of a re-stationing of medium range missiles. We are also very concerned about the renewal of the START Treaty, as well as negotiations for a successor. We don't see encouraging signs here.

These are just some of the immediate challenges. But there are also challenges which

don't get enough attention. One is hypersonic missiles which dramatically increase the danger of shortened notice. Their dramatically speed increase will cause a push for countries to rely more and more on automatised. Computer programs would then increasingly be involved in taking decisions of life and death of hundreds of thousands or millions of people. We have seen the lack of reliability of these systems in history. The fact that we are here is exactly because people like Stanislav Petrov did not believe machines. It took human reasons to prevent the end of the world, something a machine can never have. Given the data, any machine would have immediately launched a counterstrike in the Petrov case. So it is absolutely central that humans are in charge of decisions. Nuclear weapons must never be automatically triggered.

Danger of cyber weapons: Other important elements are cyber weapons and warfare in the cyber sphere which create lots of uncertainty about the control of one's own systems and can lead to miscalculations and misattribution. Indeed it is often extremely hard if not impossible to tell where an attack originates from – a country, terrorist actors, etc. Miscalculations are also real, particularly when you consider that some doctrines, prominently by the US, consider the option of responding to cyber-attacks with nuclear weapons.

Weaponization of space: Another area we are concerned about is the danger of the weaponization of space. We already see some first steps now, with announcements of a space force or space command. The repercussions are many. Looking at the structure of nuclear weapons command systems, for example, space assets are constantly used to monitor other states' weapons to decide whether or not a nuclear attack has been launched. Once a country satellites are taken out, miscalculation and risk rise dramatically.

A final element is the weaponization of information, which we have seen being used increasingly and having powerful impact. This again increases the risk of escalation and mistake.

So, the environment now is extremely dangerous. People should understand and realize how much the dangers has increased since the end of Cold War. We see many cases of miscommunication and a lack of channels to solve them compared to the Cold War. While more countries have acquired nuclear weapons and the multilateral system has changed dynamics, de-escalation protocols and communication channels aren't in place between all these countries.

Against this backdrop, let me briefly talk about the NPT Review Conference in 2020.

I see a lot of concern about the conference and its outcome document. We are very much hoping

that we can overcome the hurdles we faced in 2015 and we face today to achieve an ambitious outcome document. There are various hurdles, let me briefly mention two: One is the lack of implementation of obligations and commitments by the nuclear weapon states under Article VI, the 13 steps of 2000 and the action plan of 2010. The other is of course, is Middle East weapons of mass destruction free zone, for which we want to see progress.

Some of the supporters of nuclear weapons are trying to portray the TPNW as an obstacle. This is not the reality. The TPNW actually strengthens NPT. The NPT is a general, an outline document that contains the general principles, goals and obligations that need to be implemented through other multilateral agreements to be built upon it. In the areas of nuclear safety and peaceful use of nuclear energy, you see a lot of treaties created to implement the more general provisions of the NPT. On nuclear disarmament, Article VI is quite short. So some first steps were taken to implement it bilaterally. For example, the INF Treaty and the new Start Treaty in their preambles clearly state that they are implementing the obligations contained in Article VI of the NPT, so acknowledge nuclear weapon states' obligations on nuclear disarmament. This had not yet happened in the multilateral field.

In fact the TPNW is the first multilateral instrument we have to implement the disarmament provision of the NPT. It is clearly intended to implement Article 6 of NPT. Therefore you can see that messaging that the TPNW is an obstacle to the NPT or its outcome document is simply not correct. Talking about the TPNW, I will also talk about Austria's position to lead to its adoption. This is where I come back to Austria's tradition, which comes back to a particular decision: In the early 70s Austria still had an unclear position on nuclear energy. We built a nuclear power plant. But what happened? A civil society mobilization started a huge campaign against using nuclear energy in Austria. The hugely costly power plant was never started up. The giant mobilization led to a people's referendum which closed the nuclear power plant once and for all. Eventually this campaign also led to the amendment to the Constitution which outlaws both use of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons in the territory of Austria. And by extension, working closely with international civil society and other countries, this kind of mobilization led to the work on the TPNW.

Just briefly, I think you are all aware we were inspired by testimonies of the Hibakusha and by reports by International Red Cross which let us consider how to reframe discussion on nuclear weapons, getting away from security narrative to a

narrative focusing on individuals. To put security of individuals into the center of discussion. This is what happened in the humanitarian initiative on nuclear weapons. At the Conferences of Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna where we looked at both humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons with testimonies of Hibakusha, and also the incredibly high risks that nuclear weapons entail. We looked at everything from the reports of previously used nuclear weapons to risk calculations. The statistics show us that if you look at the risks, there is high chance we will see another nuclear explosion sooner than later.

Nuclear risks are unlike a car accident. Car accidents cause a lot of death. But you have to change a lot of individual driving habits and individual decision making which might be the cause. With nuclear weapons, only a couple of countries make decisions. Those couple of countries need to make changes, they need to remove the triggers and bid goodbye to nuclear annihilation once for all.

That's why we issued Austrian pledge that was later called the humanitarian pledge to which 127 countries signed up. We looked at the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, we considered that biological and chemical weapons are already prohibited because of their inhumane qualities and their indiscriminate nature, all shared by nuclear weapons have. In close cooperation with other countries and civil society, we then got a mandate for an open-ended working group on how to close the existing legal gap. It led to the negotiation of TPNW.

I think TPNW is important for many reasons. One of its reasons is very clear. Because security is not just that of nuclear weapon states, but that is for every single one of us, which changes the focus on individuals. And also allows for all voices to be heard whether they are nuclear weapon states or not. Of course, the TPNW is an important and historical step, but no one says that it eliminates nuclear weapons immediately. It contains two clear pathways towards nuclear disarmament inside and outside the treaty. It is deliberately crafted to be flexible to address the needs of the individual cases with implementation details to be added once countries join it. The treaty now has 25 ratifications, so we are at the half-way point. On September 26th we will hold a high level ceremony at the margins of the UN General Assembly High-Level week, where we hope to get more signatures and ratifications. Progress is very swift, especially compared to other similar treaties. Austria also already offered to host the first meeting of states parties to the TPNW within one year from the entry into force of the treaty. But also we will do more

groundwork on how to progress, how to establish a sort of the structure of the treaty and how to take forward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We are excited to work with governments and civil society which keep pushing for the treaty. There are still countries which are working against the treaty. Quite often, these countries working against the treaty actually have not listened to population and civil society – they may not be in favor of nuclear weapons. It is important that we work together, to continue to communicate the danger of nuclear weapons. The risks can be outweighed and much sustainable security can be achieved without nuclear weapons.

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

Thank you for the introduction. I want to talk about two things. I want to talk about the driving forces behind the crisis that we face and underline how dangerous the moment is. And I want to talk a bit after about the world conference in New York.

Let me begin by saying that much of what Minister Gallhofer said in his talk you could hear in disarmament meetings in the United States. It's a very familiar discourse to us and I really appreciate it. In many ways, what he described in the first part of his speech around the breaking of treaties and the new armaments being developed might be seen as the tinder being assembled for a bonfire - an apocalyptic bonfire. It can also be seen as the symptoms of deeper issues that threaten our survival. And I want to begin by focusing on those.

I think we need to understand that the post-Cold War era is over. We are in an interregnum, a dangerous and uncertain interregnum, between the end of the post-Cold War period, and the emergence of a multi-polar era in which the U.S. will be one of a number of major imperial and nuclear powers, but not the only one. I think it's important to understand just how destabilizing the US destruction of the INF treaty is and the danger of the New START Treaty not being extended. It's a limited treaty, but it provides a little bit of a foundation for building mutual trust and understanding.

And we hear in the United States now signals that Trump and the Republicans want to withdraw from the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. What we're approaching is an unrivaled nuclear arms race. It certainly is dangerous, probably more so, than any time in the Cold War. And I think we need to think about the environment that we're in, in this interregnum, in this transitional period. Maybe most

important is, it's a period of tension between rising and declining powers. If you look at history and there's a thing called the Thucydides Trap which talks about the dynamic leading toward conflict between rising and declining powers. It grew out of Greek history 2,000 years ago. But if you look at the history, perhaps in 14 occasions, you had such major dynamics at play. In 10 of those cases, it led to disastrous wars. Like the period that led to World War I, we have complex alliance structures and we have increasing nationalism. We see that playing out here, in the tensions between Japan and Korea, not to mention others. We have territorial disputes, whether it's the South China Sea or the Senkaku-Diaoyu Islands. Miscalculations there could lead to incidents which could all too easily escalate. There were gunshots in Sarajevo in 1914 that led to escalation into world war.

We have economic integration and competition, and now we have Trump's sanctions and we have Trump's tariffs. We have a new era of protectionism. And we should appreciate that this is one of the forces that led to the second world war. And of course, we have wild card actors, Trump, not being the least of that. You know, I've been coming to Japan for a long time, and one of the things that I observed is the kind of the disorientation of people in Japan as China, which was a backward country, became a major power. And Japanese society trying to figure out how to adjust to this change. Well in the United States, we have a similar disjunction, right? The ideology in the United States of the Manifest Destiny or the uniqueness of the United States, there's a sense—and it's something that grows out of White Christianity—there's a sense that “Of course we dominate the world. And it's our right to do it, it's our God-given role in the world.” Well, that's being challenged now. And this disorientation, which I think is a part of what fuels the racism, and the arrogance is the brutality of Trump. And we have this increasingly severe US-Chinese competition. As bad as the relations between the United States and Russia are, the most recent acting Secretary of Defense in the United States, when he came to power, temporary though it was, he said that the Pentagon's priority has to be China, China, China. And this is what's driving at this point, U.S. military spending and its military preparations across the board.

I think many people here, many younger people, will know this idea that nuclear weapons are with us, that nuclear weapons are never going to be used but they exist just like the moon has been there, that it's been there for all their lives. But somehow, it's not something to worry about. Ambassador Gallhofer just told us about Colonel Petrov, but there have been many other times where there have

been accidents and miscalculations. More importantly, nuclear weapons have been used many times since the Nagasaki A-bomb. They've been used during international crises and wars in the same way that an armed robber uses a gun. Whether the trigger is pulled or not, the gun has been used. In those circumstances, miscalculations, rogue activities by senior military officers, accidents, can all too easily happen. And during the Cuban missile crisis, U.S. nuclear forces in Okinawa were given an order to fire their nuclear weapons. And these kinds of things happen much too often. And most recently, the United States made such preparations and threats during its wars against Iraq. Even Obama said, “All options were on the table” in relationship to Iran, and we have Trump and his “fire and fury”. But the US is not alone in this. Every other nuclear weapon state has made such threats and preparations at least once. And in the face of NATO's expansion and the pressure that the United States and NATO have placed on Russia, we have Putin saying that he's ready for another Cuban missile crisis, and that he considered using nuclear weapons in relationship to Crimea.

So we need to understand that what we're talking about is not abstract. It's very urgent, very real, very possible and we face two existential crises. So I want to move from there to the other existential crisis, obviously being climate change. I want to move from here and say, “Okay, well then, what do we do about this?”

I mean the movement here, led by Gensuikyo, led by the Hibakusha, has played an absolutely central role in developing anti-nuclear sentiment and much of the pressure that led to the ban treaty over the years. I remember Ambassador Kmentt from Austria, who was the lead organizer of the humanitarian consequences conference in Vienna. I can remember him sitting in this chair and talking with him. And he told me how deeply moved he had been by the stories of the Hibakusha. This was before the humanitarian consequences conference in Vienna was in place. I was talking with the Minister earlier about Seiji Yamaguchi and his speech at the 1982 Special Session on nuclear disarmament at the U.N. So in so many ways, Gensuikyo had played a leading role; bringing people around the world to the World Conference, organizing delegations of Hibakusha, including Hibakusha from other countries.

So it's in this context that we are now approaching this 75th anniversary of the A-bombings. We're also approaching a period when the legitimacy of the NPT Treaty is increasingly in question. I think the expectation of most of us is that the Review Conference in 2020 will fail. Trump is unlikely to make the compromises or change in

policy that are needed. And when you watch his policy in relations to Israel—moving the embassy to Jerusalem, encouraging settlements, encouraging the annexation of more Palestinian land— it is unlikely that Trump would support the calling of the Middle East nuclear weapons-free zone conference. So ahead the challenge for us is to do what we can to encourage the diplomats at the U.N. to take as strong positions as they can for disarmament, including the support to the ban.

But it's also to build the movement for the new period that we're in. And I would say the period that sees a decline in the perceived legitimacy of the NPT. And we also see that our nuclear disarmament movement, at least in countries other than Japan, are much weaker than they need to be. And there's a need to find how we can make a common cause with other movements. I made reference before to climate change. The reality is, all the senior scientists tell us that if we don't make major changes, I mean, major changes, in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases within 12 years the planet will move to irreversible climate deterioration which certainly will lead to many more wars since people move, since people are hungry but also possibly to the mass deaths of hundreds of millions of people. So we face two existential crises, some of which have common causes - the pursuit of wealth, the pursuit of power, the maintenance of privilege. And we also see that young people, maybe not in Japan, but certainly in the United States and many European countries, they see the immediate danger in climate change, but not nuclear weapons.

