

2019 World Conference against A and H Bombs - Nagasaki

Opening Plenary, August 7

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Civil Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism

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Dear participants,

I offer my sincere respect to you all and bring you my greetings in solidarity. I am speaking on behalf of the “Civil Alliance for Peace and Constitutionalism”. Our coalition was established in December 2015, to oppose the Abe government’s policy of turning Japan into a country that can wage wars and mainstreaming military policy. We have since worked with opposition parties defending the Constitution to form a new majority in the Diet and in the national elections with a change of government as the common goal.

In preparation for the House of Councilors election in July, our coalition reached agreement with opposition parties on 13 common policy items in defense of constitutionalism, standing firm for new politics that can replace Abe government policies. The first item is to prevent the government from initiating in the Diet a process of constitutional amendment focusing on the war-renouncing Article 9. The second item is the repeal of the 2015 War Laws that allow the government to exercise the right of collective defense.

As you know, the three founding purposes of the movement against A and H Bombs are: the prevention of nuclear war, total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons and relief for and solidarity with Hibakusha. These are the foundation on which we are now working to have the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons go into effect as soon as possible.

One important contribution that Japanese people can make for the realization of this global task for humanity is to firmly defend and implement Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which provides in its original significance, for the renunciation of war and war potentials and absolute peace.

In the recent House of Councilors' election, those forces calling for constitutional revision fell short of the two-thirds majority they needed to propose amending the Constitution to the Diet. Despite this, Prime Minister Abe is claiming that the government got a mandate for constitutional revision and has placed constitutional revision as a core item on the agenda.

The Civil Alliance is determined to work to further increase cooperation between the citizens' movement and opposition parties that defend the Constitution against Prime Minister Abe's plan. Making use of the pacifism of Article 9, we will work to establish peace and make East Asia nuclear-free. We will fight to remove the Futenma US Marine Corps Air Station in Okinawa and prevent the construction of a new base in Okinawa's Henoko. We will also increase our efforts to get the TPNW ratified by Japan. We will work in solidarity with the Movement against A- and H-Bombs and contribute to developing the movement in order to stop attempts by Abe that may push our country into the dangerous path towards war. Thank you.