

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

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On behalf of Gensuikyo, I warmly welcome all the friends joining the 2025 World Conference against A and H Bombs from across Japan and internationally. This year's World Conference is being held at the historic milestone year of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bomb tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The world is now facing the danger of nuclear weapons actually being used, whether intentionally or accidentally, due to misinformation or miscalculation or an accident. Russia, a nuclear superpower, flagrantly invaded Ukraine using its nuclear forces. The Trump administration, complicit in Israel's genocidal attacks on Gaza, launched a military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities without seeking endorsement by a UN resolution.

The two nuclear powers are both violating the UN Charter's prohibition on the use and threat of use of military force in international disputes and the obligation to work for peaceful resolution.

At the NATO summit held in The Hague, Netherlands, in June, a plan for a substantial increase in military spending to 5% of GDP was approved. Moves toward nuclear and military buildup and large-scale military expansion are spreading, including the sharing of nuclear weapons operations and "joint coordination" of nuclear policy by the British and French leaders.

We must stop war and end nuclear threats, these dangerous moves that could lead to the extinction of humanity. We must abolish nuclear weapons, and shift the tide toward a peaceful and just world where all international disputes are resolved through peaceful means.

Friends,  
There is a clear prospect for overcoming the crisis which the world is currently facing

and moving forward, as we now have the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In particular, it prohibits all activities related to nuclear weapons and fundamentally rejects the theory of “nuclear deterrence.” The Treaty, in force since 2021, has been signed by 94 countries and ratified by 73 countries. A United Nations resolution supporting and promoting the treaty has been endorsed by two-thirds of UN member states, totaling 127 countries.

The political declaration adopted at the Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW in March this year stated that the “Treaty plays an increasingly vital role in promoting diplomacy and reinforcing multilateralism”, and is a “beacon of hope in these turbulent times.” The conference emphasized that the TPNW is now more than just a treaty. It is a firm rejection of nuclear weapons and a testament to the power of collective action. The collaboration between civil society, led by Hibakusha, and governments around the world that brought about the TPNW now constitutes the mainstream of the world.

Friends,

In order to prevent the outrageous behaviour of nuclear superpowers and achieve a nuclear weapon-free world, the struggles in the nuclear-armed states and nuclear-dependent states are critically important.

In the United States, citizens are rising up in protest against President Trump's “America First” policy, support for Israel, exclusion of immigrants, and division of American society. More than 5 million people participated in protests organized at 2,000 locations across all 50 states. The “Back from the Brink Campaign,” which Mr. Joseph Gerson referred to, calls for a reversal of the Trump administration's nuclear policy. And the largest scale of Hiroshima Day rallies to be held in Boston and around the country are significant sources of encouragement for us.

As we observe the 80th year since the atomic bombings, Japan, as a nation that suffered the atomic bombings, has an extremely important role to play. However, the Japanese government has uncritically followed the Trump administration, which openly pursues hegemony, and has participated in the militarization of Okinawa and Nansei (Southwestern) Islands, as well as the “extended nuclear deterrence” policy, which involves Japan's participation in the threat or use of U.S. nuclear weapons. This includes the holding of a Japan-U.S. ministerial meeting and the formulation of “guidelines” on this policy. The government also refuses to participate as an observer in the third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW. By promoting the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. military alliance and extended deterrence, which would expose the

Japanese people to the danger of nuclear war, the government is betraying the wishes of the Hibakusha, the voices of the majority of the Japanese people, and the expectations of the world.

Gensuikyo has made every effort to resist Prime Minister Ishiba's LDP-Komeito government pursuing a massive military expansion. Our country must instead promote peaceful diplomacy based on Article 9 of the Constitution, break away from the “nuclear deterrence” theory, and set in place a new government that will sign and ratify the TPNW.

Our core activity for this is the “Nuclear-Free Japan Campaign.” It aims to break down the “nuclear umbrella” or “nuclear deterrence” rhetoric used by the Japanese government as a justification for not joining the TPNW, and to urge Japan to participate in the treaty. To this end, we are working to raise awareness among the Japanese people about the reality of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to collect signatures calling on Japan to participate in the TPNW.

The momentum for our activity was boosted by Nihon Hidankyo winning the Nobel Peace Prize last year. This greatly increased public interest, and signatures on our petition to urge the government to join the TPNW were collected across generations responding to appeals from the Hibakusha, reaching a total of 1.78 million to date. Local assembly resolutions to the same effect have been adopted by 41% of all municipalities, or 726 local governments. Over 7,000 people participated in the recent opinion advertisement in the newspaper, which was published in the Asahi Shimbun with a circulation of 3.2 million copies, on July 7, the 8th anniversary of the adoption of the TPNW.

The “Nuclear-Free Japan Campaign” was an important initiative in pushing for participation in the TPNW to become an issue in the recent House of Councilors election and putting pressure on the ruling party.

In the Upper House election held on July 20, the public handed down a harsh judgment on the Ishiba's ruling coalition government. The ruling party, which lost its majority for the first time in 30 years in the general election last December, also lost its majority in the Upper House, marking the first time since the end of World War II that the ruling party has fallen into the minority in both houses of the Diet.

A “new political process” is underway, with the people exploring and searching for a

new form of politics. The possibility of a political shift toward signing and ratifying the TPNW is opening up.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the growth of dangerous forces advocating nuclear armament. We must bring together the wishes of the majority of the people who seek the abolition of nuclear weapons and new politics, and greatly expand the national consensus with the aim of Japan participating in the TPNW.

On July 23, Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations), Gensuikyo (Japan Council against A and H Bombs), and Gensuikin (Japan Congress Against A- and H-Bombs) released a joint appeal marking the 80th anniversary. The joint appeal calls for nationwide actions to spread awareness of the realities of the atomic bombings, beyond differences in ideology, beliefs, and all other positions. Spreading the realities of the A-bomb tragedy can exert a powerful force to break down the “nuclear deterrence” argument and put pressure on nuclear-armed states and countries that depend on the “nuclear umbrella.”

We pledge to do our utmost to disseminate the A-bomb damage effects and carry this movement forward to the whole nation.

Japan Gensuikyo, in cooperation with Nihon Hidankyo, sent a delegation to Spain and France this past January to inform the people of those countries of the A-bomb sufferings and urge their governments to join the TPNW. We would like to broaden this joint effort with peace movements and governments in other countries. And we propose to organize a major international joint action in New York during the NPT Review Conference next spring. Let us bring together the efforts of peace movements around the world to pressure nuclear-armed states and those under the “nuclear umbrella.”