

On Receiving the IPB Sean MacBride Peace Prize:
Tanaka Terumi, Co-Chair of Nihon Hidankyo and
Co-Convener of the Promotion Committee of the International Signature Campaign in
Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha

We feel honored to learn just now from Mr. Philip Jennings, Co-President of the IPB, that the 2020 Sean MacBride Peace Prize has been awarded to us, the International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha, as well as to Black Lives Matter of the U.S.

This “Hibakusha Appeal” international signature campaign was launched in April 2016. We have asked people to respond to the appeal of the Hibakusha calling on all governments to conclude a treaty to totally ban and eliminate nuclear weapons. In a short period over the last 4 years, more than 10 million people who aspire for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons have endorsed the appeal, and the campaign has spread significantly both inside Japan and internationally. The important role played by the Hibakusha in the campaign has gained high appreciation, for which I express deep gratitude on behalf of all the Hibakusha.

Our signature campaign led to the 2017 adoption of the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the U.N. Now, only 7 more countries are needed to achieve the 50 ratifications required for the treaty to enter into force. The nuclear weapon states and their allies continue to oppose the treaty, relying on the myth of nuclear deterrence, but they are losing ground.

Encouraged by the award, we will not lose spirit in the midst of the new crisis facing humanity, the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Let me conclude these words of thanks for the award by expressing our determination to do our utmost to mobilize a big “Peace Wave” to ensure the entry into force of the treaty by the end of this year, and to achieve a truly peaceful and just world without nuclear weapons or wars.