

Declaration of the International Meeting

The International Meeting of the 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs was held on August 3-5 in Hiroshima, with the participation of 250 delegates from over 20 countries. We, the participants, hereby call on all the people of the world to take action together to build a peaceful and just world free of nuclear weapons.

The abolition of nuclear weapons has developed into a world opinion. The overwhelming majority of the governments are also calling for it.

Nevertheless, there are still close to 27,000 nuclear warheads stockpiled or deployed, with many of them placed on hair-trigger alert. As evidenced by the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the use of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity. Humans cannot coexist with nuclear weapons. The elimination of nuclear weapons is a vital task with consequences for the survival of the human race.

Having pursued a policy of preemptive attack on the ground to counter terrorism and the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the US Government is facing criticism and isolation at home and internationally.

But the US and its allies are still engaging in war operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and causing a huge number of casualties. The withdrawal of the foreign troops is urgently needed. Pursuing the threat and the actual use of “full range of military capabilities, including both nuclear and non-nuclear strikes”, the US is continuing the development of new nuclear warheads and the improvement of existing weapons. The ongoing deployment of “Missile Defense” networks to supplement the first strike operation and the global realignment and reinforcement of military bases are posing serious threats to world peace.

The policy to pursue security or peace by nuclear weapons is both deceptive and disastrous. We do not accept that any country should develop nuclear weapons for any reason whatsoever. However, as warned by people who were in the center of diplomacy and military policy of nuclear powers, the superpowers’ postures of clinging to their nuclear arsenals are serving as an incentive for nuclear proliferation. The nuclear superpowers must take steps to reduce nuclear armaments. The fundamental solution to nuclear proliferation can be found in a total ban on nuclear weapons.

The implementation of the “unequivocal undertaking” to eliminate nuclear weapons, accepted by the nuclear weapons states at the 2000 NPT Review Conference is urgently required. The civil society must join forces beyond all differences of opinion, culture and political status, to achieve this goal, working together with the governments committed to nuclear disarmament. Looking to the next NPT Review Conference in 2010, we urge all governments in the world to commit themselves to actions for the swift abolition of nuclear weapons, and make a decision at the U.N. General Assembly to start consultations for a treaty totally banning nuclear weapons. In particular, we urge the nuclear weapons states to make a bold decision to commence this process.

We demand that the nuclear weapons states, declared and undeclared, renounce the policy to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons; de-alert their nuclear warheads; provide non-nuclear states with security assurances; cancel the plans to develop new warheads or to replace old systems with new ones, and stop the deployment of “Missile Defense” networks.

We call on all parties concerned to implement the agreements reached so far in good faith, including the peaceful resolution of North Korea’s nuclear development and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and turning the Middle East to a nuclear weapon-free zone as agreed on at the 1995 NPT Review Conference.

World military spending exceeds 1.2 trillion dollars. This is making it difficult to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development goals, and resolve the poverty, destitution and other global problems. A drastic cut in armament is an important obligation for all governments, and for the nuclear superpowers in particular, who account for more than half of the world military expenditures.

As the only country to have suffered the calamity of nuclear war and to have renounced war by its Constitution, Japan should take the lead in abolishing nuclear weapons in international politics, while strictly implementing the three Non-Nuclear Principles at the same time. We are deeply concerned by ongoing developments, including a deepening dependency on the “nuclear umbrella”; positive arguments on the possession of nuclear weapons; the acceptance of the past atomic bombings; the attempted justification of past aggression; the reorganization and the consolidation of the US bases in Japan and moving on the path to the revision of the Constitution.

Noting the growing opposition of the Japanese people to these developments, we support their campaign for a Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan, and extend solidarity with the movement to defend Article 9 and establish a nuclear weapon-free and peaceful Japan.

The desire of the Hibakusha for “Never again Hiroshima or Nagasaki” is heard throughout the world. We must spread their message even wider. By cooperation between popular movements, civil society and committed governments, we must bring change to international politics. Let us increase our action, using the 62nd session of the U.N. General Assembly, the 2nd NPT PrepCom meeting next spring, and the G8 Summit Conference in July 2008 in Hokkaido, and many other opportunities.

