

International Meeting Session II  
2025 World Conference against A and H Bombs

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Hello, everyone

Respect and admiration for the Hibakushas, for their work and perseverance despite the difficulties they have encountered and the suffering they have endured.

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the survivors of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 is an extraordinary encouragement to continue our struggle for a world without nuclear weapons.

Thanks to Hidankyo, Gensuikyo, the Zenroren union, the Japanese Peace Committee, the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, and all the Japanese organizations that organize the annual international conferences against atomic and hydrogen bombs, which are such a useful opportunity to promote international momentum for nuclear disarmament.

Solidarity with all peoples who have suffered nuclear testing and are fighting for recognition of the damage suffered and demanding reparations. The Peace Movement addresses in particular those who have suffered French nuclear testing in Algeria and Mururoa.

I will first talk about the international situation and then about nuclear disarmament.

The international situation is catastrophic. The facts are clear. Putin's aggression in Ukraine continues, Netanyahu continues the genocidal process in Gaza, and clashes continue in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Bombs are falling on Yemen, and blood is being shed in Sudan. We are witnessing a challenge to international law at all levels, and first and foremost to the United Nations Charter and international humanitarian law. The right to use force, that is to say, the law of the strongest and most powerful, in violation of international law and the United Nations Charter, is tending to prevail.

The US Secretary of Defense (Pete Hegseth) said in Singapore on May 31, 2025, "Trump has given me a clear mission: to achieve peace through force." He went on to say, "We are equipping American fighters with the most powerful and deadly strike force in the world." At the same time, the NATO Secretary General declared on June 9, 2025, "NATO must become stronger and more lethal. A stronger NATO means spending much more on

our defense.” A few days ago, the French president expressed similar ideas, saying, “We must be strong and powerful to be feared.”

Trump and NATO are calling for military spending to be increased to 5% of GDP, and France is following suit while climbing to second place in the world rankings of arms sellers. Global military spending will peak at \$2.718 trillion in 2024, compared to \$1 trillion in 2000 (source: SIPRI).

The result: 59 war zones around the world and, in 2024, around 240,000 people killed in these conflicts. At the same time, money is not being used to combat the inequalities and injustices that are the root causes of conflict. As a result, 800 million people suffer from hunger and around 36 million die each year from hunger or its direct consequences (Jean Ziegler, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food).

Across the board, social budgets are being cut and public services called into question. Under the pretext of a war economy and in line with the proposals of the latest NATO summit, the European Union has decided to allocate €800 billion to the military, and the French government is proposing to almost double the annual military budget, which is around €50 billion, at the expense of social and environmental budgets.

**Finally, the rise of fascist and authoritarian ideologies in several countries, including the US, is an aggravating factor.**

**In this context, the pressure exerted by the world's populations on their governments is insufficient to halt this vicious cycle. Information and public awareness must be strengthened. The Peace Movement believes that the time has come for an uprising of consciences, a surge of citizen action, and the development of collective and unified action on a global scale to stop the massacre of civilian populations and halt this trend, which could lead us to the worst catastrophes or even a global escalation of war.**

Our responsibility is to create a unified dynamic in favor of peace, because for its future, humanity has no other path than peace to face current challenges, including climate change.

For its part, the International Committee of the Red Cross believes that the greatest danger to the survival of humanity today is the threat of nuclear weapons and the risk of a nuclear winter.

In this context, the Peace Movement calls for action in the broadest possible unity, so that we commit ourselves at the national and global levels to building a world of justice, solidarity, cooperation, and peace, respectful of human rights and the planet.

The year 2025 should not only be a year of commemoration of the massacres of World War II, the victory over fascism, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Holocaust.

In 2025, the Peace Movement believes that we must not only organize resistance to the deadly logic of power and economic, financial, military, and ideological domination, but also propose alternatives that pave the way for building a peaceful world in accordance with the principles and objectives contained in the United Nations Charter and based on UN resolutions for a culture of peace, the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), and the work of the IPCC. The challenge is to contribute to the emergence of a new civilization built on the aspiration and concrete realization of the right to live together in peace and security (human, physical, social, and environmental security). We must also develop not military alliances, but tools for cooperation in the scientific, economic, cultural, and diplomatic fields. This is what we are calling for, along with many other peace organizations in Europe, through our project to revive the spirit of the 1975 Helsinki Accords, by calling for a pan-European conference on common security in Europe, involving all the states of the European geographical area.

