

Call for Support for, Endorsement of and Participation in the
2025 World Conference against A and H Bombs
May 21, 2025

Dear friends in Japan and overseas,

It will soon be eighty years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The 2025 World Conference against A & H Bombs is fast approaching. The theme of the Conference is “With the Hibakusha, Let Us Achieve a Nuclear Weapon-free, Peaceful and Just World – for the Future of the Humankind and Our Planet.” We sincerely appeal to you all to support this Conference, expand grassroots actions, and strengthen efforts to send representatives to the World Conference.

The World Conference marking the 80th year of the atomic bombings will be held under a tense climate of continued disregard and violation of the UN Charter and international law by nuclear powers, which could lead, among others, to nuclear war. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is now in its fourth year; Israel's genocidal attack in Gaza has claimed more than 50,000 victims; India and Pakistan are engaged in an escalating conflict, and North Korea is testing ballistic missiles and developing nuclear weapons. In such wars, conflicts and military confrontations, we are facing a serious crisis involving a possible use of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, the five nuclear powers (U.S., Russia, U.K., France, and China) are modernizing and expanding their nuclear arsenals on the grounds of their “national security,” in defiance of their obligation under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to achieve “nuclear disarmament” and the agreements reached at previous NPT Review Conferences.

Now is the time to develop cooperation on a global scale to achieve peaceful order based on the UN Charter, without allowing the use or threat of nuclear weapons. The decisive force for this will be the dissemination of the understanding on the “inhumanity of nuclear weapons” as A-bomb survivors have appealed. The World Conference on the 80th anniversary will be a special occasion to convey to the world the earnest wish of the Hibakusha that “the hell on earth we experienced from the atomic bombings must never be repeated on anyone in the world,” as well as their serious and urgent appeal that “nuclear weapons and humanity cannot coexist” and that “nuclear weapons cannot protect peace and security.” On August 4 and 7, there will be a special program on the theme of inheriting the memory of A-bomb experience and the future. We would warmly welcome the active participation of young people and the next generation in this program, which will imprint the Hibakusha's appeal on their hearts.

Dear friends,

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), produced by the joint efforts of the United Nations, non-nuclear weapon states and civil society, focuses on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and carries a solid force as international law that “prohibits the use of nuclear weapons”. Currently, 94 countries have signed the treaty, 73 have ratified it, and 127 countries voted in favor of the resolution passed at the 79th UN General Assembly last year to promote the treaty, now forming a major trend of the world.

The forthcoming World Conference will be a platform for developing collaboration for the abolition of nuclear weapons, with the participation of a wide range of people, including representatives of national governments and international organizations that promote the TPNW in the forefront, as well as representatives of citizens and parliamentarians who are working in the nuclear weapon states or other countries under the “nuclear umbrella”. In particular, looking to the 11th NPT Review Conference next year, we will discuss how governments and civil societies of all countries seeking nuclear abolition and peace can work together in joint activities to build public opinion and movements urging the nuclear weapon states to implement nuclear weapons abolition.

Friends,

Japan, the only country to have experienced the atomic bombings in war and to have the Constitution pledging never to engage in war, must take the lead in realizing a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. The power of public opinion and movements of the A-bombed nation should be used to stop the creation of a war-waging state and the expansion of military forces at the behest of the Trump administration, to change the policy of clinging to the “nuclear umbrella”, i.e., the extended nuclear deterrence of the United States, and to realize Japan's participation in the TPNW. This will be crucial for achieving a world without nuclear weapons, for easing tensions and building peace in East Asia, and also for protecting the lives and well-being of the people of Japan.

Since last year, with the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations), public support and empathy for the efforts to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons has increased. And opinion polls show that some 70% of people in Japan support Japan's participation in the TPNW. The Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election will be held in June, and the House of Councilors election will be held in July to determine the course of the nation. In order to make Japan's participation in the TPNW the election issue and people's choice, let us make every effort to campaign against nuclear weapons and for peace, with the Conference delegates taking the lead in the campaign. We look forward to hearing the results of these efforts at the World Conference in August.

During the period of the World Conference (August 3-9), we will also call for a “Global Peace Wave Action to mark the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki”, a series of grassroots international joint actions. The common goal of the “Peace Wave” is to achieve a total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons, without allowing the threat or use of nuclear weapons. And we call for signature collection for the demand to urge each government to join the TPNW as a common form of action.

Let us join hands, together with the Hibakusha, to make the 80th anniversary to open the door to a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

May 21, 2025

The 96th General Meeting of the Organizing Committee of the
World Conference against A and H Bombs