Let us promote diverse campaigns, including the signature campaign for the “Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons”; photo and other exhibitions around the world on A-bomb damage and other nuclear sufferings; learning, inheriting and carrying forward the stories of Hibakusha, and peace marches. Let us develop our solidarity with other movements against war, for peace, sovereignty, the dismantling of bases, and for a just society.

A nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world is possible. Let us rise to action now, together with the young generation who bears our future.

No More Hiroshimas! No More Nagasakis! No More Hibakusha!

August 5, 2007

International Meeting, 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs



WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST ATOMIC & HYDROGEN BOMBS

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Letter from Nagasaki:

We call on the United Nations and all governments to commence negotiations leading to a conclusion of a treaty totally banning nuclear weapons

We, the people who work for a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world together with the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, call on all governments to act with renewed determination, for the swift abolition of nuclear weapons and adopt a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly on the commencement of negotiations leading to a conclusion of a treaty totally banning nuclear weapons.

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki demonstrate that the use of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity and civilization. The tragedy must never be repeated. However, close to 27,000 nuclear weapons exist on earth today, either stockpiled or deployed, and some superpowers openly advocate their use. The reliance on “nuclear deterrence” is setting off nuclear proliferation and causing new tensions and instability. A total ban on and the abolition of nuclear weapons is an urgent task to be achieved to ensure the safety of all states and their peoples across the world.

It holds a significant meaning that the U.N., which had been established to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”, adopted as its first resolution “the total elimination of atomic weapons from national arsenals”. At the 2000 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, all States parties to the Treaty, including the nuclear weapons states, took the “unequivocal undertaking” to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. The “U.N. Millennium Declaration” adopted by the Millennium Summit stipulated the need of working for the abolition of nuclear weapons. These commitments must be implemented in good faith.

It is incumbent upon all states, especially the nuclear weapons states, to make a firm determination to live up to their promise as we approach the next NPT Review Conference in 2010. We call on all governments to act together in the forthcoming 62nd Session of the U.N. General Assembly to confirm that a total ban on nuclear weapons is an urgent need and to that end, start negotiations for the conclusion of a treaty to ban all nuclear weapons.

Grass-root movements, civil society, governments, and the United Nations must work together in achieving a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world. Determined to do our part in further mobilizing the public and developing movements to achieve the goal, we sincerely call on the U.N. and all the governments to take sincere and courageous actions to achieve the cause of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

August 9, 2007

2007 World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs - Nagasaki

International Meeting 2007 World Conference against A and H Bombs

Main theme
A Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World



Opening Session (August 3)

Address of the Organizer:

Sawada Shoji
Committee of Chairpersons, Organizing
Committee of the World Conference

I would like to extend my warmest welcome and greetings of solidarity to the participants of the 2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs who have come to the A-bombed city of Hiroshima from overseas and many parts of Japan.

This year's Conference entitled "A Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World" is held at a very crucial period of time for world peace. As in previous years, we are happy to have wonderful delegates who have been striving for the abolition of nuclear weapons and a peaceful and just world. We have distinguished delegates who are on the forefront of international politics as government representatives for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and for the New Agenda Coalition, fellow peace activists from major anti-nuclear movements and leaders of nuclear victims' organizations. From Japan, we have Hibakusha participants and those who are striving for the abolition of nuclear

weapons and the preservation of the Japanese Constitution. As a Hibakusha myself, I am very much encouraged to see the faces of many young people both from Japan and abroad.