So what we envision in New York, is a major world conference which will have nuclear disarmament and the recognition of the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the lead, but with addressing climate change, and social and economic justice up there as well, to build a much more unified movement. I was thrilled in earlier discussions to hear how many activists and Hibakusha will be coming from Japan, Hibakusha from Korea as well. So many that we had to find an appropriate site in New York to accommodate what we think will be somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000 people. So we found Riverside Church. It's one of the largest and most prestigious churches in the United States and a proper setting for Secretary General Guterres perhaps to join us as the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon did about 10 years ago.

We want to use this event to more deeply integrate our movements and to develop the strategies that we need for the longer term - provide a platform for the Hibakusha, provide a platform for the leading critics of climate change.

But that's not all we're going to do. So we're

also planning to have a mass rally, a march, the presentation of tens of millions of petition signatures to the U.N., across from the U.N. And also to say that, and Rainer Braun is as well as Gensuikyo is a principal partner in doing this organizing. But one other thing we're doing is providing a forum, a place, around which other people can take all kinds of actions. So earlier today, I was talking with our young Filipino friends and partners, and they were talking about projecting the images of 75 Hibakusha onto the walls of the United Nations, onto the walls of other building in New York City - all kinds of ways which we can build on this.

We look forward to your energy, we look forward to hosting you and we look forward to building a movement together.

Reiner Braun International Peace Bureau

Thank you for the invitation and thank you for giving me the floor. And you know after the two distinguished speakers before me, I will not speak about the danger of the world and the challenges we are facing. I really would like to discuss a little bit along our topic, "Dialogue Between Government and the Civil Society", because for me, this is a very important theoretical, scientifically and practical point of our discussions.

Let me first come back, what is the theoretical background? For me it is that politics means to be active for interests. And these interests are the background of the actions of the peace movements and the actions of governments. And when there is an overlap of the interest in actions and the interest of political positions, then a dialogue is possible. And when there is an overlap, political suggestions, political agreements between governments and civil society, in our case, above all, peace movements, then I think a dialogue is possible. I will say, vice versa, I have no idea which dialogue I should make with Trump, because there is no background for a common negotiation, discussion, with such a people who are preparing armament race, who are against colored-people, who is violating, and so on.

So dialog, the background of dialogue is the common interest in political, social, peaceful developments, and this brings me to the question— is there an overlap of interests when discussing nuclear weapons between governments and civil society? And I also have to say, not with all governments at the same point. And I'm looking to the U.S. government, but even to the Russian or Chinese government. I cannot see any overlap in their interest in nuclear disarmament and the

abolition of nuclear weapons. They want to keep their weapons. And the reason is very easy. For them, nuclear weapons are a part of their power structure and power influence in the world, and they don't want to give this up.

But there are a lot of countries which are in favor of nuclear disarmament for many reasons. They see the problems, they see the risks of nuclear armament. They see the consequences -- the humanitarian and international law consequences. But they also see the basic inequality in the world that some countries have nuclear weapons, and others don't have nuclear weapons. This inequality, which is a part of the NPT treaty, is for me a part of the colonial system, not of the democratic system of the 21st century. So we also have to overcome this.

So there is interest from many countries and civil society, peace movements in reducing and the disarmament process, and even the process of abolishing nuclear weapons. And this is the background for the dialogue. This happened mainly at first in the United Nations, but also—and this can be the best example for this international dialogue—in the preparation of the ban treaty. Because this preparation was a common preparation for governments, and the Austrian ambassador was describing it in the best way; “I can also do it and ICAN and other peace movements.” They were finding common ways on how to mobilize a lot of governments and how to mobilize local peace movements and peace activists for a common strategic goal. And they were discussing it together, they were developing it, they held several conferences from Vienna to Mexico, and then they had this—I never have seen this—this highly interesting negotiation, the kind of negotiation here in the United Nations. The chair of the UN Committee, the Costa Rican ambassador, after the first day changed totally the agenda. There was not again, all the speeches of the different governments. No, there was a panel. And in the panel in the afternoon there sat three governments and three people from the civil society. And then there was a public debate. And in the line by the microphone were standing people from the civil society and the ambassadors. And at the end, they were starting, discussing, negotiating and find the differences we have and find compromises which brought us together at the end, and we were drinking champagne together, celebrating the 121 countries for supporting this treaty.

This is the dialogue we could see, when there is an overlap of interests in common positions. And I think this is also the background now that we are in, in the phase of getting the ban treaty ratified by many countries. You know the Austrian government and other governments are discussing

with their partner governments. Civil society, peace movements have a strategic plan how to get more countries to ratify this treaty. And you know, it is not easy because—the ambassador was saying it in a very friendly manner, I can say it a little bit clearer—because there is huge opposition and pressure from the United States and the other NATO countries and the other nuclear weapons countries. And this pressure is not only words. We know that the governmental people from the NATO countries were going to African and Asian countries saying when you ratify, we will shorten the money we have given to you. This is the reality, and he's a diplomat, I'm a civil society activist, so I can say much clearer. This is the role of civil society. To say some things clearer. So this shows we are working together, making the ban treaty a reality. And I think this is a new kind of dialogue, which will treat NGOs as civil societies and the best example up to now, for me, is the ban treaty.

And let me say this for the future, because we are thinking of the future, and thanks to Joseph for introducing 2020. You know, I'm very concerned about the result of the 2020 conference. But maybe the 2020 Review Conference could develop a new coalition of countries for the willingness for further nuclear disarmament processes and develop a coalition of the willingness between the governments—and I now want to include one big other important societal effort—parliamentarians and civil society. At the start point for a new worldwide coalition of actions, for overcoming this horrible situation that we are coming nearer and nearer to big international war including nuclear weapons destroying the whole planet. I think this is the challenge, and I think our conference could be a part of this process bringing these different forces together for a new coalition. The world needs such a coalition. Otherwise we will be in more danger than we are now.

Let me finish with a question—what is the role of the peace movements in this time? First of all, we have to be very open. We have to be very open in the discussions with the governments. We know that we have very often a lot of controversies by the internal politics with these governments. We know also the Austrian government is not the most social government in the world. There are a lot of opposition positions from my point of view. But we have many common points and peace movements you should search for these common points and look into bringing them forward. Then we criticize, but then looking for and searching for common points.

The second point, I think is we need a very clear voice. We have to say very clearly who's in favor of such a disarmament process and who are

the opponents. And they are very clear to say that there are countries that have doctrines of deterrence and even include the first use of nuclear weapons. And these are mainly the NATO countries and others. So we have to speak with a very clear voice to educate the people, to make clear why we are doing this tremendously important work.

Third, I think we need a much stronger and more attractive peace movement. You must be an attractive coalition partner. Otherwise we are not attractive for the governments. You know when people are standing at the corner every two years, that is not an attractive peace movement. Attractive peace movements are peace movements which are mobilizing people. And you all know that you have a lot of homework to do, maybe with the exclusion of Japan. But in many of the other countries we have to do much more for that. So we need to raise the attractiveness of the peace movements, also in the preparation of 2020. In this case for me, 2020 is the start point for developing another background of the new possibilities, a new worldwide coalition of very different partners which include civil society and governments for a world without nuclear weapons. And I hope at the end, with this coalition, we will be successful.

Lee Jun Kyu
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When hearing the news on the outcome of the Tory leadership election in the UK of late, I happened to be calling up images of the leaders of the Permanent Five (P5) of the UN, namely, Trump, Xi Jinping, Putin, Boris Johnson and E. Macron. With this lineup I could say it is like a miracle that our planet is not extinct yet. It is, of course, not only due to these leaders alone, but also because of the tens of thousands of existing nuclear weapons and of nuclear power plants. I have heard someone say that it is thanks to the blessing from God that the world has not yet fallen into a nuclear Armageddon. Yes, it is, indeed. The problem of climate change, which our friend Reiner Braun emphasized, must also be added to this list.

Yet, we are not facing the critical situation alone, as there are, on the other hand, also events and developments of hope. That young people of the so-called “millennium generation” are standing up in action here and there around the world is one, the “Candlelight Rally” in Korea is another. Marches of school students in the USA demanding tight gun control is another, and European students in action

calling for adequate response to climate change is still another. Looking at students who are so much energized into action, I am impressed to learn that they can do as much as they are doing! Of them, young parliamentarians, such as Ro Khanna and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who I suppose did not really know about the problems of the Korean Peninsula, came to actively join in the resolution in a bid to officially put an end to the Korean War. This is really amazing! A part of this stream was the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and so is the present development of the Korean Peninsula, where I live.

Compared to the last year, when drastic changes continued to happen, now it is like moving ahead step by step on a steep path. The major reason for this is that the DPRK-US Summit in Hanoi ended without fruit. In my opinion, in the background of the failure of the Hanoi Summit Meeting there was a fundamental difference in approach to the denuclearization process: namely, North Korea wanted a step-by-step approach while the US sought a “big deal” to reach an agreement on everything. What turned out to be the biggest problem was the so-called Bolton paper handed to the North Koreans, the one in which John Bolton, the national security advisor to the US President, defined denuclearization. Western News media, such as Reuters, commented that North Korea might have taken it as a document calling for unconditional surrender.

I think there are two problems in this. One is certainly about the definition or the scope of denuclearization. The United States is pursuing the denuclearization of North Korea. But, taking the “Panmunjom Declaration” issued last year, the agreement in Singapore in 2018, or Pyongyang Declaration in September last year for example, what the peace process of the Korean Peninsula is addressing now is denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and not of North Korea alone. Therefore, there is a difference in understanding of the concept of denuclearization. If it is properly grasped as denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, a change in some form or another in the US nuclear forces or its “nuclear umbrella” will be unavoidable. Whether the change means merely a minor retreat of the currently forward deployed US nuclear forces or South Korea’s break away with the “nuclear umbrella” is up to the outcome of negotiations. I think this is the right understanding.

One more thing which we have to think about is a vision of the future Korean Peninsula. A future vision of a peaceful Korean Peninsula, as I already mentioned above, is the meaning of what was agreed upon in the “Pyongyang Declaration” in September last year. Or in other words, “Let us

make the Korean Peninsula a land of peace with no nuclear threat and no nuclear weapons” is the true meaning. That the peace of the Korean Peninsula means the absence of nuclear threat and nuclear weapons was agreed upon there. Therefore, in addition to the North Korea nuclear problem, we have to think about how to address the nuclear threat from the US, which Japan and the ROK have so far regarded as the “nuclear umbrella”.

No doubt, North Korea has not presented before the U.S. or ROK such a demand as withdrawal of or break away from the “nuclear umbrella” in the course of the negotiations up to now. Yet it has demanded the end to the hostile policy towards North Korea from the US, including a change in the offensive US nuclear forces, which we must not overlook. Just having a look at the Joint Statement signed in Singapore, you will note that it includes confidence-building, a new DPRK-USA relationship, a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and complete denuclearization of the Peninsula, which North Korea has repeatedly emphasized. We, therefore, have to understand that the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula cannot be achieved without working for new US-DPRK relations.

After the Hanoi Summit, too, there are changes, including a negative one. That North Korea is intensifying its blame on the South is one example, such as using vocabulary for which equivalent words in Japanese or in English cannot be found.

Another variable is the rise of China’s role in the situation on the Korean Peninsula. As you know, prior to the meeting between the US, DPRK and ROK leaders at Panmunjom in June, Xi Jinping himself visited the DPRK to have summit talks. As such, there was a move that made the matter complicated. In addition, given the trade friction between the US and China, there is a concern that great power politics between the US and China may affect the peace process of the Korean Peninsula.

Yet, it seems to me that the key to the future denuclearization process of the Korean Peninsula lies in whether or not the US will change its present position.

For example, Stephen Biegun, the US special representative for North Korea, reportedly said on his way back to the US after that surprise meeting at Panmunjom that the US and North Korea would need to consider a flexible approach. But this report was wrong. The US internet media “AXIOS” quoted him as saying that he hoped for “a complete freeze of the WMD program”, that he wanted “to negotiate on the definition and a road map on the end state of the freeze and denuclearization”, and that “the humanitarian support and human exchanges should be expanded”.

He also said that they were ready to take further steps forward towards improving their bilateral relationship, such as opening liaison offices in their capital cities. But, at around the same time, the New York Times carried articles on June 30 and July 1 speculating that the Trump Administration might have changed the objective of the negotiations from denuclearization to nuclear freeze. In response to these reports, a State Department spokesman said that the objective remained the complete elimination of WMD in North Korea, and that the freeze would be no more than an initial step of the whole process.

