

**Statement and Recommendation  
by Youth towards a World without Nuclear Weapons**

(11 December 2016, Nagasaki, Japan,)

We are gathered here today in the city that experienced an atomic bomb seventy-one years ago, Nagasaki. As youth, we are here to express our views on how we can move forward to a world without nuclear weapons.

We recognize that nuclear weapon issues are at a crossroad. This year, G7 Foreign Ministers met in Hiroshima, and President Obama of the United States visited Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, where he delivered a historical speech. Next year, the negotiation of a legally binding treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons will start, following the adoption of a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly.

We are aware that the different perceptions towards nuclear weapons exist, which reflect the different histories, cultures, and security concerns. The prevalence of claims that nuclear weapons are necessary for security explains why there are still more than 15,000 nuclear warheads in the world today. As a result, some states possessing nuclear weapons, as well as some states under the “nuclear umbrella”, including Japan, have voted against the above-mentioned UNGA resolution, despite the increasing expectation of the possibility of banning nuclear weapons.

We are convinced that human beings cannot peacefully coexist with nuclear weapons as they threaten people, cities and the environment. “Hibakusha”, who managed to survive the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki but suffered physically through aftereffects of radiation and mentally through discrimination, should serve as a warning for the whole world of the dangers of possessing nuclear weapons.

Youths are responsible for the future and we share the common goal of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, and are determined to increase awareness of the reality of atomic devastation and the stories of the Hibakushas in the hope that no one else should ever suffer the tragedy they experienced.

We are committed to lead and encourage young people to achieve a world without nuclear weapons by fostering an exchange of ideas to learn from one another and to overcome historical and cultural differences.

We request that all states and the public strengthen their efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, and hence, would like to propose the following actions.

**To all states**

- ★Request to fully reaffirm your commitments to nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, in particular your promises specified in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- ★Recommend to strengthen the international legal framework to accelerate nuclear disarmament, including improving enforcement of the NPT and negotiating a legally-binding treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.

**To states with nuclear weapons**

- ★Reconsider the necessity to possess nuclear weapons from security, political, and economic perspectives, and to find other means of maintaining national security and international prestige.
- ★All nuclear weapon states should take concrete actions to decrease the number of their nuclear weapons, thereby fulfilling their responsibilities under the NPT.
- ★Nuclear states not party to the NPT should join it as non-nuclear weapon states, as it will make them, as well as the world as a whole, more secure.
- ★We encourage at least one state with nuclear weapons to be an example by disbanding its nuclear program and by joining the efforts of a nuclear free world.
- ★Stop upgrading nuclear arsenals, as they will not stabilize global security environment.
- ★Take all warheads off hair trigger alert status, as it poses unnecessary risk and danger to the existence of the world, and will prevent an accidental launch.
- ★Further secure nuclear arsenals to decrease nuclear mishaps by dispatching experienced personnel to monitor them and maintain weapon-usable materials out of reach of those who wish to obtain them, such as terrorists.

**To states without nuclear weapons, including states under “nuclear umbrella”**

- ★Continue your commitment to remain a non-nuclear weapon state, and take a leadership role in achieving a world free from nuclear weapons.
- ★States under the “nuclear umbrella” should reject their policy, especially in light of risks, effectiveness and credibility, and make efforts to build a security scheme that does not rely on nuclear weapons, including establishing a nuclear weapon free zone.
- ★Publicize that using nuclear weapons is a serious human rights violation and can cause catastrophic humanitarian and environmental harm worldwide, including a nuclear winter, and bring attention to such consequences of nuclear weapons use by reaching out to organizations concerned with security such as the United Nations and making it a dominant topic.
- ★Enhance unified efforts among non-nuclear weapon states to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons, especially through pressuring nuclear weapon states to accelerate their nuclear disarmament efforts and supporting a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, and expand efforts that involve the international community as a whole, including nuclear weapons states.

★Japan, as the sole nation attacked by nuclear bombs, should reject the “nuclear umbrella”, send a strong message to the international community about the horrifying effects and inhumanity of nuclear weapons, and contribute proactively to the negotiation of a legally binding treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.

**To the general public, in particular young people all over the world**

★Understand that nuclear weapons are a critical current issue because our security, environment, and collective survival are put at risk by their presence: they are dangerous, irresponsible, expensive, and do not offer a real answer to our safety and security questions, nor guarantee peace.

★Learn and remember the tragic reality of nuclear weapons, including the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and nuclear testing, as well as war in general from the perspectives of both aggressors and victims, and call for others to do the same, in order to not let the memories fade and to not repeat the same wrongdoings.

★Believe that public opinion matters and that the future is in our hands: develop various innovative tools and join activities to raise our voices, which include:

- Utilize social media to pressure national governments and international organizations about these issues
- Develop programs to allow youth to get involved in political discourse, as well as to encourage them to join grassroots activities on related issues
- Create digital educational tools, such as applications for personal devices, to enhance understanding about the devastating effects of nuclear weapons and incorporating these into the classroom.