Actions and cooperation for abolition of nuclear weapons

We have observed significant developments on the situation of nuclear weapons and peace in the past year. With the promotion of preemptive attack strategy, which includes the possible use of nuclear weapons, the U.S. Bush Administration has further aggravated the situations in Iraq and other conflict areas in the world, further isolating itself in the international community as a result. In the U.N. and other international forums, the New Agenda Coalition and the Non-Aligned Movement are urging the nuclear weapon states to resolve the elimination of their nuclear weapons and start negotiations to that end, with the firm belief that the total ban on nuclear weapons is the only way against nuclear proliferation. Moreover, voices for nuclear disarmament are being heard among and efforts to achieve peace are being made by allies of the nuclear weapon states, and even within the United States establishment. Early this year, four former U.S. government officials who were in charge of nuclear policies, including a

national security advisor, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense, called on the government to take initiative for the creation of "a world free of nuclear weapons." At the preparatory committee meeting for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, a vast majority of governments of the NPT state parties urged the nuclear weapons states to take concrete steps with a view to opening a path for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In the face of this, while trying to have the focus of the discussion exclusively on the nuclear proliferation issue, the Bush Administration was compelled to state that the abolition of nuclear weapons was indeed the ultimate ideal. The environment has compelled the administration to say so despite its opposition to every nuclear disarmament proposal made in the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

Last fall, I had an opportunity to jointly submit the petition in support of "The Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" to the First Committee of the U.N. General Assembly. When a path is opening for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the nuclear weapons states, it is very important to bring this conference to success, further mobilize public opinion across the globe and urge the U.N. to return to the principle of its 1st resolution and strive to create a peaceful and just world free of nuclear weapons and war.

This year, we have many friends from South Korea and other Asian countries joining us in the conference. The possibility is increasing for Asia, with the largest concentration of the world's population, to transform itself to a wonderful region of peace and friendship. As the recent outcome of the Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear issues have shown, it is not the threat of use of military force but dialogue and mutual support that are key to settling confrontation. I believe a peaceful Asia will be a major ground on which to build "a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World." We are also happy to have a delegate from South America, where significant positive changes are taking place, and her participation demonstrates the growth of our global cooperation.

A Peaceful and Just World and Article 9 of Japan's Constitution

Successful outcomes of the conference will have positive effects on the future course of our country. With the Abe Cabinet that consists of pro-war, so-called "pro-Yasukuni" members, who lack proper historical understanding on Japan's past war of aggression, in place, dangerous moves are underway to transform the country into a stronghold of U.S. preemptive strikes and for the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons in the name of "extended deterrence." The Abe Cabinet rammed through a bill that provides for the procedures on the destruction of Article 9 of the

Constitution and is in high gear in its effort for turning the country into a war monger state, to integrate Japan into U.S. war plans. On the other hand, more than 6,000 "Article 9 Associations" have been formed across Japan and opinion polls show that an increasing number of people are in support of keeping Article 9, well over a majority of the population now.

As the outcome of the recent election for the House of Councilors suggests, an overwhelming majority of Japanese people is in support of the Three Non-Nuclear Principles and Article 9. It was also the power of public opinion that forced the resignation of Defense Minister Kyuma Fumio for his remark that the atomic bombings were "inevitable." The Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon Free Japan campaign jointly initiated by Japan Gensuikyo and a wide range of people is aimed at urging the Japanese government to cease its reliance on the U.S. nuclear umbrella and its acceptance of the argument for Japan's nuclear armament. It urges the government instead to lead the efforts for the elimination of nuclear weapons as the representative of the nation that experienced the A-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the hydrogen bomb explosion test at Bikini and to commit itself before the international community that it will strictly observe the Three Non-Nuclear Principles. The campaign has attracted the hearts and minds of many people and a number of heads of local municipalities and chairs of local assemblies have espoused the campaign.

The campaign to defend Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution is the struggle to prevent "a global U.S.-Japan military alliance" from being formed, which is part of the U.S. world strategy. Also, it is to ensure our country's security through strengthening the sense of justice and trust and building friendship and cooperation with peoples across the world. I believe that a successful defense of Article 9 will be a major contributing factor in achieving peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Injustice is seen not only on the issue of nuclear weapons and peace. On the issues of global warming, eradication of AIDs, hunger and poverty, big power's unilateralism and double-standards in forcing others into accepting its repressive ways of doing things have only worsened the situation. It is essential to make big powers observe rules of law for the resolution of these issues. Nuclear weapons--the greatest injustice of all--- and many injustice issues have the same root causes. We need to build solidarity among different movements to address this issue of injustice.