The New York Times and other mainstream media took this up and speculated that in a bid to score good points for the coming Presidential election Trump might be trying to curb the target to somewhere near a freeze. However, I think that is pointless. The real problem is, I think, that Trump is still insisting on the WMD. Some of you may say that it is good to completely eliminate or freeze the weapons of mass destruction. But if the objective is switched to that, the negotiation will have to address also WMD possessed by the US forces in the ROK and in Japan. Actually this would render the negotiations enormously difficult. So, unless the direction of proceeding with arms control and disarmament is clearly defined as being within the framework of the nuclear weapons problem and the building of a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, I believe, any real progress in the peace process on the Peninsula will be difficult.

As Reiner Braun pointed out, we are neither diplomats nor government officials, nor TV commentators. We, therefore, have to think about what tasks civil society should undertake to promote the peace process on the Korean Peninsula and generate a change internationally in the whole of East Asia. One of the ways to do so, I think, is to support a comprehensive approach, such as achieving the end to the Korean War, conclusion of a peace treaty, and improvement of US-DPRK relations and their normalization.

Another is to grasp the historic momentum of the fluctuation of the division-based order of the Korean Peninsula and promote our movement from the viewpoint of changing the cold-war, confrontational structure of East Asia. One such example is to create a multilateral framework in the whole North-East Asia for disarmament, confidence-building, rulemaking of peaceful settlement of conflicts and so forth. This kind of framework has to be a multilaterally shared system based on the notion of common security. Therefore the military alliance based on hostility against any specific country as a hypothetical enemy and military exercises against it need to be

ended. In this sense, our effort will be linked with such campaigns as against the US forces in Japan and in Korea, against the deployment of THAAD and against the missile-defense system Aegis Ashore.

Lastly, the problem of Japan-Korea relations is a hot topic everywhere now. As we discussed in the workshop on East Asia this morning, I do not want to repeat the discussion here. Yet, what we should not forget is the very nature of the problem in the bilateral relations. When we talk about it, saying things such as: “President Moon Je-in is doing just too much”, or, when criticizing the Abe government, we should not overlook the underlying nature of the problem.

As both the San Francisco System that has supported the Cold War regime in East Asia and its sub system, the 1965 regime, are now facing a turning point, we should think about what we should do against this background. Specifically, I want to take up one special issue, namely, solidarity with the Korean A-bomb survivors, because they are victims of Japan’s colonial rule as well as of the US atomic bombings, and above all, of the 1965 regime. Therefore, I want to develop a campaign in cooperation with you to take up solidarity with them as our common task.

Tsuchida Yayoi
Assistant General Secretary
Japan Council against A and H Bombs
(Gensuikyo)

In this World Conference, we renew our determination to work to make the year 2020 a decisive turn toward the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Why is 2020 so crucial? It marks the 75th year since the atomic bombing. Please imagine those who died in agony and those whose lives have been full of suffering. Their desire is to “get nuclear weapons abolished in their lifetime”.

Focusing on the 5-year NPT Review Cycle, we have challenged nuclear weapon states to fulfill their obligations under Article 6 and under agreements to abolish their nuclear arsenals. The NPT Review Conference is due in April 2020. The nuclear weapon states are trying to forgo the implementation of their obligations, saying that these obligations are “way behind the times”. This backward step must not be allowed.

Above all, the danger of the use of nuclear weapons is being heightened. The Trump Administration set out a new “Nuclear Posture Review”, aimed at developing small nuclear weapons and lowering the threshold of nuclear

weapons use. It also unilaterally pulled out of the INF Treaty and the Iran Nuclear Deal (JPCOA). In response, Russian President Putin suggested the development of new-types of nuclear weapons and missile deployment in its allies’ territories. China, too, is engaged in increasing its nuclear warheads. These developments are eliciting growing concern about a resurgence of the past nuclear arms race between super powers.

Any nuclear weapon detonation will inflict long-term catastrophic consequences beyond borders both for the environment and for humanity. As long as nuclear weapons exist the risk of nuclear weapon explosions, whether intentionally or by accident, is unacceptably high.

What actions will we take towards 2020? This is the challenge before us.

However, I am confident that the global trend for peace and against nuclear-weapons will never allow such a countercurrent to prevail. We have the TPNW at hand. It in itself piles the heaviest pressure on nuclear powers. Besides, we have the power of the movements and the public support that gave birth to the TPNW, as well as broad cooperation with like-minded governments.

In the US, local governments such as California State and Washington DC adopted resolutions urging the government to join the TPNW. The same activities are carried on in nuclear umbrella states including Australia, Spain and Japan. In our country, so far 407 local governments have adopted resolutions to urge the Japanese government to sign and ratify the treaty.

If we develop these activities, we are confident that we can overcome the rollbacks and advance towards a nuclear weapon-free world.

In addition, the high-handed actions of nuclear powers such as the USA have evoked new criticism. This criticism generates momentum for enhancing public opinion and movement.

We see the same situation in Japan. In spite of being the only A-bombed country, the Abe government has adopted a shameful attitude, unabashedly refusing to sign and ratify the TPNW. Before the NPT PrepCom started, we visited the Japanese foreign ministry. They did not even hesitate to say that a change in the Korean situation towards denuclearization and peace was brought about by the US nuclear deterrence. Needless to say, we all severely condemned this comment.

In order for Japan to be protected by US extended deterrence, including nuclear weapons, the Abe government is rushing to make Japan a war-fighting country through the reinforcement of the Japan-US military alliance, the reinterpretation of the Constitution to have resort to “collective self-defense”, legislation of war laws and the state

secrecy law, construction of the new base for the US Marines in Okinawa, and revision of the Constitution. Throwing away the position of exclusive defense, it has been promoting an unconstitutional military buildup, as seen in the record-high defense spending, transformation of the Izumo-class destroyers to aircraft carriers and bulk-buying of F35 stealth fighters. The people are left to bear the burden through consumption tax rate hikes and cutoff of welfare.

Naturally, Abe's bad politics is faced with severe criticism from the people. Signatures collected in support of the Hibakusha Appeal for the elimination of nuclear weapons exceeded 9,410,000. The number of mayors and governors who signed it reached about 1200. Some 50 anti-nuclear and peace organizations, which had worked separately before, are now overcoming their differences of opinion to develop joint work.

In the House of Councilors election held recently, pro-constitutional revision forces, such as the Liberal Democratic Party, could not obtain the two thirds majority required for proposing a bill for the revision of the Constitution. This shows the people's aspiration for nuclear abolition and peace. Cooperation with opposition parties is developing. Some of the united candidates between the Civil Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism and opposition parties started to make signing and ratifying the TPNW by the Japanese government their campaign pledge. In Okinawa, those who oppose the construction of the US base in Henoko have won in straight sets, from the election of Governor Denny Tamaki through the prefectural people's referendum and the House of Councilors election.

There is good news on the Korean Peninsula issue. Two years ago there was a crisis with the potential to lead to a nuclear exchange. The efforts of the countries concerned and civil society, however, shifted this in the direction of peaceful settlement, denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula. This year's Hanoi summit meeting ended without any agreement and North Korea again started to fire missile objects, making the situation unstable.

In the midst of this situation, civil society in Japan and South Korea worked together to hold the Japan-Korea International Forum for a Nuclear Free Peaceful Northeast Asia. We cooperated with 13 Korean NGOs and movements and 25 Korean A-bomb victims also took part. In spite of difference

of opinions, even on the issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons, we reached an agreement to work together in international joint actions planned around the time of the NPT Review Conference in April 2020 and in demanding that both governments join the TPNW for its entry into force.

We are calling for building up a movement powerful enough to open up the way to the abolition of nuclear weapons from now towards 2020. In particular, we must do our utmost to make the Japanese government join the TPNW and change its policy towards nuclear abolition and peace.

In this context, we are encouraged to have received a proposal from friends from the US, Europe and IPB to hold the World Conference against A and H Bombs in New York.

Since the first one was held in 1955 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the World Conference against A and H Bombs has upheld 3 main goals: Prevention of nuclear war, a ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons and support for the Hibakusha, A-bomb victims. It has mobilized movements and individuals of the world who support these goals and worked together with like-minded governments. It is highly significant that inheriting its basic spirit, the world conference will be held in New York, the major city of the USA. I was very impressed by this plan. We will do our utmost in Japan so that the Hibakusha and a broad range of Japanese movements can work together for the success of the planned actions.

If there is one more essence of the World Conference, it comes from the fact that it was born from the massive protest of the people against A and H bombs that occurred in the wake of the damage from the US H bomb test at Bikini Atoll in 1954. Returning to the starting point, we have to make the people stand up from the grass-roots for the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons.

The Hibakusha Appeal signature campaign set a target of collecting hundreds of millions of petitions worldwide, aiming at creating the "Second Super Power" working for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The submission of the petitions is planned as a part of the joint actions. We will do our utmost to develop the signature campaign within and outside of Japan. I ask you all to cooperate with us in collecting signatures in the remaining one year. Standing on the starting point of the World Conference, let us take a leap forward towards 2020.

Closing Plenary

2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs - Nagasaki (August 9)



Message from Okinawa Governor:

Tamaki Denny
Governor of Okinawa Prefecture

I would like to send my congratulations on the convening of the World Conference against A and H Bombs this year again and pay my deepest respect to you for your efforts in order to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Seventy-four years ago, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, an atomic bomb was dropped, taking a lot of precious lives instantly. Even if these victims did survive, wounds and scars in their minds and bodies have not been healed yet. My heart aches to see the fact that many of them are still suffering.

The catastrophic ground battle in Okinawa also deprived many people of their precious lives. Like those who experienced the atomic bombings, the people of Okinawa also witnessed firsthand the absurdity of cruel war.

Whenever I share the stories to pass on to future generations about such an indescribable experience by people who went through the war, I feel more strongly determined to not repeat the dehumanizing war and that peace is the

irreplaceable treasure we should cherish.

As a means to make Okinawans' firm resolve for a lasting peace widely known to people at home and abroad, Okinawa in 1995 declared itself a nuclear-free and peaceful prefecture.

We will adhere to the Three Non-Nuclear Principles forever into the future and will correctly inform next generations of the importance of peace. I believe this will lead to the realization of a permanent peace.

I would like to conclude my message by hoping that this conference will increase a momentum so that the efforts to establish a peaceful and fair world without nuclear weapons can bear fruits.

Sending out Hibakusha's Wishes to the World - from Nagasaki:

Yokoyama Teruko
Vice President, Nagasaki A-Bomb
Survivors' Council

Thank you all for coming to Nagasaki, the

second atomic-bombed city after Hiroshima, from across Japan and around the world, in quest of a world free of nuclear weapons. My name is Yokoyama Teruko. I was exposed to the atomic bomb radiation soon after I turned 4 years old.

In late July 1945, Nagasaki was under intensifying air raids, and my grandparents took me and my two elder sisters to the countryside. My parents and a 16-month-old sister remained at home in Nagasaki when the atomic bomb was dropped on the city.

When the bomb fell my father was at Fuchi Elementary School, 1.2 kilometers from the blast center. He was blown off from the school building and landed at the bottom of a cliff on the other side of the schoolyard.

My mother heard that B29 bombers coming when she was at home 4 kilometers from the hypocenter. My little sister was playing alone in the garden and my mother was about to help her put on a shirt. The moment she called her daughter, "Ricchan!" she saw a dazzling flash. She immediately placed herself over her little one. It suddenly became dark all over and something like gold dust began to fall. In the house, she saw all the drawers popped out of the cabinet. Tatami mats on the floor were raised. The windowpanes were shattered into pieces, sticking into the walls.

My mother went out to look for my father. But she was unable to reach his place of work because the roads were blocked by burning utility posts.

She was reunited with him four days later in an air-raid shelter. He had a swollen face covered with blood with eyes turning purple. The whole of his body was swollen with burns. His clothes were also covered with blood. He did not look like a person of this world.

My mother and little sister stayed in the air-raid shelter with him through August 15, the day when the war ended. Drops were falling from the ceiling of the shelter. There were only thin straw mats on the floor. Filth and maggots from wounded persons surfaced from under the straw mats. She found it difficult to let her daughter lie down there.

My father barely survived. He lost sight in his right eye after something pierced it when he was blown away by the blast. Later on he managed to go back to work, but it was often the case that he had difficulty leaving home for work in the morning. He was suffering from fatigue called the A-bomb *bura-bura* disease. He continued to suffer from after-effects of a broken bone in his lower back. He also had liver trouble and a swollen thyroid, which made it difficult for him to move around. He was hospitalized on and off.

My little sister developed swollen lymphatic glands in September 1945, which were incised. But

her voice gradually became hoarse. When she turned five, she underwent surgery on her throat at Nagasaki University Hospital. My mother often said, "Last night I dreamed that Ritsuko had recovered her voice." And we sisters would ask her what kind of voice she heard.

Ritsuko, my younger sister, loved reading, calligraphy, and handicraft. She used to complain that she needed more time to study. If it had not been war, if it had not been atomic bombing, she would have been promised a great life. I cannot remember her without feeling regretful or getting angry about war and the atomic bombing.

