

Message by Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru for the fifth meeting of the International Group
of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons (IGEP)

November 6, 2024

[Provisional translation]

Thank you for attending the fifth meeting of the International Group of Eminent Persons
for a World without Nuclear Weapons, or the IGEP.

Looking across the international community today, division and conflict have become
even more severe, driven by factors including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the
missile and nuclear development of North Korea, and the situation in the Middle East.
Circumstances surrounding nuclear disarmament are becoming increasingly challenging.
However, it is precisely because of this situation that maintaining and reinforcing the
international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is indispensable.

When I was in elementary school, I saw a film recording the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.
The memory of those shocking images will never be forgotten. I strongly believe that we
must never allow this to happen again. My conviction from that time has never changed: we
should never stop working towards a world without nuclear weapons.

There is no doubt that achieving a world without nuclear weapons would not be easy. If
we look around the current international situation, the reality is that nuclear deterrence is
needed. Given those circumstances, there is no other way forward than to steadily pursue
practical and realistic efforts while appropriately responding to current security challenges.

Based on this belief, Japan, following the "G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear
Disarmament," has been continuing its efforts under the "Hiroshima Action Plan." In

September this year, Japan held the High-Level Launch Meeting of the Friends of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

Next year, it has been 80 years since we witnessed the devastation caused by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In this important moment, I hope that this fifth IGEP meeting will further deepen discussions to present your proposals to the international community next year.

In the midst of an international climate with increasing division and conflict, the significance of the IGEP is greater than ever, as the participants from both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States can sit down and address fundamental issues on nuclear disarmament together through frank and candid discussions.

I would like to conclude my message by expressing my hope that we will continue to work together to explore concrete pathways towards a world without nuclear weapons and contribute to the future of the international community.