Support of and solidarity with Hibakusha and nuclear victims

The Japanese government's support of U.S. nuclear policy, an untenable attitude for the A-bombed nation to take, is the ground upon which underestimating the destructive power of the atomic bombings and cutting off of official Hibakusha support are done. Currently, 250 Hibakusha are taking part in the collective lawsuits filed at 17 district and high courts for official recognition of their diseases as having been caused by A-bombings, and the support for their struggle is increasing. Rulings have been already delivered by the district courts of Osaka, Hiroshima, Nagoya, Sendai, and Tokyo, all of which recognized the correlation between the internal exposure and residual radiation, which the government denies, and the bombings as a cause of the illnesses of the plaintiffs who were at relatively far distances from ground zero or entered the cities after the explosion. Through the legal struggle, the actual destruction of the bombings, especially the seriousness of internal exposure to residual radiation has been revealed to a great extent and the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons that go beyond time and space has also been made clearer. The internal exposure to residual radiation is the common issue seen among victims of nuclear tests and of the entire process of nuclear weapons production in other parts of the world. These revelations press for the need for the International Commission on Radiological Protection to revise its radiological protection standards.

These efforts for legal remedies are indeed a struggle to resist the use of nuclear weapons. The effects of residual radiation warns us of the danger of bunker-busters, weapons designed to explode underground, which the Bush Administration has developed and even plans to use. Given its awareness of the serious effects of radiation, it is outrageous for the Japanese government to ignore people's safety and accept the US plan to use Yokosuka port as the homeport of a US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Yokosuka is located on the western part of Tokyo Bay, an area home to more than 30 million people.

For a swift abolition of nuclear weapons and to build a peaceful and just world, I believe the role of peace movements in Japan, with their national A-bomb experience and the peace Article 9 in place, have become more important than ever. It is my sincere hope to see the participants' vigorous exchange of ideas and experiences throughout the conference. I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my hope for a rich discussion full of originality and creativity at this crucial period of time for peace.

Greetings on Behalf of the Hibakusha

Tanaka Terumi

Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo)

Mr. Chairperson, dear participants,

Thank you for coming all the way to Hiroshima, the first city to fall victim to nuclear war. I also had the honor to address you at the conference last year, and I am particularly pleased to be able to greet you again while I am still in good health. Allow me to speak on behalf of Nihon Hidankyo, a national organization of A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I was 13 years old when the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. I fortunately survived because I was 3.2 kilometers away from the hypocenter. However, five of my relatives who lived near the hypocenter all perished in the bombing. Many friends and acquaintances were also killed. I myself cremated the body of my aunt who survived the bombing for a few days. The memory of the hell on earth that emerged in Nagasaki on that day keeps on coming back vividly to my mind.

These hellish horrors also happened in Hiroshima, over the entire city. Even now, I still feel that I can hear voices of resentment and hatred from under the earth of these cities, in spite of their beautiful recovery.

The atomic bomb continues to kill through the aftereffects of radiation. People who managed to survive the immediate hell are condemned to long-term hell, which still continues to cause suffering today, 62 years after the bomb was dropped. Hibakusha will never accept the use or existence of these immoral weapons for any reason whatsoever.

Hibakusha have been struggling for the swift elimination of nuclear weapons and for state compensation for A-bomb damage. Especially since the creation of Nihon Hidankyo 50 years ago, Hibakusha have informed the public of the realities of the atomic bombing and the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons through telling about their personal experiences, making formal demands and staging protests and other activities. On three occasions their efforts have helped prevent the use of nuclear weapons and won significant improvements in the national Hibakusha aid policy. Nevertheless, we still have a long way to go before we see all nuclear weapons abolished and the State fully compensate the victims of A-bomb damage.