Nine days after the atomic bombing, I returned to Nagasaki with my grandmother to find the whole of the city destroyed by fire. I was horrified by the scene. I felt as if I had been in a town of death. I vividly remember firmly grabbing my grandmother's pants and asking her "Where are we?" stopping every few steps.

My youngest sister was born 3 years after the atomic bombing. When she was about to start elementary school, she suffered from a disease called *purpura*. Immediately after the bombing, there were many people who died after developing purple speckles all over the body. Now the horrible purple speckles appeared on her little body. Fortunately her life was saved, but the scars of radiation from the atomic bomb did not spare my sister, even though she was born after the war.

In my family, there was always someone who was in hospital. My mother used to take care of any family member who fell ill. But in 1972, at the age of 64, she died of stomach cancer. Three years later, my father died of lung cancer.

My eldest sister, who was the first to return to Nagasaki from her evacuation home after the war, is now suffering from leukemia. She is still in the grip of the disease. Her daughter, who is taking care of her, had a second operation for cancer just recently. My second elder sister developed skin cancer, followed by various cancers in other parts of the body. She died of bile duct cancer five years ago.

If it had not been for the atomic bombing, my family would have had a pleasant and happy life with good health. We have been forced to endure the fear of falling ill linked to the exposure to atomic bomb radiation.

The atomic bomb has afflicted people all these years since the day the atomic bomb was dropped. Hibakusha are, and will continue to be in torment.

It was at the World Conference against A and H Bombs in 1971 that I spoke publicly for the first time about my atomic bomb experience. I initially hesitated to talk about the experience of myself and my family members. I asked my mother, whose life

was limited due to stomach cancer, to tell her story. Through the whole night she shared her experiences with me and was very happy that I spoke at the World Conference on her behalf.

If I had not heard my mother's story then, I would not have known what had happened to my father and sisters, who experienced a hell on earth, as I was only 4 years old at the time, and I would not have understood what my mother was thinking.

My mother used to say that the atomic bomb was to blame. Before she died she asked me to look after my father and my little sister, Ricchan. There is no knowing how mortified my mother was as she died.

Soon after I spoke at the World Conference, I began to participate in the Hibakusha movement. I worked on giving counsel to Hibakusha. I learned about the mental and physical problems many Hibakusha had, shedding tears together with them.

There was a man with microcephaly caused by the atomic bombing. He was exposed to atomic bomb radiation in his mother's womb when she was three months pregnant. Due to his mental retardation, in his childhood he was often bullied and ridiculed. He was ill-treated by his stepfather as he grew up. After finishing junior high school, he was kicked out of the family and had a live-in job. But he became a job hopper. When he was 26 years old, he became unable to move his body. I helped him apply for the special allowance for microcephaly caused by atomic bomb radiation. I once took him to a World Conference and spoke about our atomic bomb experiences. He received a lot of encouragement with applause from participants. I cannot forget how excited and pleased he was. He had had to blame his mother for his disease. But now he found a purpose in life and was supported by the Hibakusha movement and the movement against A and H bombs until he died at the age of 47.

Many Hibakusha have left us, wishing for no more Hibakusha and for nuclear weapons to be eliminated in their lifetime.

It is two years since the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We must advance the Hibakusha Appeal international signature campaign hand in hand with people in civil society around the world so that the treaty will come into force as early as possible.

Next year marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On the eve of the NPT Review Conference at the U.N., the World Conference against A and H Bombs in New York and other civil society actions will be held around the world. We the Hibakusha will work together with you, using all the strength left in us to bring success to these events.

Nagasaki should forever remain the last place of atomic bombing.

Let us continue to fight for a world without nuclear weapons.

Lee Koo Young **Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association** **R.O.K.**

During Japan's forcible occupation of the Korean Peninsula, my father worked in Hiroshima for five years, then returned to his hometown in South Korea in 1939. After getting married there, he went back to Hiroshima with my mother. I was born in 1941 there, followed by my sister in 1943. My family's life was very hard. Then, at 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945, the U.S. forces dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

At the time of the bombing, my mother was doing laundry in the garden at our home. The upper half of her body was severely burned due to the exposure to the A-bomb. I and my sister only had minor injuries because we were inside the house at the time. My mother was unable to receive proper treatment due to the shortage of hospitals and her wounds became so infected that maggots swarmed over them. My father, who was 39 at the time, left home for work that morning. He has been missing for 74 years since then. How can I express the bitter frustration of being a son who was not even able to gather his father's ashes?

The day of liberation came on August 15, 1945, but my mother must have felt a void in her heart since she had to take her son and daughter back to her hometown without picking up the bones of her husband.

When we went back to my parents' hometown in South Korea in December 1945, our relatives were delighted to see us who they had thought were missing. However, having limited land and food, they eventually treated us as burdens. My heart still aches when I think about my mother. She had to go through tremendous hardships until her death trying to feed her little children.

This year marks the 74th anniversary since the dropping of the atomic bombs. Although our home country was liberated, we Hibakusha of Korea are still fighting with diseases due to aftereffects of the A-bombing. The second-generation Hibakusha also have experienced indescribable suffering because of genetic damage caused by radiation. However, we have not received a single word of apology from Japan, which started the war, or from the United States, which dropped the A-bombs. While being responsible for protecting its citizens, the South Korean government has not imposed any

special measures to support Hibakusha.

Nuclear weapons, not even the name, should be allowed to exist on the earth. As long as they exist, we can never achieve peace. Until a day when we turn nuclear weapons into scrap iron, we the A-bomb survivors continue to oppose the production of nuclear weapons, as well as to demand that the U.S. recognize its responsibility over the Hibakusha and apologize to and compensate them. The Japanese government also owes an apology and compensation to Korean Hibakusha.

The number of Hibakusha in South Korea is the second largest after Hibakusha in Japan. The total number of South Korean Hibakusha is 100,000, and 50,000 of them were instantly killed by the A-bombs (according to the damage prevention department of Japan's then Home Ministry). The spirits of the victims are still missing the hometowns to which they can never return and are therefore unable to rest in peace. The least the governments of Japan, the U.S., and South Korea can do is to build monuments in their hometowns so their spirits can finally rest in peace. This is the wish of a son who was unable to gather his father's ashes as well as of so many other bereaved family members. I wish you peace.

Actions for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World: Speeches by Overseas Delegates:

Rosalie Brooks Peace Action U.S.A.

First, I would like to thank our host, Gensuikyo, for your kindness and generosity. I am excited and grateful to be a part of this the 74th anniversary commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It has been an honor to visit your country for the first time, and to join you in commemorating the many victims of the terrible nuclear disaster visited on these cities in 1945. My life has been enriched by hearing first-hand some of the Hibakusha's experiences of what occurred during and after the bombings.

I honor Gensuikyo's tenacity and steadfast diligence in organizing for nuclear weapons abolition in the world and their tireless efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, 74 years ago the U.S. government made the decision to detonate nuclear bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On behalf of Peace Action's 200,000 supporters and a significant number of Americans who believe we should abolish nuclear weapons,

we offer our apology for that horrible event.

We join in solidarity with Gensuikyo and the Hibakusha to continue to fight to promote policies that move toward total elimination of nuclear weapons. If lessons are not learned from the past, history can repeat itself. This is one event we do not want to ever see happen again to any people. I commend the Hibakusha, Gensuikyo, and all those working toward peace and justice.

Peace Action was born in 1957 with the main focus of preventing the deployment of nuclear weapons and promoting a new United States foreign policy based on common security and peaceful resolutions to international conflicts. We believe that every person has the right to live without the threat of nuclear weapons, and that war is not a suitable response to conflict.

The more I learn of the Hibakusha the more parallels I see with civil rights movement in the U.S. Like African-American leaders of the civil rights movement, the Hibakusha has not been deterred by governmental indifference or societal privilege. Progress is slow and setbacks are common, but it is never time to accept defeat or abandon our goals.

The movement for nuclear abolition and the civil rights movement both demand recognition of our fundamental humanity. But just like the women's movement and the labor movement, we have to first battle the lie that our humanity is somehow hostage to other concerns which have less to do with humanity and more to do with power and greed.

The upcoming 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation conference is another opportunity to awaken public concern to the very real threat that nuclear weapons present and mobilize our fellow human beings to act to protect our common future. Let us organize for this event to make it the strongest ever, and make our collective voice be heard around the world that we want the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Our activists are already on the ground working, bird-dogging presidential candidates in New Hampshire, the first primary state, where our folks have been doing this in presidential election cycles for close to 20 years. "Peace Action trains volunteers and staff to "bird-dog" candidates for elected office, especially for president, to show up at campaign events and ask candidates tough questions on their positions on nuclear weapons, war, peace and military spending.

Let me end with reminding us that no big success occurs without the collective forces of many small voices organizing through grassroots efforts. There are so many movements that have achieved great success after much suffering. Your work is already a part of history and your purpose

has and will continue. It took many years for other great movements in human history to achieve triumph and so will Hibakusha and Gensuikyo.

Thank you for the friendship that has been fostered over the years between Gensuikyo and Peace Action. We will continue to work with you toward a world that will be free of nuclear weapons. Helen Keller says it simply, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Chloé Meulewaeter
Centre Delàs of Studies for Peace
Spain

Dear Hibakushas, dear organizers, dear participants, dear friends of peace. My name is Chloé Meulewaeter. It has been an honour for me to attend the World Conference Against A and H Bombs. I have learnt so much during these days.

Before the world conference began, I already had the privilege of hearing Hibakusha's testimony on two occasions. In 2015 the Peace Boat docked at the port of Barcelona, and last November it stopped near Granada. I was shocked by the horror of their experience as much as I was impressed by the strength they deploy so that the world would never again have to regret such a disaster. I welcome the incredible efforts that all of you are making to raise awareness among civil society, the media and politicians about the dangers of the atomic bomb. Thank you.

The latest SIPRI data estimated world military spending in 2018 at \$1,822 billion. If we counted one dollar for every second, it would take 58,000 years to reach this figure, which has never been so high in history. Indeed, over the past decades, military expenditure has drastically increased. SIPRI estimates that global military spending increased by 60% in the last 20 years.

As a theoretical framework, the military economic cycle, which is the thesis I am working on, provides an understanding of why military spending must be reduced to keep the possibility and probability of war at bay. Indeed, the increase of the military spending supposes more military R&D, more arms production, more arms trade, and finally the use of these weapons, which causes human disasters, but also environmental disasters. The following renewed need for arms, leads to the annual approval of public defence budget, again and again. In addition to that direct violence committed to humans and the planet, military spending generates structural violence by creating a huge opportunity cost limiting the possibility to finance disarmament policies. Limiting the opportunity to finance social policies for gender

equality, education and health. The economic resources for the military cannot be allocated to policies for a culture of peace, to learn to transform conflicts in a nonviolent way. They cannot be used to mitigate climate change and foster climate resilience. Military spending is an enormous opportunity cost that prevents the financing of policies that are truly related to the security of people and the planet.

During this world conference we have talked a lot about climate change and its link to the military. As you know, the CO2 emissions by the military were explicitly excluded from the Kyoto Protocol, and although included in the 2015 Paris Agreement it is not mandatory for a country to reduce its military CO2 emissions. That's nonsense when the US Department of Defence itself admits that it is the world's largest consumer of oil. The military's responsibility on the threat of climate change is undeniable, and it is urgent to put this subject at the heart of our actions and research.

We have to work to build peace and provide it with the economic resources it needs, to ensure that the future is free of armed violence and full of tools for the well-being and security of people and the planet. As Vicent Martínez Guzmán, a Spanish philosopher who has worked all his life for peace, said, "we pacifists are the realists". And today I will add: "What is real is that the atomic bomb is inhuman. What is real is that the atomic bomb is the most despicable human invention. We, the pacifists are the realists".

Bui Lien Huong
Vietnam Peace Committee

Thank you for giving me this great opportunity to speak at the Closing Session of the World Conference against A and H Bombs- one of the world's largest peace conferences.

I would like to thank all Japanese friends for organizing this Conference, which is always a great inspiration for all people working for peace, friendship, and nuclear weapons demolishment.

Friends, I would like to share once more the never-ending pains of hundreds of thousands of Japanese Hibakushas after 74 years of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We deeply understand the severe consequences as the same things are happening in Vietnam, where millions of victims of Agent Orange, including even those of 4th generations, are still living in agony.

With great efforts from governments, people's organizations and peace movements in different countries, we have witnessed some positive changes: 24 countries have ratified the Treaty on

the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons since it was adopted in 2017. The question is: Can we expect another 26 to ratify the Treaty in another year? We should encourage other countries to ratify this extremely important Treaty so that it could come into effect in 2020.

We have also seen positive signs of a peace process in the Korean Peninsula with the Inter-Korea and US-DPRK Summits in Singapore, Vietnam and most recently at the DMZ (demilitarized zone). The DPRK has also shown its willingness by dismantling test site facilities. However, it remains a thorny path towards realizing the dream of an era of peace on the Korean Peninsula, requiring greater efforts from not only the two Koreas and the US but also the international community.

