

NGO Session, the 10th NPT Review Conference

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This conference is being held when one of the nuclear powers is continuing its military aggression against the other country and threatens to use nuclear weapons, while other nuclear powers and nuclear-dependent states are strengthening military alliances, building up and modernizing their nuclear arsenals. The world is faced with the unprecedented danger of use of nuclear weapons.

With fear that when they are gone, the world may be struck by nuclear devastation for the third time, the Hibakusha are continuing to call for achieving nuclear abolition in their lifetime.

Preventing the devastation of nuclear war is a goal that the NPT also set forth in its preamble. We call on this Conference, first and foremost, to unequivocally condemn the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons based on the UN Charter and declare the elimination of nuclear weapons. And as the only guarantee to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, the Conference should reaffirm Article VI obligations and all previous agreements leading to the realization of "the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons," including the commitments of the 2010 Review Conference, and set out implementing them without any further delay.

Now we are holding the 2022 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The World Conference started in 1955, when the development of hydrogen bombs posed a threat to the survival of humankind. Since then, it is held every year, upholding the goal of a total ban on nuclear weapons.

Overcoming the fallacy of "nuclear deterrence" is the key. Nuclear weapons were produced for use to destroy, kill and force the enemy to surrender. People are most sacrificed in war. 86% of the A-bomb victims were civilians.

Nuclear weapon states call their nuclear weapons "deterrence". Even today they say that they will maintain nuclear deterrence as long as nuclear weapons exist. However, 77 years ago, these weapons were already recognized as threat to the survival of humanity, as the UN first resolution called for "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons." If these unlawful acts are allowed, it leads to the collapse of reason and the "non-proliferation" framework.

Let me share the desire of the participants of the World Conference, who are now gathering in Hiroshima. They want the Review Conference to:

- Condemn the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and open up the way to achieving a "world without nuclear weapons".
- Reaffirm and set out implementing Article VI obligations and the previous agreements: The "unequivocal undertaking" of the "total elimination of their nuclear arsenals" in 2000, "special efforts" to establish a "framework" to achieve "the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons" in 2010, and the realization of a Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in 1995.
- Recognize, understand, and respect the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as effort for the fulfillment of the UN Charter and the NPT.

Finally, I want to say a few words as an NGO working in Japan, only A-bombed country. The danger of military confrontation and the use of nuclear weapons is growing in East Asia. The use of force does not work. Only reason and diplomacy can be a solution, breaking out of the vicious circle of military buildup and dependence on nuclear weapons. The Constitution of Japan shows this way and the rule that the government and the people must observe.