This year on July 3, before the July 29 election of the Upper House, the defense minister of Japan Mr. Kyuma, was forced to step down. His resignation was forced on him because he voiced in public his opinion that "there was nothing else that the United States could do to end the war with

Japan, than drop the Atomic Bombs.” Hibakusha around the country were outraged and he was severely criticized by the general public as well. However, his resignation did not include an apology to the Hibakusha for his remark. He resigned only out of concern about the negative impact of his statement on the coming election. The insensitivity shown by his remarks and his behavior about them was appalling. There are still about 250,000 Hibakusha all across the country, including in Nagasaki, his constituency, people whose parents, friends and acquaintances were killed cruelly by the Atomic bombing. They would by no means accept the ‘justified’ use of atomic bombs. The Liberal Democratic Party, the ruling party at the time of which Mr. Kyuma is a member, suffered a crushing defeat in the election.

Today, the main actors in Japanese politics and the economy belong to a generation who did not live through the war, or know little about their country’s experience of the war and the atomic bombing. Prime Minister Abe who also belongs to that generation has made his biggest task to revise the Japanese Constitution in order to allow Japan the right to wage war again. We Hibakusha believe that Article 9, which stipulates the renunciation of war was born out of the tragic experience of the atomic bombing. We therefore absolutely oppose the revision of Article 9.

The government of Japan, the only country in the world to suffer atomic bombing, is seeking security under the U.S. “nuclear umbrella” and this is why it approves the existence and the use of nuclear weapons. This pro-nuclear policy, together with the state policy to “endure” war damage, denies compensation for the Hibakusha and neglects Hibakusha aid measures. Worse, the government is still trying desperately to recognize the least possible damage from the A-bombs.

The collective lawsuits for the A-bomb disease recognition filed by the members of Nihon Hidankyo have now come to a crucial stage. These suits represent a long struggle to force the State to acknowledge that cancer and various other diseases that affect Hibakusha after 62 years since the bombing are diseases related to the atomic bombing. Last year, during the World Conference, on the eve of the commemoration day, the Hiroshima District Court handed down a decision ordering the state to recognize 41 plaintiffs as A-bomb disease sufferers. Earlier last year, in May, Osaka District Court, and this year Nagoya, Sendai and Tokyo District Courts, and most recently, on July 30, Kumamoto District Court gave judgments favorable to Hibakusha plaintiffs. We won in all six district courts. Currently, we are petitioning the government in Tokyo and other places to prevent appeals against the Kumamoto case going to the Supreme Court.

However, the state has always appealed in previous cases, refusing to accept the decision of the lower courts. For Hibakusha, these lawsuits have two goals: to obtain government relief for those who are suffering from A-bomb disease, and to change the state’s nuclear policy. Our struggle is also aimed at shedding light on the realities of A-bomb damage. The six court judgments we won so far criticize severely the wrongful administration of State policy with regards A-bomb disease recognition. The government systematically minimizes or totally disregards the effects of A-bomb radiation, especially the effects of residual radiation and internal exposure that results. Of 226 plaintiffs, already 35 people have died in the course of trials that have lasted for 4 years. They are fighting in courts at the risk of their lives and their days are numbered. Now, Nihon Hidankyo, building on these victorious legal struggles, is launching a big campaign to radically improve the A-bomb disease acknowledgement system through a political solution to be adopted by the Diet.

On the other hand, the international situation has not evolved as fast as Hibakusha would like to see: to meet our demand and our hope that we will see the day that all nuclear weapons are abolished. We Hibakusha believe that so long as nuclear weapons exist, they will never be simply held as deterrents; eventually they will inevitably be used. The war in Iraq has turned into a quagmire and conflicts related to nuclear weapons continue in Pakistan, Iran and North Korea. We are always ready to witness to anyone who will listen, as the ones who have experienced nuclear war, that what everyone really needs is what we constantly demand, that all nuclear weapons be eliminated from the earth. However, Hibakusha have grown old. We find hope in the growing number of young people who volunteer to carry on Hibakusha’s spirit and aspirations.