The world is still experiencing complicated and dangerous conflicts and disputes with new-height tension in different regions in the world, great power politics, populism, extreme nationalism, using or threatening to use force to solve conflicts, violation of international law and other countries' sovereignty on the rise. Recent developments in hot spots including the South China Sea and others have shown that world peace and security are in danger.

And what should we do together now?

As a member of the young generation, I have three proposals: (1) further strengthening and connecting peace movements and campaigns. (2) launch people's campaign against all destructive policies and actions by states, especially by major powers, which violate other countries' sovereignty and threaten regional and international peace and human security and (3) promoting peace education, especially to the young generations. With peace movement getting stronger involving millions of peoples, with the development of social network, I believe that we can succeed in making peace prevail.

Fellow participants, Dear Friends, People of Vietnam are proud to be part of the global nuclear abolition community. The Vietnam Peace Committee and Vietnamese people will continue joining hands with peace workers throughout the globe in the struggle for a peaceful world.

We believe that the Conference will reaffirm its solidarity with and support for hibakushas, victims of Agent Orange, and other war victims, and pave the way for a future without any threats of nuclear weapons, a world of peace, stability and prosperity, where all conflicts and disputes are settled peacefully in accordance with international law.

Let me conclude my contribution by wishing

the World Conference a great success and wishing you all good health and happiness.

No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!

Justice for Hibakushas! Justice for Agent Orange/dioxin victims!

Lee Bora

**Association of Physicians for Humanism
R.O.K.**

I congratulate Gensuikyo and other civil society organizations of Japan for convening the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs, aiming to achieve a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world. I feel honored to be given the opportunity to speak in this Closing Plenary.

As we all know, we are witnessing the ever-worsening relationship between the ROK and Japan. Since the nuclear disaster, the government of ROK has suspended the import of fishery products from Fukushima. Japan filed a WTO complaint against Korea on this, but lost the case. President Moon Jae-in virtually declared the scrapping of the Japan-ROK agreement on the Comfort Women issue concluded by former President Park Guen-hye. At the end of 2018, the Korean Supreme Court ruled that war criminal companies Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Corporation should compensate the victims of war-time forced labor. In the face of this, the Japanese government applied economic pressure on the ROK by imposing export controls and removing it from the "Whitelist".

Now in South Korea, boycotting of Japanese products is spreading, with the slogan, "Though we were unable to stage a movement for independence, we can carry out the boycott campaign." The candlelight campaign, which once ousted the Park Guen-hye government, is now denouncing the Abe Government in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul every Saturday. I believe that these conflicts are caused by the fact that democracy developed in the ROK without there first being a just settlement for the errors of Japanese imperialism's colonial rule and war, as well as by the changes in the relations between North and South Korea and between the US and DPRK during the same period.

In 1945, the Korean Peninsula, the former colony of the defeated Japan, was divided. In 1950, Japan's economy revived thanks to the special procurement boom associated with the Korean War. In the process leading to the Basic Japan-ROK Treaty of 1965, which was concluded for the benefit of the US, no consideration was given to Japan's usurpation of Korea's food and resources; mobilization of forced laborers and comfort

women; torture and killing and other human rights infringements of independence movement activists; and the Korean Hibakusha issue. It is quite easy to explain the reason why, if you know that in the post-WWII era Kishi Nobusuke became Prime Minister of Japan and Park Chung-he, a former military officer of Manchukuo, became President of South Korea. In Japan, Kishi's successors still hold power. In the ROK, the forces behind Park, as vested interests, continue to exploit people, though they are now in opposition due to the candlelight actions.

The forces of my country's democracy movement, including the Association of Physicians for Humanism to which I belong, are working hard to prevent the recurrence of this unfortunate history. Upholding the slogan, "When society is in pain, medical doctors should also feel the pain", we give treatment to homeless people, refugees and workers in strikes, and oppose the commercialization of health services and strengthen the public nature of medical care. We also work to inform the workers and people in the vicinity of nuclear power plants of the danger to their health. Every year, we send a delegation to the World Conference against A and H Bombs and have exchanges with Min-Iren (Japanese Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions) and work in solidarity with anti-war, peace movement organizations from around the world.

In May this year, the "Japan-ROK International Forum for a Nuclear-Free and Peaceful Northeast Asia" was held in Seoul. About 300 people, including representatives of Japan/ROK Hibakusha organizations, labor unions, women's groups, health/medical organizations, took part. It started with a breakfast meeting with the Korean Justice Party and the Japanese Communist Party, followed by very significant presentations and discussion in the morning plenary and workshops in the afternoon. In the morning plenary of May 31, the outcome of the workshops was shared by all and we issued a joint statement at Gwanghwamun Square. For active exchange in the future between the civil society organizations of the two countries, we hope that such forums will be held more regularly.

Along with the development of US-DPRK relations, we are seeing the advent of an era of peace and unification of the Korean Peninsula. It is the duty of us living in the Korean Peninsula to overcome the past history and achieve the reunification of Korea, and make it a safe, nuclear weapon-free and peaceful country where all people can enjoy freedom and equality.

And in order to reconstruct Japan-ROK relations, which are now rapidly deteriorating, we

need to form a firm solidarity between the people of the two countries based on a correct recognition of history. Friends, I sincerely call on you to work together with us to that end.

Corazon Fabros Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition

To friends from all over Japan and to our ever courageous brothers and sisters from Okinawa, and to all our friends from different parts of the world, Peace and Solidarity Greetings from the nuclear-free Philippines!

I am very happy to see the increasing presence of many young people, including the children! who with their fresh and innovative ideas, their art, music, enthusiasm and leadership potentials strongly illuminate the future of the peace movement. We need you to continue and move things way faster than we did. In that spirit, I wish to thank the Japan Peace Marchers for welcoming the international youth relay for 5 years now. Let us double our efforts to reach out to more young people as we approach the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and make the Peace March, truly representative of the future generation's commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons and no more war.

We express our gratitude for your strong support for the issues we bear witness to until today whether these are our struggles against dictatorship, militarization, human rights violations, climate change, nuclear issues, etc. We must find ways to address our issues comprehensively, creatively, inclusively forging solidarities with other movements to broaden our critical mass.

Today, we live in dangerous and challenging times. Currently, more than half of the U.S. military bases overseas are in the Indo-Asia-Pacific area that includes forces for military intervention, occupation and domination. The re-interpretation of Article 9 in the Japanese Constitution allowing Japan to re-militarize, engage in active overseas military exercises and sell military hardware to other countries is against the true spirit of the Hibakushas and the peoples call for peace and elimination of nuclear weapons. The Philippines, with an Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the U.S., will once again provide the staging ground, facilities and bases for U.S. forward deployment, war games and military exercises - an arrangement perceived to be a solution to hedge off China's continuing build up in the West Philippine Sea. For us, the path of diplomatic, peaceful and just solution is the only way to move forward. We are determined to work

closely with our network in the ASEAN region and the international community.

It is heartwarming to experience strong leadership presence of my sisters in the women's movement. Your support for the Peace March and in the continuing struggles in many islands in Asia and the Pacific is remarkable! We must continue to provide this quality of presence, in greater numbers and passion to fight the continuing discrimination, misogyny and marginalization of women, children and peoples of color. No Women, No Peace!

We express our continuing solidarity with the peoples of Okinawa with the filing of new suit on Henoko. Decades of resistance, 15 years of continued sit in is enough!, As we remember former Governor Onaga's passing a year ago, we are deeply inspired by the Okinawan spirit of Nuchi Du takara (Life is Precious) and deeply moved the continuing resistance of the Okinawan people as he strongly expressed their will NEVER TO GIVE UP. Let us take their struggle as our own.

BEIGUN KICHI IRANAI! (No US Bases!)

KATSU HOHO WA, AKIRAMENAI KOTO! (The only way to win is to never give up!)

TOMONI, GAMBARI MASHIO! (Let's work together!)

Reiner Braun International Peace Bureau

I am deeply concerned about the current international situation; we are facing not only the outbreak of a great (nuclear) war, but also an increasingly threatening climate disaster, both of which could irreversibly destroy our world.

We are living in a time of war? A study conducted by the Swedish Peace Research (SIPRI) highlights 12 wars and 36 armed conflicts in 2018. We are also currently experiencing a tremendous wave of rearmament, emphasized particularly through the \$729 billion armament expenditures of the United States and the 1.2 trillion Dollar of NATO. 1,8 Trillion Dollar for military spending and two billion of children suffering day by day by hunger – that is the inhumanity of our capitalistic world of wars.

We are witnessing a major modernisation of nuclear weapons by all nuclear powers, possibly even a deployment of new land-based medium-range missiles in Central Europe. The global arms control system, which is already very limited, will be destroyed mainly by racist Trump.

The success of the Ban Treaty - as important as it is for the anti-nuclear weapons movement - is not even a drop in the ocean against this modernization of nuclear weapons.

We are also waging war daily against nature; the profit system but we as individuals too are destroying our own livelihoods and our planet as if we had three. Forests are being burned and resources are unrestrainedly exploited for profit. The imperial system and consumerism threaten to destroy not only our livelihoods, but those of future generations as well.

The peak of this irrationality is man-made global warming, whereby man-made is only one part of the truth. It is the profit of the multinationals and the returns of the 1% that significantly affects our lives and are currently making us burn up, in the truest sense of the word.

Is this our destiny? How can this madness be averted? Can it be stopped at all?

The answer is yes and yes again! War and destruction are caused by the people, so they can also be stopped by the people. It is us, the people, who write and shape history.

Let us act together! Unity is our power to change and save the world!

These are our challenges - in the words of Berta von Suttner, the first female Nobel Peace Prize laureate: "as long as our heart beats for peace, we must win over the hearts of all people for peace".

Every great transformation begins with a first step: I suggest that we start rebuilding our peace movement in strong cooperation with other social movements through the diverse actions planned against nuclear weapons in 2020, the actions taking place before at the NPT Conference (World Congress and demonstration), as well as the world wide actions related to the 75 years anniversary of the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Undoubtedly, we must also launch campaigns against NATO's desired armament upgrade to 2% of GDP.

Peace is the "Ultima Ratio," said Nobel Peace Prize laureate Willi Brandt. In order to achieve this, we need to act together.

No Nukes! No war! Disarmament and abolition is the goal!

Determination of Grass-Roots Activists of the A-bombed Country for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World:

Yamada Shimpei All Japan Teachers and Staffs Union (ZENKYO)

Our union members from different parts of Japan are taking part in this World Conference - Nagasaki. Many of them are young teachers, who

have joined with veteran members to participate in the peace marches and other activities during the months leading up to this World Conference.

Among these activities is the Hibakusha Appeal international signature campaign. ZENKYO aims at collecting 200,000 signatures towards 2020. We solicit signatures from our fellow teachers at workplaces and also through joining public information activities in local communities.

Another is the “Teachers Peace Forum” held every year in the evening following the workshop sessions during the World Conference. In this year’s event held on August 8, we listened to the presentation about succeeding the experiences/testimonies of the Hibakusha and had exchanges with some overseas delegates. One participant shared his impression on the occasion, saying, “I was encouraged to start taking whatever action is possible, and share what I learned today with other teachers in the same school” and another said, “This stimulated my imagination on how to inherit Hibakusha’s experiences. I was inspired by the campaigns by the overseas delegates and determined to carry on our activities in the shared commitment for peace.”

Another annual event carried out by the Youth Department of ZENKYO is “TANE (“seeds” in Japanese)”, a national seminar meeting for young teachers and staffs. This year, TANE was held in Hiroshima to give each and every young member an opportunity to think deeply on the need of peace education and to take a step forward. After hearing the testimony of a Hibakusha, one young teacher said, “It’s important to know the fact. Issues of peace and nuclear power seemed distant, but they now feel familiar to me. Learning about what it was like during the war made me think about the meaning of living as a free and independent person in the period when there was no freedom.”

The young teachers and staffs who have taken part in the World Conference and these activities have grown to take deeper in carrying out actual practice of peace education. Their students showed more interest in engaging in the class where these teachers included what they learned in Hiroshima in the course material. Many children wrote essays in response to their teacher’s sharing of experience in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And a new dialogue is starting with their fellow teachers on how to promote peace education in the classroom.

With the determination, “Never to send our students to the battlefields”, we in ZENKYO will continue to work in solidarity with teachers, staffs, parents, guardians and other citizens to have the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons enter into force and to achieve a nuclear weapon-free,

peaceful and just society. Let’s keep working together.

International Youth Relay Marchers of the 2019 National Peace March:

Nityalila Saulo, AG Saño, Charley Sta. Maria, Galileo Castillo, Pedro Fenis Jhong and Lerry Hiterosa (Philippines), Yei Hsuan Huang (Taiwan), An Seul Ki (R.O.K.)

(Presented by Okoshi Bun, Coordinator of the Peace March Organizing Committee)

Okoshi: Malaya Fabros of the Philippines joined the 2013 National Peace Match as the first international marcher. Calling for participation of the Japanese youth in the peace march, she said, “Being a citizen of an A-Bombed country,... perhaps, like Greta Thunberg of Sweden calling for climate justice, your voice as youth of Japan together with the Hibakushas - will be a strong voice of conscience around the world, especially in the NPT Conferences. Next year will be the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings. Don’t you think it’s finally time to realize a nuclear-free world for real?”

