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I am very grateful for this opportunity to speak as a Hibakusha of Nagasaki.

I was a one year and ten months old baby when Nagasaki was devastated by the atomic bomb. My house was located 2.9 kilometers away from the blast center. Thanks to the mountains surrounding the central part of Nagasaki City, I have survived to this day. I was too young to remember that day, but my mother used to tell her story over and over again.

On the mountain path, she saw a file of people escaping from fires near the blast center, like ants moving down toward our area. They all looked brown, their scantily clad bodies burnt all over and their hair matted with blood and standing on end like horns.

The empty lot next to our house became a cremation ground, where dead bodies collected by garbage carts were brought in and incinerated day after day. Everyone soon became numb to the growing number of corpses and even to the stench from burning bodies. What is human dignity? Humans are not created to be treated like this.

77 years have passed since the first use of nuclear weapons by the US. The average age of the Hibakusha has reached 85. Every year about 9000 Hibakusha pass away. Soon there will be no A-bomb survivors. But before that, by the use of the third nuclear weapon, the world may encounter new Hibakusha, who will experience the same suffering that the Hibakusha have gone through.

Their pain and suffering are deep and still continue: the deaths of loved ones; survivor's guilt; the scenes, sounds and smell of that time etched in their memory; diseases of unknown cause; economic difficulty; prejudice and discrimination; so many dreams given up. All these difficulties forced those who were under the mushroom cloud on that day to die or live as Hibakusha.

With the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017, Hibakusha were overjoyed and felt that a heavy and rusty gate which we had been pounding on for many years began to open and we finally saw a ray of light. However, what we actually found beyond the slightly opened gate was the huge military spending and new weapons that are being developed every day.

What has the world done in the 52 years since the NPT entered into force? Non-nuclear weapon states and Hibakusha were frustrated by the nuclear weapon states' neglect of their obligation to implement the NPT. The nuclear-armed states and their allies should recognize the fact that, due to their insincerity and arrogance, the entire human race is on the brink of nuclear war.

In Nihon Hidankyo's founding statement, "Message to the World", of 1956, we declared our pledge "to save humanity from its crisis through the lessons learned from our experiences, while at the same time saving ourselves". Nuclear weapons are inhuman weapons that bring indiscriminate and widespread damage to the victims from the blast, heat rays and radiation, and from aftereffects that last for many years. Hibakusha know more than anyone else that if nuclear weapons are used for the third time, there will no longer be anyone left alive to happily observe the effects and consequences.

How many of you involved in politics have met Hibakusha and listened to their A-bomb testimonies? We appeal to the conscience and wisdom of each of you who represent your country, including Japan, to sincerely discuss and recommit yourselves in this Review Conference to the implementation of the "unequivocal undertaking" to eliminate nuclear arsenals, which was reaffirmed in 2010.

Nuclear weapons were made by humans, and used by humans. So it is also up to us humans to abolish them by our wisdom, public conscience and responsibility.  
No more Hibakusha!

Thank you.