

Letter of Request to the Government of Japan

Ms. TAKAICHI Sanae
Prime Minister of Japan

Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu
Minister of Foreign Affairs

We urge the Japanese Government to Play Its Rightful Role as a Nation to Have Suffered Atomic Bombings at the NPT Review Conference

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The New Japan Women's Association is a women's NGO with consultative status to the United Nations that has been working for 64 years since its founding to promote better livelihoods and peace, well-being of children, and the advancement of women's rights and status. In particular, we have been working alongside the Hibakusha to campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons across the country.

The 11th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from April 27 to May 22. Civil society around the world is paying close attention to this Review Conference, which is taking place amid growing risks of nuclear weapon use, including the military attacks on Iran by the United States and Israel and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Furthermore, as seen in the case of Iran, significant contradictions and limitation of the NPT regime, which allows certain major powers to continue to possess nuclear weapons but denies other nations to do so, have clearly been revealed. What is needed to achieve a world without nuclear weapons is not "non-proliferation," but the "elimination" of nuclear weapons.

As the only nation to have suffered atomic bombings in wartime and to uphold a peace constitution, Japan must urge the nuclear-armed states to fulfill their obligation under Article VI of the NPT to negotiate to achieve nuclear disarmament, and to implement the unequivocal undertaking to "accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals," as repeatedly reaffirmed at past Review Conferences.

We hope to see Japan immediately sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the United Nations in 2017. And we urge the Government of Japan to uphold the Three Non-Nuclear Principles.

More than 200,000 people were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the U.S. atomic bombings. Many civilians, including children and women forced to engage in building demolition, were "burnt like fallen leaves" without leaving a trace of their lives, and they continue to rest in the soil of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even today, many Hibakusha suffer from aftereffects and are deeply concerned about the continued existence of nuclear weapons. The earnest desire of the Hibakusha is to ensure that "no one in any country should go through the same experience ever again." Calling on the Japanese government to convey the inhumanity of nuclear weapons to the world and to take the lead in resolving conflicts through dialogue, we hereby request the following:

1. To urge the United States and Russia, the two nuclear superpowers, to immediately cease military attacks and comply with the United Nations Charter and international law.
1. At the forthcoming NPT Review Conference, to urge the nuclear weapon states to comply with Article VI of the NPT, which obligates the state parties to negotiate for nuclear disarmament, and to implement their undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
1. To sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to firmly uphold the Three Non-Nuclear Principles.