All social, humanist, trade union, feminist, environmentalist, pacifist, and human rights forces, while respecting their diversity, can contribute to this dynamic for peace.

**It is in this context that the Peace Movement addresses the issue of the battle for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as provided for by international law and, among others, by Article 6 of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons), which entered into force in January 2021.**

*It was therefore with immense joy that the Peace Movement and, I believe, all activists from organizations, movements, associations, and individuals fighting for nuclear disarmament heard Mr. Terumi Tanaka, co-chairperson of Hidankyo, declare at the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in December 2024 that "the Hibakusha sincerely hope that, rather than relying on the theory of nuclear deterrence, which presupposes the possession and use of nuclear weapons, we will not allow the possession of a single nuclear weapon. I therefore call on all the people of the world to discuss together what needs to be done to eliminate nuclear weapons and demand that governments take action to achieve this goal."*

It is our collective responsibility to ensure that this message of clarity is heard by all world leaders, and in particular by the heads of states that possess nuclear weapons. France is particularly concerned, as it has just doubled the funds allocated to the modernization of its nuclear arsenal (from €3.7 billion to €7 billion per year) in two military programming laws, even though France has committed to working toward total nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article 6 of the NPT.

When it comes to eliminating nuclear weapons, we must be more aware than ever that we can stop the world from heading in the wrong direction because:

- the vast majority of people reject nuclear weapons,

- we have international law, the United Nations, a large majority of states, numerous trade unions, political parties, and NGO networks around the world on our side,
- Collective action by peoples, international institutions, and certain states has led to significant results, including the NPT, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which the US still refuses to ratify, preventing its entry into force, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) in Africa and Latin America, Southeast Asia and Central Asia, the South Pacific and Antarctica.

We must all bear in mind what UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in 2010 to a thousand NGO delegates: “You are the conscience of the world. Without you, we will not move forward toward nuclear disarmament.”

We, the supporters of peace, are a decisive force in the face of the military-industrial lobbies and their media supporters.

However, we must not hide from the fact that the international situation is serious, as I mentioned above, due to the combination of dangerous developments in the world today. I am referring to: 1) the questioning of law as the foundation of coexistence; 2) the rise of ultra-liberalism, which promotes a war of all against all; 3) the questioning of multilateralism and cooperation in favor of force and power; 4) but also the appropriation of the main means of communication by large multinationals and the military-industrial lobby, and often by state apparatus. Added to this is the trivialization of blackmail involving the use of atomic weapons, whether by Putin, Trump, or others. These statements reflect a reality, namely the growing role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines. In particular, the development of cruise missiles equipped with low-yield warheads of less than 15 kt, i.e., bombs for tactical use, and at the same time hypersonic missiles with a speed greater than Mach 5, i.e., five times the speed of sound, designed to render missile defense systems obsolete.

*In the absence of binding international rules governing this type of weapon, the possibilities are endless, with the prospect of the deployment and use of tactical nuclear weapons with a range of less than 500 km. In terms of military strategy, this is a dangerous lowering of the nuclear threshold, making limited nuclear war a possibility.*

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In light of all these factors, on the initiative of the Peace Movement, a collective of several hundred organizations launched a global appeal for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which was read in January 2025 in front of the French nuclear submarine base on Ile Longue by Mr. Shigemitsu TANAKA, co-chairperson of Nihon HIDANKYO (Hibakusha's national organization in Japan awarded the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize).

*This appeal has been translated into a dozen languages and has just been posted on social media for signatures. It will be the subject of a global signature campaign and will be a way to involve public opinion in the preparation of the NPT Review Conference, which will take place from April 27 to May 22, 2026, in New York.*

*Here is the text of this global appeal:*

*Global appeal for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.*

*"Nuclear weapons are illegal, dangerous, costly, and immoral.*

*Their elimination is provided for in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on January 22, 2021.*

*We, citizens of all countries, demand that all States of the world take immediate and effective action in accordance with the aforementioned treaties to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, weapons of terror and mass extermination of populations, and even the destruction of all life on Earth.*

We demand that all resources wasted on these weapons be used for the well-being of humanity, the protection of our shared planet, and the construction of a peaceful world based on justice, solidarity, and cooperation.

We shall overcome.

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