The first step Malaya marked in 2013 was so significant. Ever since then, as the coordinator of the International Youth Relay of the National Peace March in Japan, Malaya has helped organize so many young and wonderful international marchers from different countries to join the Peace March every year.

So today, joining with us here on the stage and on the screen are the International Youth Relay Marchers who joined in this year’s Peace March.

Gurrero AG Saño from the Philippines walked from Tokyo through Kanagawa Prefecture, and then in Nagasaki. He organized the “Art Attack” actions to create/paint peace banners together with the young people in Tokyo and the children of Nagasaki.

Charley Sta. Maria of the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation joined the march in Shizuoka Prefecture. She was always walking with bright smiles to cheer everyone up.

Galileo de Gusman Castillo of the Focus on the Global South - the Philippines, marched in Aichi and Gifu Prefectures. He always called for donation and signatures on the Hibakusha Appeal.

Pedro Fenis “Jhong” walked in Nara, Osaka and Hyogo Prefectures. As an organic farmer in the Philippines, he also had a great opportunity to meet with members of the Japan Family Farmers Movement in Nara.

Nityalila Saulo of the Philippines marched in Okayama and Hiroshima prefectures. During the march, she composed a song “Sama Sama”, meaning “Come together” in Tagalog language, which you just heard.

For the first time, an international youth marcher joined the Hokuriku Course (on the Japan Sea side) of the Peace March. **Yei Hsuan Huang** of Taiwan joined the Peace March for the second consecutive year and walked in Ishikawa Prefecture in June.

An Seul Ki of the Republic of Korea marched from Ibaraki to Tokyo via Chiba Prefecture, and then joined the Saga - Nagasaki stretch of the march.

Lerry Arogante Hiterosa of the Philippines walked in Nagasaki. These two 20-year-old marchers enlivened the finale of this year’s Peace March.

Let’s sing “Sama Sama (Come Together)” composed by Nityalila for the Peace March.

Sama Sama (Come Together)

By Nityalila Saulo featuring the people of the Peace March Japan 2019; written during the Peace March 2019, Okayama, Japan

Konnichiwa heiwa koshin desu (Hello, we are marching for peace)

Sama sama, sama sama

Watashi tachi wa heiwa ga daisuki desu (We love peace)

Sama sama, sama sama

Pagi-big ay buhay na buhay (Love is alive)

Sama sama, sama sama

Kalikasan ay buhay na buhay (Nature is alive)

Sama sama, sama sama

Kalayaan ay buhay na buhay (Freedom is alive)

Sama sama, sama sama

Kapayapaan ay buhay na buhay (Peace is alive)

Sama sama, sama sama

Tumulad tayo sa mga langam (Be like the ants)

Sama sama, sama sama

Kung lumakbay at humakbang (They walk together)

Sama sama, sama sama

Tumulad tayo sa mga bubuyog (Be like the bees)

Sama sama, sama sama

Sa trabaho at sa pagtulog (They work together)

Sama sama, sama sama

Tumulad tayo sa mga pato (Be like the ducks)

Sama sama, sama sama

Kung lumipad pahilaga o hulo (They fly together)

Sama sama, sama sama

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Message/Greetings from Japanese Political Parties:

Sasaki Takahiro

M.P., Deputy Leader, Constitutional

Democratic Party of Japan/

Representative of Hokkaido Section of the CDPJ

On the occasion of the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs, allow me to send a message of solidarity to you. We express our heartfelt respect to your day-to-day activities, and we cordially thank you for your support and cooperation to us.

We sincerely hope that the 2019 World Conference will be a place for rich and fruitful discussion for realizing measures for the people concerned, abolition of nuclear weapons and achieving a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Our Constitutional Democratic Party is determined to make every effort together with you towards creating a peaceful and nuclear-free world through “fair politics” based on democracy from the grass-roots. We count on your continued guidance and encouragement.

In concluding, I wish all of you here today good health and happiness in your endeavor. Let us work together.

Koike Akira

M.P., Secretariat Head

Japanese Communist Party

Good afternoon. I am Akira Koike of the Japanese Communist Party.

I extend my greetings of passionate solidarity to all delegates attending the 2019 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

I’m glad that representatives from the Civil Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism and the Federation of Promotion of Zero-Nuclear Power and Renewable Energy participated in the conference for the first time. In addition, Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan deputy

leader Sasaki Takahiro sent a message to the conference, clearly showing that the joint efforts between concerned citizens and opposition parties is gradually expanding.

In the House of Councillors election, the joint struggle between concerned citizens and opposition parties entered a new stage.

Our united opposition candidates won in 10 single-seat constituencies nationwide, and the Liberal Democratic Party failed to achieve a single majority. We prevented the constitutional revisionists from obtaining a two-thirds majority, which is procedurally required to formally propose constitutional revision.

Public movements working for peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons and calling for defending Article 9 created the momentum of resistance needed to reach this election result. I would like to share in the joy of the election result that concerned citizens and opposition parties worked together and jointly won.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on the day after the election, "The public handed down a verdict that we should at least start discussions." However, that is clearly "delusion" on his part.

Since the constitutional revisionists failed to maintain two-thirds of the seats required to initiate constitutional revision in the Diet, the verdict of the public is that "there is no need for an immediate discussion to amend the constitution."

Let us block Abe's constitutional revision plans and create a peaceful Japan that makes full use of the peace Constitution!

Earlier, I attended the annual Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony held by Nagasaki City.

Prime Minister Abe did not even mention the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), even though the mayor of Nagasaki City called for the Japanese government to join it. It's really a shame.

Bolivia ratified the TPNW, and it reached the halfway point of 50 countries for its entry into force. While the world is steadily advancing toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, the Japanese government representing the only nation that experienced the horrors of atomic bombs, is turning its back on signing and ratifying the treaty. This position is unacceptable.

Prime Minister Abe, what country do you represent?

We must change the unacceptable position our country has taken to not oppose nuclear weapons.

There are great concerns regarding a renewed U.S.-Russia nuclear arms race, however, if Japan takes a stand for peace, the world will change.

Let us establish a Japanese government as early as possible which signs and ratifies the

TPNW!

In 2020, Japan will mark 75 years since the U.S. atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I was moved when I heard about a plan to hold a world conference against A and H bombs in New York City.

It will be amazing to have the world conference against A and H bombs in the heart of the U.S., the world's major nuclear power.

The Conference called for a further growth in anti-nuke grassroots movements to change the direction of the world before 2020.

Of course, we are in favour of this proposal.

Let the "Nagasaki's bells" resound over the world!

Let us bring about the early entry into force of the TPNW and drive the forces clinging to nuclear arms into the corner!

The A-bomb survivors are elderly.

Before I became a Diet member, I worked at a hospital in Tokyo, conducting medical checkups and delivering medical care for Hibakusha. I have heard first-hand the acutely painful experience of Hibakusha over and over again.

An atomic bomb leaves a scar that can never heal, not only on the body but also deep in hidden emotions and in life itself.

Nuclear weapons cannot coexist with human beings.

Friends, let us share the Hibakusha's aspiration for peace that we heard in Nagasaki and let us together send a message of peace!

The International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons reflects the earnest wishes of A-bomb survivors who have long aspired to witness a world free of nuclear weapons.

Many young people empathize with the feelings of A-bomb victims.

The Japanese Communist Party is determined to exert its utmost efforts to realize a world free of nuclear weapons by working together with the A-bomb survivors and the younger generations.

Let us work together to spread the Hibakusha signature campaign around the world in order to bring the TPNW into effect!

By calling for these commitments, I'd like to conclude my speech in solidarity on behalf of the Japanese Communist Party.

No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis! No more Hibakusha!

Let's work together for peace!

Proposal of Actions:

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

Dear friends, thank you so much for your active participation and discussion during the 3 days of the World Conference against A and H Bombs - Nagasaki.

First, my thanks go to the Austrian and other national government representatives, Mayor Taue of Nagasaki City, Mr. Inamine of the All Okinawa Coalition, and the delegates of the world anti-nuclear and peace movements for joining this World Conference. We also thank the heads of states, the Okinawa governor, the many mayors and representatives of political parties and citizens' organizations for sending kind messages of solidarity. We especially express our gratitude and solidarity to the Hibakusha from Japan and other countries who have joined in this conference.

Also, we very much appreciate the hard work of the people of Nagasaki, interpreters and all the others who have supported and prepared for this conference.

This year's World Conference against A and H Bombs called on the people of the world to rise together with the Hibakusha in global actions to make the year 2020, the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing, a historic turning point to achieve a nuclear weapons-free, peaceful and just world.

The 2020 NPT Review Conference next May will be an important opportunity to urge all governments of the world to implement the past agreements and to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

By rallying the power of the grass-roots movement and efforts of national governments, we must press the pro-nuclear forces to act, or isolate them if they don't. The key is the mobilization of public opinion through the Hibakusha Appeal international signature campaign. Across the world and especially in Japan, let us make a big leap forward in this campaign.

During the workshop sessions held yesterday, determinations for future actions were expressed toward the World Conference in New York. The delegate from Vietnam said that on the "International Day for Peace" on September 21, a nationwide action will be held to call on university students to join the international Hibakusha

signature drive, and to send millions of signatures to New York.

The delegate of Peace Action said their branches in 20 universities in New York will join the International Hibakusha signature campaign.

During the "No Nukes! Women's Forum", participating delegates shared their determination to change the world through the power of women and confirmed that the signature collection will be held across the world.

The National Promotion Committee of the Hibakusha Appeal International Signature Campaign yesterday held a national forum here in Nagasaki to learn the campaigns and efforts in different parts of Japan. We must create a new surge in this signature campaign. With renewed determination and framework, let us work ever harder toward realizing its goals.

Dear friends, both in Hiroshima on August 6 and at the peace ceremony today in Nagasaki, Prime Minister Abe said not even a word about the TPNW but repeated that he would serve as a "bridge" with the nuclear-armed states. But what he should do as the prime minister of the only A-bombed nation is to work as a bridge to reach a total ban on nuclear weapons.

To show that is the will of the majority of the Japanese people, let us take on the following actions:

First, we must learn the "Declaration of the International Meeting", which was issued based on a discussion with our friends from overseas and rallying the wisdom of the peace movements, which serve as a compass to show our future prospects and direction. Let us learn from the declaration by holding numerous local meetings to report on the outcome of this World conference.

Next, let us hold meetings to listen to the Hibakusha testimonies, A-bomb exhibitions, and displays of A-bomb drawings in every city/town/village, local community, workplace and school campus, which communicate to the people the inhuman consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

And we must achieve a majority of local government resolutions to urge the Japanese government to sign and ratify the TPNW. We shall also strengthen further the cooperation between the citizens and opposition parties for this purpose.

Dear friends, let us make an all-out effort to respond to the aspirations of the Hibakusha to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons in their lifetime.

Resolution of the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs – Nagasaki

Appeal from Nagasaki

“The atomic bomb does not allow them to live or die as humans. By their very nature, nuclear weapons are weapons of madness, bringing total extinction. They are weapons so evil that humanity must never accept them.”

*From the “Atomic Bomb Victims Demand”
of Nihon Hidankyo (1984)*

With these words the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have exposed the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, weapons that deny the very dignity of human beings. The nuclear deterrence doctrine bizarrely claims that nuclear weapons guarantee security, but knowledge of the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons has seen extensive sympathy from both governments and citizens, ultimately resulting in the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The entry into force of the TPNW is now a matter of time. With the 75th anniversary of the suffering of the A-bombings approaching, we are determined to make every effort in an historic action to fulfill the desire of the Hibakusha for the abolition of nuclear weapons in our lifetime.

With the expiration of the INF treaty resulting from the pullout of the US, which leans towards actual use of nuclear weapons, the resumption of the nuclear arms race is a real concern. The five Nuclear Weapon States stand into line with one another in opposing the TPNW and turning their backs on the agreements reached by the past NPT Review Conferences. The nuclear danger is not something limited to the past. Yet the resistance of those who cling to nuclear weapons is an expression of their isolation. Towards the next NPT Review Conference in May 2020, let us bring together the forces of grassroots movements and governments and isolate even further those who cling to nuclear weapons.

In support of the Declaration of the International Meeting of the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs, we call for following actions:

- Learning about the damage caused by the atomic bombs and sharing the knowledge widely; organizing A-bomb photo and/or painting exhibitions and meetings to listen to the stories of Hibakusha; demanding drastic improvement in the A-bomb disease recognition system and state compensation for damage while strengthening our support and solidarity with them; passing on the stories of the Hibakusha and their struggle to uphold human dignity to younger generations.

