

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal in New York

On this landmark year, the 70th anniversary of the first atomic bombing in the history of humanity, we, the *hibakusha*, the atomic bomb survivors, of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and like-minded citizens have gathered here in New York City with the strong desire that a concrete roadmap for nuclear weapons abolition be presented at the 2015 NPT Review Conference, and issue this appeal as our consensus opinion.

With the passing of years, the average age of the *hibakusha* has now exceeded 79, and during this time, the *hibakusha* and their families have lived through indescribable and unbearable suffering. The firm conviction of the *hibakusha*, who have overcome this ordeal, has turned into the powerful message of “no one else should ever suffer as we have”, and transcending national borders and generations, has served as a driving force for efforts toward nuclear weapons abolition.

The menace of nuclear weapons is by no means something limited to the past of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is a problem plaguing our present and future, shared by the whole world. More than 16,000 nuclear warheads still exist in the world, and as long as they exist, so does the threat of their use, whether intentional or accidental. We believe the catastrophic and inhumane consequences of their use have clearly been shown at international conferences on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons held three times in the past. We highly value the fact that the participants listened to the testimonies of the *hibakusha*, as well as discussing, based on scientific evidence, the inhumanity and destructive environmental impact of nuclear weapons, and the risk of the use of these weapons posed by their existence. We believe that the many representatives from the nations who participated in these conferences were moved by the testimonies of the *hibakusha*, and took their earnest wishes for peace into their hearts, and strengthened their resolve that nuclear weapons must not be used a third time. We also believe that as a result, the sense of involvement in nuclear disarmament has spread among not only nuclear weapon states, but non-nuclear weapon states as well, and the voice pleading for a legal framework for nuclear weapons abolition has been steadily spreading.

Mayors for Peace, which has been working together with like-minded citizens worldwide, applauds this trend. Under a strong sense of responsibility to guarantee the security and welfare of citizens, the world's mayors have joined this organization, composed of over 6,600 cities from 160 countries and regions worldwide, in sympathy with the *hibakusha*'s message of peace. Now the number of its member cities is increasing at an accelerating rate. Furthermore, Mayors for Peace is organizing regional groups, centered around lead cities in each group, and thus strengthening its activities on a global scale – further accelerating the move to accomplish nuclear weapons abolition by 2020.

We can no longer allow for specious excuses such as the threat of terrorism and conflicts among nations to hinder the movement towards nuclear abolition. Policymakers of all countries attending the NPT Review Conference must hold discussions with a full awareness of how much damage will be caused if nuclear weapons are used in their country or neighboring countries, and take steps towards accomplishing a world without nuclear weapons.

In order to accelerate the movement towards the illegalization of nuclear weapons and proceed to nuclear weapons abolition, we the participants, on this 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, call on the States Parties and Non-Parties to the NPT to do the following:

1. The policymakers of the world, especially of nuclear states, must visit the atomic bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as soon as possible, see the reality of the atomic bombings for themselves with their own eyes, and listen to the earnest peace message of the *hibakusha*. Furthermore, they must actively encourage their citizens to do this as well.
2. In further negotiations regarding nuclear disarmament, they must heed and deepen their understanding of the inhumane consequences of nuclear weapons.
3. As stated in Article VI of the NPT, all States Parties must reconfirm the fact that they are concerned parties regarding nuclear weapons abolition, and begin negotiations in good faith towards the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention. Furthermore, Non-Parties must join these negotiations with this sense of involvement.

We strongly urge that the above three points will be included in the Final Statement of this NPT Review Conference.

April 27, 2015, New York City

Mayors for Peace
Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations
Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union
Hiroshima Prefecture
Hiroshima/Nagasaki/Okinawa Youth Representatives