We also wish that the agreement reached by nuclear and non-nuclear states at the 2000 NPT Review Conference will be implemented without any delay, to strive in good faith towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. It is often stressed that nuclear disarmament is advancing, but for us, progressing step by step without setting a timeframe may well result in a declaration of ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons in the indefinite future. We Hibakusha welcomed the proposal for the elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020 made by the Mayors for Peace. We earnestly hope that the world will finally become united, and will create a convention totally banning nuclear weapons by 2010. We hope to have the firm assurance before we die that the convention to eliminate nuclear weapons will become a reality. Let us work together. Thank you.

Messages from National Government Heads/Representatives to the 2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs

Helen Clark
Prime Minister
New Zealand

I am pleased and honoured to express once again the New Zealand Government's support for the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

This annual conference, held in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki serves as an important reminder of the need for concerted efforts to achieve progress toward a nuclear weapon free world. Never again should humanity bear witness to the horrendous suffering caused by such weapons.

New Zealand has a long history of advocating for a world free of nuclear weapons. 2007 marks the 20th anniversary of New Zealand's nuclear free legislation. New Zealand remains committed to nuclear disarmament and will be working hard to achieve progress toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons in the lead up to the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

I wish you well for a successful conference and commend all of the participants for your tireless efforts towards a more peaceful world.

Patrica Espinosa C.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
United Mexican States

I refer your kind communication of last April 18th, in which you extend an invitation to the Government of Mexico to participate in the 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, to be held from August 3rd to 9th on the occasion of the commemoration of the atomic attacks to the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mexico is firmly committed to the cause of nuclear disarmament, convinced that only the total and definitive elimination of these weapons constitutes the unique guarantee that they will not be used. My country considers that it is necessary to alert to the international community on the devastating effects that could have a nuclear war and of the inadmissibility to preserve these weapons as an option in the policies and doctrines of national security.

With this purpose, during the works of the First Preparatory Committee of the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) that will initiate next April 30th,

in Vienna, Austria, the Mexican Government will insist on the urgency to give total compliance to the legal obligation of nuclear disarmament established in the article VI of the NPT and to the unequivocal undertaking assumed by the Nuclear Weapons States to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, in the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT.

Also, Mexico will promote initiatives to progress in the application of measures of action adopted also in 2000, and it will continue encouraging the abolition of the nuclear weapons during the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and in other international fora of disarmament.

In this spirit, I want to send a message of solidarity from my country to the 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, encouraging its works a recognizing its valuable mission warning the world about the lethality of these weapons and the serious threat that their existence represents.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to you the assurances of my highest consideration.
[unofficial Translation]

Choummaly Sayasone
President
Lao People's Democratic Republic:

Congratulatory Message to the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs

On the occasion of the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs which will be held from 3-9 August 2007, on behalf of the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Lao people, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the conference's organizing committee and all the delegations. I am confident that this year's conference will intensify the solidarity among peace-loving people in the world in exercising pressure on the countries producing and possessing nuclear weapon to abandon their thoughts of competing the production and stockpiling of this dangerous weapon, and moving toward the eventual elimination of production and possession of weapons of mass destruction.

Today, the international community is facing high risk posed by the Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. To assure peaceful living of humankind without the threats of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, the Lao Government and people do hope that all participating delegations would devote their

wisdoms and utilize this forum to seek ways for bringing concrete benefits to all the peace-loving people in the world.

Once again, the LAO PDR reaffirms that we will firmly stand side by side with the Japanese people and international community to continuously resist the production of the Atomic and Hydrogen bombs in order to enable the international community to live in a world of peace, friendship and cooperation for development.

May I finally wish the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs 2007 great success, and wish all delegations of this conference happiness. [unofficial Translation]

Rimvydas Turcinskas
Minister of Health
Republic of Lithuania

Today's world is more than 60 years apart from that fatal day when consolidated by pain we promised each other not to repeat the tragedy once again. In human minds Hiroshima and Nagasaki became symbols warning about the threat of the nuclear genocide.

The time period starting with the day when the atomic bomb was used for the first time signifies a key phase in history. Due to the victims of the honourable Japanese nation, to the wisdom in the world, to the humane fear of extermination nuclear weapons were not targeted against humanity anymore. This year, commemorating the 21st anniversary of the Chernobyl reactor accident, once again we had an opportunity to responsibly assess the actual impact of nuclear explosions to the health and welfare of the people. The tragedies of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Chernobyl are the most painful lessons to the humanity of the 20th century.