- Intensifying the International Hibakusha Appeal Signature Campaign, the goal of which is hundreds of millions of signatures worldwide, in every region and community; obtaining support from mayors, assembly members and citizens; Given that already more than 400 local assemblies have

adopted resolutions urging the government to sign and ratify the TPNW, let us urge more local assemblies to adopt a statement to that effect; demanding the abrogation of Japan-US secret nuclear arrangements, strict application of the three Non-Nuclear Principles and their legislation.

- Building up and bringing our local actions: let us ensure success in the World Conference against A and H Bombs in New York and international joint actions on the eve of the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

- Reinforcing the struggle for the prevention of the revision of Article 9 of the Constitution by the Abe government as well as to have the “war laws” scrapped; in firm solidarity with “All Okinawa” in their struggle for the dignity of prefectural citizens, let us demand the cancelation of the construction of a new base at Henoko of Nago City and the immediate return of Futenma base. Let us oppose military build-up and consolidation of the Japan-US military alliance. We will reinforce cooperation between citizens and opposition parties with a view to having the Japanese government play a role befitting the A-bombed country.

- Pressing the Japanese government to adopt a diplomacy based on the peace principles of the Constitution for denuclearization and peace building on the Korean Peninsula. The deterioration of Japan-ROK relations can be improved if Japan separate politics from economic issues and takes a sensible stance based on a critical review of its past aggression and colonial domination. Let us build up broad solidarity among citizens in Japan, ROK and other countries in Northeast Asia who aspire to peace.

- Strengthening solidarity with movements opposing the restart of nuclear power plants, demanding a break with nuclear power and a switch to natural energy, and campaigning for the protection of the global environment. Let us strengthen campaigns against disruption of employment and livelihood, increasing poverty and the economic gap between the rich and poor, and for a cut in military expenditures and protection of livelihood, social welfare and education. We oppose all forms of discrimination and violence and demand gender equality and the expansion of LGBT rights. Let us oppose all forms of violation of freedom of expression.

- Standing on our common ground for the dignity of human beings, we will broaden our cooperation and solidarity with many social movements. Let us convey our cause for a world without nuclear weapons to all. Together with the Hibakusha and with the rising generations, let us look to the future.

No more Nagasakis, No more Hiroshimas, No more Hibakusha.

Nagasaki should remain the last place to suffer a nuclear calamity.

August 9, 2019

2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs – Nagasaki

Appendices:

Overseas Delegates and Guests in the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Representatives of National Governments

Mr. George-Wilhelm Gallhofer, Minister, Head of Unit for Nuclear Weapons, IAEA, CTBTO and NPT, Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Republic of Austria

Ms. Maylem Rivero, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Japan

Ms. Melba Pria, Ambassador to Japan, United Mexican States

Mr. Seiko Ishikawa, Ambassador to Japan, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Representatives of Peace Movements and Individuals

Asia-Pacific

The Philippines

Ms. Corazon Valdez Fabros, Secretary-General, Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition

Mr. Guerrero AG Saño, Teach Peace, Build Peace/ Art Mission for Peace/ International Youth Relay Marcher

Ms. Nityalila Saulo, Climate Justice and Human Rights Campaigner, DAKILA – Philippine Collective for Modern Heroism/ International Youth Relay Marcher

Mr. Lerry Arogante Hiterosa, SM-ZOTO (Citizen's Network - Zone One Tondo Organization)/ International Youth Relay Marcher

Mr. Albert Lozada, Communications Officer/ Walker, Climate Pilgrimage

Republic of Korea

Mr. Lee Koo Young, Board member, Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty Association

Mr. Kong Ree Keun, Second Generation Hibakusha, Korean Atomic Bomb Casualty

Association

Ms. Eum Mikyung, Vice President, Korean Confederation of Trade Unions

Ms. Kim Jinyoung, Director of Policy-Education, People's Solidarity for Social Progress

Ms. Baek Mi-Sun, Standing Representative, Korean Women's Associations United (KWAU)

Ms. Jung Eun-Ah, Coordinator, KWAU

Mr. Lee Jun Kyu, Senior Researcher, Institute for Unification and Peace Policy, Hanshin University

Ms. An Seul Ki, Civil Network for Justice in Sports-Korea/ International Youth Relay Marcher

Ms. Jeong Sok Soon, Chairperson of Youth and Student Department, Korean Dentists' Association for Healthy Society

Mr. Chae Min Seok, Secretary General of Youth and Student Department, Korean Dentists' Association for Healthy Society

Mr. Kim Moon Sup, Director, Cool-Jam Dental Clinic

Mr. Cha Jae Won, Cool-Jal Dental Clinic

Ms. Shim Young Joo, Youth and Student Department, Korean Dentists' Association for Healthy Society/ Professor of Oral Medicine, Wonkwang Univ. Dental Hospital

Mr. Park Jong Min, Cool-Jam Dental Clinic

Ms. Kang Jae Hyun, Student of College of Dentistry, Wonkwang University

Mr. Jeong Ki Chul, Student of College of Dentistry, Wonkwang University

Mr. Kim Woo Chang, PhD student of Graduate School of Environment, Seoul National University

Ms. Lee Joo Mi, Member, Korean Pharmacists for

Democratic Society

Mr. Lee Dong Gun, Assistant administrator,
Korean Pharmacists for Democratic Society

Ms. Jeon Kyung Rim, Member, Korean
Pharmacists for Democratic Society

Ms. Park Miran, Member, Korean Pharmacists for
Democratic Society

Ms. Kim Sang Hyun, Student member, Korean
Pharmacists for Democratic Society

Ms. Kim Shinae, Association of Physicians for
Humanism, Family Physician

Ms. Lee Bora, Association of Physicians for
Humanism/ Pulmonologist, Green Hospital

Mr. Lee Hyo Jik, Staff, Korean Dentists'
Association for Healthy Society

Ms. Kim Ji Hyun, Head of PR department of
Green Hospital

Ms. Moon Seon Hee, High school teacher,
University of the Middle East Project – Oleander
Initiative

Mr. Park Jong Ho, High school teacher, University
of the Middle East Project – Oleander Initiative

Ms. Yi Sunhee, High school teacher, University of
the Middle East Project – Oleander Initiative

Vietnam

Ms. Bui Lien Huong, Deputy Secretary General,
Vietnam Peace Committee

Ms. Nguyen Thi Minh Phuong, President,
Haiphong Peace Committee

Nepal

Mr. Shankar Lal Shrestha, Executive Committee
member, Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity
Organization of Nepal

Mr. Rabindra Adhikari, National Co-ordinator,
Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council (NPSC)

Mr. Jaya Ram Thapa, Executive member, NPSC

Mr. Hom Nath Sapkota, Council member, NPSC

Mr. Bhupendra Raj Giri, Council member, NPSC

Mr. Deepak Giri, Council member, NPSC

Mr. Prakash Raj Giri, Council member, NPSC

Mr. Arjun Prasad Dhakal, Council member, NPSC

Mr. Bir Bahadur Nepali, Council member, NPSC

Mr. Milan Adhikari, Council member, NPSC

Mr. Anup Shrestha, Council member, NPSC

India

Mr. Sanjay Dhanwate, Global Network Against
Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space - India

Ms. Anumita Agarwal, Global Network Against
Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space - India

Ms. Manisha Gaur, Global Network Against
Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space - India

Europe

Russia

Mr. Oleg Bodrov, Chairperson, Public Council of
the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland/ Film
director

Lithuania

Mr. Gediminas Rimdeika, Lithuanian Green Party

Ms. Angele Rimdeikiene, Lithuanian Green Party

Norway

Ms. Akari Oda Izumi Kvamme, Executive
Director, No to Nuclear Weapons

France

Ms. Saya Guadarrama, Individual

Spain

Ms. Chloé Meulewaeter, Researcher, Delàs Center
for Peace Studies

United Kingdom

Ms. Hannah Kemp-Welch, Vice Chair, London
Region CND/ Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
(CND)

Middle East & Africa

Jordan

Ms. Raja Nafa, Academic adviser and international
accreditation coordinator, University of the Middle
East Project - Oleander Initiative

Lebanon

Ms. Racha Halat, High school teacher, University of the Middle East Project – Oleander Initiative

Morocco

Mr. Abdesslame Jebli, High school teacher, University of the Middle East Project – Oleander Initiative

Palestine

Mr. Nader Neiroukh, High school teacher, University of the Middle East Project – Oleander Initiative

Tunisia

Ms. Leila Ben Said, Secondary school teacher, University of the Middle East Project - Oleander Initiative

North & South America

U.S.A.

Mr. Joseph Gerson, President, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security

Ms. Rosalie Brooks, Director of Finance and Administration, Peace Action

Ms. Emily Rubino, Peace Action New York

Ms. Ellen Thomas, Co-Chair of Disarm/End Wars Committee, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - US/ Director, Proposition One Campaign

Ms. Nuri Ronaghy, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - US

Mr. Alan Shorb, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - US

Mr. Joseph Essertier, Japan Chapter Coordinator, World Beyond War

Ms. Jun Hamamoto, Arts in Corrections Teacher, San Quentin State Prison, California

Mr. Ray Matsumiya, Executive Director, University of the Middle East Project/ Oleander Initiative

Ms. Mary Popeo, Oleander Initiative Program Manager, University of the Middle East Project

Ms. Kate Craven, Secondary school teacher, University of the Middle East Project - Oleander Initiative

Ms. June Morris, High school teacher, University of the Middle East Project – Oleander Initiative

Mr. Devin Shumate, High school teacher, University of the Middle East Project – Oleander Initiative

Ms. Stephanie Villarello, High school teacher, University of the Middle East Project - Oleander Initiative

Ms. Kurozumi Kanade, Oleander Initiative program organizer, University of the Middle East Project

International & Regional Organizations

Mr. Rainer Braun, Co-President, International Peace Bureau (IPB)

Ms. Mercedes Llarinas-Angeles, President, Peace Women Partners International

Ms. Shibata Masako, Executive Committee member, Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF)/ President, Japan Federation of Women's Organizations



Massages of Solidarity from Overseas to the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs

National Governments/ International Organizations:

(Please see page 12 for the texts)

Austria

Alexander Van der Bellen, Federal President

Laos

Bounnhang Vorachith, President

South Africa

Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President

Venezuela

Jorge Arreaza, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Viet Nam

Nguyễn Phú Trọng, President/ General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Seiko Ishikawa, Ambassador to Japan, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

International Committee of the Red Cross

Peter Maurer, President

Australian Labor Party

Ged Kearney, MP/ Former President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions

Anti-nuclear and Peace Movements:

Phyllis Creighton

Toronto (Hiroshima Day Coalition), Canada

All good wishes for your conference! I hope your work will strengthen solidarity and outreach around the world. For more than 60 years this conference has shone a light on the horror of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and strengthened the peace movement. May you kindle hope! Help us all in our common struggle to free the world from the omnicidal threat of nuclear weapons!

Dr. Guido Grünewald

International Speaker, German Peace Society-United War Resisters (DFG-VK), Germany

Dear friends,

On 6 and 9 August we commemorate in many German cities and communities the victims of the

atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We honour the dead, commemorate survivors still alive and their descendants and we are grateful for those hibakusha who came to our country many times and by their moving testimony reminded us of our responsibility to free the world of nuclear weapons.

Today we face a dangerous and difficult situation. On the one side we made some progress: there is the inspiring treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons by which an overwhelming majority of states in 2019 confirmed their desire to abolish all nuclear weapons. In Japan prime minister Abe failed again to win the majority needed to abolish article 9 of the Japanese constitution. But on the other side we see that the nuclear weapon states are building up their arsenals. The factual termination of the agreement with Iran sends an implicit message to states like North Korea not to give up their nuclear arsenal and even creates an incentive for other states to develop their own nuclear arms. In many states we also see a build-up of conventional weapons and a revival of a nationalist policy often combined with racism. A danger which becomes more and more urgent is the global warming which eventually threatens the survival of humanity.

Though we are in a weak position we have to counter these developments. Core aim of the World Conference Against A- and H-Bombs is and remains complete nuclear disarmament and the abolishment of all nuclear weapons. We should, however, not neglect other dangers such as those mentioned. If we are to succeed in halting global warming we need enormous resources – money, human ingenuity, focusing – many of which are currently absorbed by the military. And a policy of national strength and of “my country first” will not be able to solve the problems of hunger and poverty. We must stress that only by acting multilaterally based on solidarity we can reach the Sustainable Development Goals agreed upon by the United Nations.

We wish the World Conference Against A- and H-Bombs all the best and hope that it can make an important contribution to meet the challenges we face.

Tomas Magnusson

Former President of IPB/ Former Chair of Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society/ Local peace activist in Göteborg, Sweden

Dear friends,

Please receive my greetings to all Japanese friends and peace activists now gathered at the traditional World Conference, as well as to the overseas delegates. I wish I could have joined you during these important days.

The threat of eradication of all human beings in a nuclear war, has reached an alarming level, through the renewal of the nuclear arsenals, the ending of the INF treaty, the political tension between Iran and the US, the not solved problem with the North Korean nuclear ambitions, and the ignorance to the public wish for peace and peaceful development among the world leaders, and especially from the American president Donald Trump.

