



Office of Hon Murray McCully

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Dear Delegates

I am pleased to be able to again provide a message of support to this Conference on behalf of the Government of New Zealand.

New Zealand is firmly committed to the elimination of all nuclear weapons. We believe that so long as these weapons exist – the possibility of a catastrophic detonation remains.

Your Conference, and the testimony of Japan's hibakusha, has helped over the years to emphasise for the international community the horrific consequences of nuclear weapons. This has been an important factor in recently placing the important issue of the humanitarian consequences of these weapons at the centre of nuclear disarmament discussions.

This renewed humanitarian focus has reinvigorated international efforts to achieve and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons. Your Conference is to be congratulated for its role in this. By emphasising the interests of humanity – rather than narrow security interests – you have helped move forward the debate and the international agenda to eliminate nuclear weapons.

I congratulate all those assembled at the Conference for your commitment to this most important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray McCully', written over a printed name and title.

Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs