

To Make Our Earth Truly Sustainable: Five-Point Proposal of Japanese Women to the Governments of the Group of Eight Nations

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New Japan Women's Association

The world is having its eyes on the Group of Eight Summit, which will take place in Toyako, Hokkaido, Japan, from July 7 to 9. Between 2008 and 2009, there will be a series of United Nations meetings on issues of vital importance to the survival of humanity and the Earth.

The New Japan Women's Association (NJWA) is a women's organization in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. It has a history of more than forty-five years working for peace and human rights, calling for women's rights, better living conditions, well-being of children, environmental protection, and abolition of nuclear weapons. Being a non-governmental organization as such, NJWA presents a statement entitled "To Make Our Earth Truly Sustainable: Five-Point Proposal of Japanese Women to the Governments of the Group of Eight Nations." We urge the governments of world's major industrialized nations attending the G8 Summit, to take lead in the international community by coming up with measures to address the following five pressing issues. To the government of Japan, we have already made representations on our proposal.

1. Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

NJWA calls on the G8 nations to make the Summit an opportunity to open up a new path toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, instead of confining the nuclear weapons issue to "nuclear non-proliferation." We urge the nuclear weapons states to implement in good faith the "unequivocal undertaking to eliminate nuclear weapons," which nuclear weapons states themselves agreed on at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. We call upon G8 nations to seek to reach an agreement on the commencement of negotiations on complete prohibition of nuclear weapons, with concrete program toward the elimination of these weapons in place.

2. Prevention of Global Warming

At the UN-sponsored Conference on Climate Change held in Bali, in December 2007, it

was recognized that the developed nations overall must reduce their CO2 emissions by 25 to 40 percent by 2020, as compared to 1990 levels. Based on this shared recognition, G8 nations, which bear a major responsibility for global warming prevention, should come up with effective measures and action plan for stopping global warming, including total reduction goal set by each country.

3. Food Sovereignty

We call upon major industrialized countries to recognize food sovereignty as the right of every nation, and to play a leading role in increasing food self-sufficiency not only of themselves but also of developing and all other nations of the world.

4. Regulation on Speculation

Price increase due to the soaring crude oil and grain prices are hitting peoples' lives worldwide. We urge the G8 nations to work out international rules to control profit-first hedge funds and other speculative money, which are largely responsible for price rise.

5. Reduction of Military Expenditures to Fight Poverty

The world is spending 1,200 billion US dollars a year on war, armament and nuclear weapons, things that produce nothing but destruction and ruin, taking a toll particularly on women and girls. NJWA calls upon G8 nations to end this folly, and to drastically cut the military expenditure redirecting the resources into living, welfare and education. Resources should also be used for stronger measures to fight hunger and poverty, including assistance to African countries. In order to free humanity from destruction and fear, enabling them to live a peaceful, decent living, we urge the G8 nations to commit themselves to the removal of military bases on foreign soil, cancellation of the missile defense program, and the abolition of nuclear weapons. NJWA calls upon the governments of industrialized nations to take lead in redressing gender inequality, which is hampering progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.