Peace activists are offered no rest.

I send greetings from Göteborg, my home town, where we have commemorated the Hiroshima Day 6th of August every year since 1995 and maybe even before – and we will do so also this year, with music and speeches in our little peace park in the center of town. This year on August 6th we launch a campaign to the local politicians to get Göteborg to sign the ICAN Cities Appeal. That campaign is our response to the very disappointing decision by the Swedish government not to sign the UN treaty. In Göteborg we have not given up!!!

September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, USA

Dear Friends: Loving thoughts of our Japanese brothers and sisters are in our hearts during this commemoration of the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We do not forget the horrors experienced by our Japanese friends and their loved ones on those days, or the long lasting effects of the attacks on the Japanese people.

We share your intention for total nuclear non-proliferation in our time. Your hope is our hope - never again for any living thing on earth, especially people, to experience another nuclear bomb.

World Peace Council

(Please see page 36 for the text)

Messages from Women's Organizations to the 2019 World Conference against A & H Bombs and the Women's Forum (August 8):

Ada Donno, AWMR Italia President/ WIDF Vice-President

Thank you for remembering to us that in a few days it will be 74 years since a nuclear weapon was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where hundreds of thousands of people were killed and unspeakable damages to people and the environment were caused, which continue to hit

generations born after the war.

Despite the tremendous warning represented by the testimony of the Hibakusha, the survivors of the nuclear bomb, today over 13.000 nuclear weapons are distributed in nine arsenals in the world and threaten the entire planet with destruction every moment. They are the mortal legacy of which humanity is struggling to free itself.

As every year, our organization, together with other anti-nuclear associations in Italy, takes the opportunity of this date to remind the public that:

1. a nuclear war constitutes a looming threat to the lives of peoples and to the planetary ecosystem much more concretely than is believed, since it can even be triggered randomly, by accident or by miscalculation.

2. the logic of nuclear deterrence and the threat of mutual destruction represents an incentive to the accumulation of dangerous nuclear weapons. Peace with nuclear weapons is a dangerous illusion.

Italy is not officially a nuclear country : a popular referendum in 1987, confirmed by a second referendum in 2011, established the rejection of nuclear, for both civil and military use. However, Italy, as a member of NATO and because of the military alliance that binds it to the US, is obliged to host US nuclear bombs on its territory, in the military bases of Ghedi and Aviano.

The problem of the presence of US nuclear warheads on our territory is one of the issues strongly addressed by the national campaign for nuclear disarmament in which AWMR Italia has participated since last year, along with other Italian associations. Thousands of signatures have been collected at the bottom of an appeal that urges the Italian government to sign and ratify the TPNW (Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons), adopted by the UN General Assembly on 7 July 2019 with 122 votes in favor. The signatures were delivered last September 26 (International Day for Nuclear Disarmament) to the Italian government.

Italy did not participate in the UN negotiations that led to the adoption of the TPNW, but neither did it take steps in its favor. By choosing to be "absent", the Italian government has in fact aligned itself with the nuclear states that have opposed the Treaty. This ambiguous behavior profoundly angers us.

Our campaign continues this year, to demand that Italy comes out of ambiguity and contribute to the TPNW reaching the number of ratifications necessary for its entry into force by 2020.

At the same time we continue to demand Italy's exit from NATO, an extremely expensive and dangerous war instrument headed by the US, which remains the main nuclear power and the greatest nuclear hypocrite, since it pretends to negotiate disarmament, while it is blowing up the main

nuclear treaties implemented so far and is building increasingly pernicious nuclear weapons.

All states, including the nuclear-armed states and the “nuclear umbrella” countries, should work to stop the dangerous new nuclear escalation. All states should join the disarmament path provided by TPNW on the basis of international law.

Women and peoples of the world demand that nuclear disarmament become a priority for all states and that this long history of terror comes to an end. With this in mind, we wish a great success at the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs that will be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki from August 3 to 9 and the “No nukes! Women’s forum” on August 8 in Nagasaki.

We’ll be very grateful to the FUDANREN President Masako Shibata if she wishes to bring our supportive greeting and our voice on both occasions.

Federation of Women of Greece (OGE)

We Honor the Victims of USA Imperialist Crime in Hiroshima-Nagasaki

The Federation of Women of Greece participates in the antiimperialist event at the Acropolis of Athens on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 8 p.m.

We call on the women of the popular strata families to march on August 6, 2019 at the Acropolis of Athens at 8 p.m. to attend the anti-imperialist event organized by EEDYE (Greek Committee of International Peace and Recession) in order to condemn the USA imperialist crime against the Japanese people where the atomic bomb killed thousands people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Aug. 6 and 9, 1945).

We will shout that we are resolutely opposed to the USA-NATO-EU imperialist plans that lead to wars threatening all peoples of the world.

The developments are extremely dangerous for the Greek people as well and require vigilance and readiness. USA-NATO-EU aggression intensifies the competition with Russia and China and with dozens of states involved for the control of the markets and the energy resources and transportation of routes.

The possibility of the “First Nuclear Strike” was confirmed by the NATO Summit in Warsaw (2016) and threatens the peoples, especially after the USA withdrawal from the Nuclear Minority and Medium Range Ban Treaty.

Russia and China say they are ready to engage in deadly confrontation to protect the interests of their own Business Groups.

The responsibilities of our new government of “New Democracy” (Mitsotakis) are great as it continues the anti-popular policy of the former government “SYRIZA” (Tsipras) as they both

involve our people in the imperialists USA/NATO/EU plans.

They are implementing the “Prespes Agreement” supporting the NATO establishment in the Balkans as much as possible, putting all Balkans peoples at great risk.

74 years after the atomic bombs and the Holocaust against the Japanese people the Greek government will not only maintain the network of NATO Bases and Headquarters but will also implement the Plan to create new Bases.

The port of Souda will continue to serve as a host base for USA/NATO Naval fleets, nuclear submarines and aircrafts.

The port of Araxos is preparing for the storage of nuclear weapons.

The policy of upgrading the dangerous military - political cooperation with Israel continues as the killer-state slaughters the Palestinian people daily and threatens Iran in cooperation with USA.

All the above clearly demonstrate that the popular strata families should not consider NATO and the EU as factors of stability and security in the region as they are imperialist unions that spread wars, poverty and refugees.

The women of the popular strata cannot stay idle when our region smells gunpowder, when our people are suffering by the government’s unpopular measures while at the same time huge sums are spent on NATO military spending.

We strongly demand:

- Greece disengagement from imperialist plans and wars.
- No change in the boundaries and the conditions that define them.
- Closure of Souda Base and all the Euro-Atlantic Bases and Headquarters in Greece.
- The return from abroad of all the military missions from NATO and EU.
- Abolishment of all Nuclear weapons and prohibition of nuclear testing.
- No in Nuclear shipping to Araxos and any other area in Greece.
- Release from NATO and EU with the people of our country dominating the country.

We honor the victims of the imperialist crime in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by strengthening the fight against imperialism and its unions, for the liberation of our country from NATO and EU.

Regina Marques, Women’s Democratic Movement in Portugal (MDM)

Dear Masako Shibata, President of FUDANREN, Delegates World Conference “For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World”.

On behalf of the MDM National Committee, I

wish “The 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs” the greatest success ... to remember the serious incidents of Nagasaki and Hiroshima and their unforgettable consequences but also to launch a new women's cry for peace and against the manufacture and use of nuclear weapons. At a time of great international tension with the breach of the United States and NATO commitment to the Treaty INF. Humanity is again faced with a dangerous threat of destruction.

US interference with the sovereignty of various peoples of the world - accusing them of rearmament and denying them the right to self-defense - is itself a threat to peace and can trigger unjust wars such as Syria, Iraq, Libya.

Solidarity is our weapon. We defend the unity of

progressive forces and solidarity against all aggressions and bombs wherever they come from.

FUNDAREN teach the world again by playing the great battle for peace. Accept dear friends in the 2019 World Conference our greeting and modest contribution to make peace a viable and possible reality.

MDM, Women Democratic Movement from Portugal, will make to the Portuguese and European competent authorities the delivery of your statement that we look forward to.

Together we will make peace. The struggle of women and peoples will win.

Best wishes to the women's forum and the World Conference “For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World”.

Program of Events of the 2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs (July 28 to 10, 2019)

July 28 (Sun)

Scientists Forum of the 2019 World Conference against A & H Bombs (Kasuga Clover Plaza, Kasuga City, Fukuoka)

August 2 (Fri)

Dedication of flowers to Hiroshima A-Bomb Memorial Cenotaph (Peace Park); Visit to Peace Memorial Museum; Registration (Sotetsu Grand Fresa Hiroshima)

Information meeting for overseas delegates (Sotetsu Grand Fresa Hiroshima)

August 3 (Sat.)

Visit to Funairi-Mutsumien, a nursing home for the Hibakusha

Opening and Plenary Sessions I & II, International Meeting (Ginga, Hiroshima City Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall)

August 4 (Sun.)

Plenary Session III, International Meeting (Ginga, 3F, Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall)

Arrival of the National Peace March at Hiroshima (Fountain of Prayer at Peace Park)

Workshops, International Meeting (Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall and Tsuru Gakuen Hiroshima School)

Drafting Committee Meeting (Sotetsu Grand Fresa Hiroshima)

August 5 (Mon.)

Closing Session, International Meeting (Ginga, Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall)

Visit to Hiroshima Kyoritsu Hospital and Hiroshima Red Cross A-Bomb Hospital

Exchange Forum for Citizens and Overseas Delegates (Ginga, Bunka Koryu Kaikan Hall)

August 6 (Tue.)

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony (Peace Park)

2019 World Conference – Hiroshima/ Hiroshima Day Rally (Green Arena, Hiroshima Prefectural Gymnasium)

Arrival of the National Peace March at Nagasaki (Matsuyama Park, Nagasaki)

Lantern Floating Ceremony (Motomachi River Park, north of Aioi Bridge, Hiroshima)

August 7 (Wed.)

Move to Nagasaki by train/chartered bus

Opening Plenary, 2019 World Conference against A & H Bombs - Nagasaki (Nagasaki Shimin Kaikan Gymnasium)

Youth Rally: Ring! Link! Zero 2019 in Nagasaki (Nagasaki Shimin Kaikan Gymnasium)

August 8 (Thu.)

Workshops and field trips (different venues in Nagasaki City)

International Forum: Dialogue between Governments and NGOs for the Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (Nakabe Auditorium, Nagasaki University)

Special Meeting: Achieving a Nuclear-Free and Bases-Free Japan; Solidarity with Okinawa (Multi-purpose Hall, Nagasaki City Library)

Visit to Nagasaki Red Cross A-Bomb Hospital

No Nukes! Women's Forum 2019 (Nagasaki Shimin Kaikan Gymnasium)

August 9 (Fri.)

Closing Plenary, 2019 World Conference against A & H Bombs - Nagasaki (Nagasaki Shimin Kaikan Gymnasium)

Nagasaki Day Street Signature Campaign (Hamanomachi Shopping Arcade)

Farewell Party (St. Prière-Heiankaku)

August 10 (Sat.)

Departure of overseas delegates; Visit to local groups

List of Organizing Committee Members of the World Conference against A and H Bombs (As of August 2019)

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 Visual Disabled in Japan

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)
 All Japan Federation of Medical Students Self-governing Associations
 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
 Workers Union of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
 Tele-Communication Workers' Union
 All Japan Metal and Information Machinery Workers' Union (JMIU)
 Japan Federation of Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Unions (Jichiroren)
 National Federation of Agricultural Co-op Workers Unions
 Tokyo Metropolitan and Ward Governments Workers' Union
 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	Representative Director, 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
OMORI Masanobu	Professor emeritus, Hiroshima University
OGATA Yasuo	Executive Committee Vice-Chairperson, Japanese Communist Party
OSANAI Mieko	Scenario writer
ODAGAWA Yoshikazu	President, National Confederation of Trade Unions (ZENROREN)
KASAI Kimiyo	President, New Japan Women's Association
KOYAMA Minoru	President, Democratic Youth League of Japan
SATO Mitsuo	Representative Director, Japan Peace Committee
SAMEJIMA Chiaki	Advisor, Japanese Medical and Dental Practitioners for the Improvement of Medical Care
SAWADA Shoji	Hibakusha / Professor emeritus, Nagoya University
SHIBATA Masako	President, Japan Federation of Women's Organizations
TSUBOI Shunji	Japan-Eurasia Society/ Former Executive member of Japan Consumers' Cooperative Union
HATADA Shigeo	Researcher of International Politics
HAYASHI Tatsuya	Advisor, Hiroshima YMCA
FUJISUE Mamoru	President, Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (MIN-IREN)
MUROU Noboru	Advisor, Japanese Medical and Dental Practitioners for the Improvement of Medical Care

Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee:

TAKAKUSAKI Hiroshi	Japan Council against A and H Bombs (GENSUIKYO)
NOGUUCHI Kunikazu	Association for a Non-Nuclear Government



Organizing Committee

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