This year marks 15 years of a close collaboration between the Chernobyl Medical Centre of the Sapiiega hospital in Lithuania with the colleagues in Japan who by joint efforts are strengthening the principles of peaceful coexistence among the nations and the states.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the organisers of this important event, to the participants of antinuclear movements in Japan and other states, to all people of goodwill for taking care of the world's future, for striving to lead a friendly life in the planet free from nuclear death. Wishing success in our joint work while implementing the ideas of great humanism, I remain

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva
President
Federative Republic of Brazil

Message to the 2007 World Conference against
Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs

Brazil has a longstanding belief that the pursuit of nuclear disarmament should be kept as the highest priority issue on the international peace and security agenda. The possession by some states of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons arsenals, has traditionally been a matter of grave concern for all humankind.

Long before its accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Brazil had decided that its national security should not be predicated on the acquisition of nuclear armament. In the 1960s, Brazil was at the inception of the idea -- that would later come to life in the Tlatelolco Treaty -- to make the Latin American and the Caribbean Region a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. The country's stance on this issue has been crystallized in our 1988 Constitution, which states that all nuclear activities shall only be admitted for peaceful purposes. In the early 1990s, Brazil entered into a Quadripartite agreement with Argentina, the Brazil-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency and placed all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive safeguards. In 1996, Brazil decided to adhere to the NPT to act more effectively in favor of nuclear disarmament, and to join other Parties in their efforts to correct the Treaty's imbalances. In 1998, we joined five other like-minded states in founding the New Agenda Coalition, which has since played an important role in promoting nuclear disarmament in the main pertinent fora.

Over the past few years, the international community has noticed a striking -- and worrisome -- development as regards disarmament and non-proliferation affairs. While a renewed emphasis has been put on non-proliferation, less and less attention is paid to nuclear disarmament. Brazil understands that the disarmament and non-proliferation processes are necessarily interrelated and mutually reinforcing. From our point of view, the implementation of a sustainable and long-term strategy in the field of non-proliferation depends on the simultaneous adoption of irreversible and verifiable measures as far as nuclear disarmament is concerned and also on concrete steps regarding fissile material.

The shift towards favoring a discussion on non-proliferation, at the expense of the debate on disarmament has contributed in a decisive manner to the lack of progress in the debate surrounding these two issues on the international security

agenda and also to create an atmosphere of discouragement that prevails in this debate. Balancing this agenda becomes of utmost importance, especially as we begin the new NPT review cycle.

The lack of tangible progress in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation calls for urgent action on the revitalization and strengthening of the pertinent regimes. The fulfillment of the 13 steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed during the 2000 NPT Review Conference has been significantly challenged by action and omission, as well as various reservations and selective interpretation by nuclear weapon States. Disregard for the provisions of Article VI of the Treaty may ultimately affect the fundamental bargain on which its legitimacy rests.

The whole edifice of disarmament and non-proliferation has been undermined by the emergence of new strategic and military doctrines based on the development of new nuclear weapons and on the possibility of the use of such weapons on a pre-emptive basis, even against

non-nuclear-weapon states. These strategic and military doctrines have the practical effect of giving nuclear weapons a lifespan well into any foreseeable future. In Brazil's view, this is in stark contradiction with the letter and spirit of the NPT. Furthermore, the leading role still played by nuclear arms can become a paradigm for other States that could pursue the militarization of their nuclear programs in case they perceive themselves to be in the midst of a conflict scenario.

The occasion of the anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings is an important reminder of the devastating effects of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and of the absolute necessity for the international community to address decidedly the issue of nuclear disarmament. Not only must we seize this opportunity to express solidarity with the Japanese people but also to draw the attention of the international community to the undisputable fact that the only way to eliminate the risk of nuclear weapons being used again is to completely abolish those devices.

