

2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs (online)

World Conference – Nagasaki Day Rally (Zoom webinar: 1000 participants + YouTube)

August 9 (Sun) 2020: 10:00 – 12:30 (JST)

Speaker: Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico

- It is an honour to participate in the commemoration of the 75^o anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, occurred on August 2 and 9, 1945.
- Mexico pays tribute to the Japanese people, particularly to the survivors of the atomic bombs (Hibakushas), who raising their voices and sharing their testimony have played a key role in the efforts to raise awareness regarding the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.
- Hibakushas' testimonies constitute historical legacy that is a clarion call for promoting peace and securing a world free of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we have to ensure that their thoughts, their voices and their enlightening stories are available for present and future generations.
- The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has shown that nuclear weapons do not make any distinction between combatants and civilians; they do not consider gender, age, religion, social condition, ideology or nationality. Their effects are indiscriminate. In this context it is imperative to ensure that such a calamity will never happen again.
- Due to their devastating power, their indiscriminate effects on innocent civilians, their harmful effects on health and the threat that they represent for the very existence of humanity, Mexico reiterates its call to the international community to exert all efforts to totally eliminate nuclear weapons.
- The possession of nuclear weapons by some is an incentive for proliferation and is contrary to the objectives and spirit of international agreements that international community has forged for the last 75 years, after the end of the Second World War.
- For decades now, Mexico has constantly and actively promoted nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is not only a diplomatic conviction, but also a commitment with international peace and security. 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. Accordingly, Mexican political Constitution establishes that nuclear energy must only be used for peaceful purposes.
- 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-weapons-free-zone in a densely populated area and to have contributed to the establishment of other four nuclear-weapons-free-zones.

- Mexico believes that in order to achieve nuclear disarmament, all the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) -the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime- must commit and exert all efforts to guarantee its effective implementation, including taking forward multilateral negotiations on the subject.
- In this context, Mexico celebrates the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on July 7, 2017. Once it enters into force it will ban the production, possession, use and transfer of nuclear weapons among States parties.
- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will reinforce the NPT, as it is consistent with the obligation enshrined in article VI of the NPT. In fact, it will complement it, strengthening the existing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.
- The total elimination of nuclear weapons is also an ethical imperative. A nuclear weapons free world is a global public good of the highest order, serving both national and collective security interests. Moreover, considering the urgent need to increase development financing, in order to achieve the sustainable development goals, it is immoral to continue allocating vast resources for maintenance and modernization of nuclear weapons arsenals.
- It is our responsibility to make sure that a nuclear weapon detonation, like those which sadly took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, never happen again. Therefore, Mexico will continue striving for the construction of a safer world based on the rule of international law, international cooperation and pacific settlement of disputes.
- Today, more than ever, the world needs the Hibakusha spirit for a peaceful coexistence of humanity.