

Remarks at the Forum “Towards a world without war and nuclear weapons –
International solidarity among parliamentarians and citizens”

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On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and warmest welcome to our friends from the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, and the United States who have crossed continents to participate in the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

The world now stands at a historic crossroads—between war and peace. There has never been a greater need for unity among the global forces calling for peace and progress. I would like to call for international solidarity in addressing four critical challenges we all face.

First is the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Today, we face a grave risk of nuclear weapons being used. Russia continues to issue nuclear threats; the United States and Israel have carried out attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities; and nuclear-armed states, along with their allies, are recklessly expanding their nuclear arsenals, triggering a new arms race. In Japan, joint Japan-U.S. military drills simulate nuclear use scenarios, and discussions of “nuclear sharing” have become commonplace. I strongly denounce all these developments.

At the same time, there is significant hope tied to the growing support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). So far, 73 countries have ratified the treaty and 94 have signed it. Including nations that have officially expressed support, the total stands at 138 countries (over 70% of UN member states) giving the treaty a solid standing in international law.

The key to making this groundbreaking treaty more effective lies in changing public opinion and government policies among the nuclear-armed states and their allies—

including the five countries represented here today—so that they join the treaty.

To do so, we must overcome the myth of “nuclear deterrence.” The TPNW is the result of a humanitarian approach—an international initiative to expose the inhumanity of nuclear weapons led by Hibakusha whose efforts were recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize. The logic of nuclear deterrence, which assumes the readiness to use such weapons, is fundamentally incompatible with any humanitarian critique. I firmly believe that the humanitarian approach can and must overcome the theory of nuclear deterrence.

Whenever we raise this issue in the Diet, the government justifies its position by claiming that “the security environment is deteriorating.” But even from a security perspective, can the theory of nuclear deterrence be justified? As stated in the report of the third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW, “nuclear weapons represent an acute and fundamental threat to the security of all States” regardless of their position. Moreover, the report points out that “the fact that nuclear deterrence can fail is undisputed.” History—most notably the Cuban Missile Crisis—has already shown us how close humanity has come to the brink of annihilation.

Let us work in each of our countries to dispel the myth of nuclear deterrence, build majority support for joining the TPNW, and create a global momentum for its adoption. I earnestly call for international solidarity in this effort. I will do my utmost to help Japan, the only nation that suffered the atomic bombings, take the lead.

Second is the establishment of a peace order based on the United Nations Charter.

The world is also facing grave challenges in terms of the international peace order. The Trump administration has repeatedly disregarded the UN Charter and international law regarding Gaza, Ukraine, Iran, the Panama Canal, and Greenland—all around the globe.

A peace agreement is urgently needed to end Russia’s aggression against Ukraine. At the same time, such peace must be a just one, grounded firmly in the UN Charter and international law.

I strongly condemn, in the harshest terms, Israel’s genocidal campaign in Gaza. More than 60,000 people have died. Horrific malnutrition and starvation have devastated both adults and children. Those seeking aid have been subjected to unlawful attacks.

There is no time to lose. The international community must take effective and concrete action. Sanctions are needed to halt Israel's war crimes. Recognition of the State of Palestine is an urgent priority. France has already taken this step. The United Kingdom and Canada have also voiced support. What is the Japanese government waiting for? I strongly urge Japan to move immediately toward recognition.

I earnestly call for international solidarity to build a peace order not based on power and coercion, but on the UN Charter and international law.

Third is the struggle against massive military buildups.

Dangerous arms races are unfolding in both Eastern and Western Eurasia. Under threats from the Trump administration—"If you want protection, increase your military spending"—NATO resolved at its June summit to raise military expenditures to 5% of GDP. In Japan, an unprecedented military expansion is underway toward 2% of GDP, with the Trump administration demanding 3.5%.

Such policies are fundamentally incompatible with protecting people's livelihoods. In Japan, military expansion has already severely squeezed budgets for social security, education, small businesses, and agriculture. At 3.5% of GDP, the impact would be catastrophic. Moreover, this increase in military spending will not bring peace. The "security dilemma"—an endless cycle of military escalation—has already become a reality in both Japan and Europe.

We need preparation for peace, not war. We have put forward a proposal for Japan to work in cooperation with ASEAN to make East Asia a region free from the threat of war, and we are taking concrete actions in line with this vision. Its guiding principle is to create peace through "dialogue, not military force," and "inclusion, not exclusion."

I express heartfelt solidarity with progressive and leftist forces in Europe who, under difficult conditions, have raised a clear banner against military buildups and are courageously struggling. Let us strengthen international solidarity to oppose militarism, which threatens both peace and people's lives, and work together to build peace through diplomacy.

Fourth is the fight against far-right and xenophobic forces.

This reactionary trend, now evident not only in Europe and the United States but also in Japan, threatens the principles of human equality and human rights. These are not merely domestic issues—they are pressing international challenges and demand global solidarity.

The hardships faced by working people are not the fault of foreigners, immigrants, or refugees. The true cause lies in the neoliberal economic policies that prioritize the interests of a wealthy few while trampling on the lives of the majority.

The fact that far-right and xenophobic ideologies led to wars of aggression is a shared historical lesson for both Japan and Europe. Let us expand international solidarity to ensure such forces never rise to prominence again.

If the five nations represented at this forum choose a different strategy for peace, the world will surely change for better. Let us unite our strength to build a world without nuclear weapons, a world without the threat of war, and a world where the human rights and dignity of all people are upheld.