

Side event at 2025 NPT 3rd Preparatory Committee

The International Group of
Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons (IGEP)
Opening Remarks by Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi

April 28, 2025
[Provisional Translation]

Ambassador Agyeman, Chair of the Third Prep Com,
Distinguished Guests,

Thank you very much for joining today's side event on the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons (IGEP).

Divisions across the international community surrounding nuclear disarmament are intensifying, and the path towards a world without nuclear weapons is becoming even more challenging. It is precisely because of this reason that dialogue and cooperation involving both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States are indispensable. With this strong belief, Japan launched the IGEP in 2022.

The fifteen IGEP members from both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States, with various nationalities and backgrounds, have held six meetings over the past two and a half years. Through sincere and candid discussion, the members have been examining the path towards a world without nuclear weapons.

And last month, by overcoming differences in their views and opinions, as the fruit of their wisdom, the members issued the recommendations for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The members have a keen sense of urgency regarding the current environment surrounding nuclear disarmament. On this basis, they have set principles to be respected by each country and call for urgent actions under the three pillars: Prevent nuclear war, Stop the nuclear arms race and reduce proliferation risks, and Work towards a constructive 2026 NPT Review Conference.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We must prevent such tragedies from ever happening again. As the only country that has ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan is determined to lead efforts to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime, and to work together with all states to steadily advance step by step towards the path leading to a world without nuclear weapons. In this respect, I am convinced that the recommendations by the IGEP will guide us.

I would like to conclude my remarks with the hope that this event will serve as an opportunity to reflect on concrete measures towards the success of the 2026 NPT Review Conference and, eventually, towards a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.