

NPT Review Conference Concludes

Now is the time to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons with the power of grassroots movements and solidarity

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Central Executive Committee

New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin)

The 11th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference started on April 22, amid the risk of nuclear weapons use reaching to its highest level in decades due to the ongoing outrageous acts committed by nuclear weapon states such as the United States and Russia in defiance of the UN Charter and international law. The Conference concluded on May 22.

Ahead of the NPT Review Conference, the New Japan Women's Association called on the five nuclear weapon states to reach a consensus and fulfill their undertaking. It also requested the Japanese government to, as the only nation to have suffered atomic bombings in wartime and to uphold a peace constitution, urge the nuclear weapon states to comply with their obligations under the Treaty. The Association sent its representatives to the Review Conference and, together with the hibakusha and civil society groups from around the world, took action to end war and eliminate nuclear weapons.

For the third consecutive time following 2015 and 2022, the NPT Review Conference failed to adopt a "final document." The failure of the conference is attributed to the five nuclear-weapon states, namely the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China, and the U.S. allies, who continue to cling to the "nuclear deterrence" doctrine, turning their backs on their nuclear disarmament obligations under Article VI of the treaty. Japan, meanwhile, made no mention whatsoever of Article VI obligations or call for the implementation of previous agreements. Its responsibility as a nation that has suffered atomic bombings is now being questioned.

On the other hand, government representatives and NGOs from various countries urged the nuclear weapon states one after another to fulfill their NPT Article VI obligations, called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and appealed to the states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Clearly, the global trend is toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and that the existence of nuclear weapons is the threat to world peace and security.

Civil society movements are more important than ever to defeat the "nuclear deterrence" doctrine and realize a "world without nuclear weapons." As an organization whose primary goal is the abolition of nuclear weapons, the New Japan Women's Association will redouble its grassroots efforts. We will continue to raise awareness of the realities of the atomic bombings through exhibitions of photos and paintings, and collect signatures for the petition to urge the Japanese government to join the TPNW. Let us strengthen our solidarity with women and citizens both in Japan and abroad, and ensure the success of the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in August through widespread participation.