

**2023 World Conference against A and H Bombs  
International Meeting – Session 2**

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Greetings to all participants in the world conference against A and H bombs.

Greetings to all the hibakusha and their families. Respect for the admirable work done by Japanese pacifists, who maintain a permanent mobilization to denounce the crimes against humanity that were the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and to win the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

**Nuclear weapons**, like other weapons of mass destruction, **are illegal under international law. Article 6 of the NPT states that** the commitment of States to eliminate them and the Treaty on The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which prohibits the threat or use of nuclear weapons, came into force on January 21, 2021.

They are **dangerous** and threaten the very existence of mankind, **costly** and deprive people of the means to live, **militarily useless** as they prevent no war and allow Russia, a country nuclear weapons, to take advantage of the possession of these weapons to attack and invade a neighboring country.

**Finally, they are morally inadmissible, as the Pope emphasized in Hiroshima.**

Faced with the power of the nuclear-armed states and the multinationals that make up the military-industrial complex, faced with the digital empires (GAFAM), a single component of which is capable of spending \$40 billion in just a few days to buy Twitter, faced with the immensity of the challenges we face, we are sometimes led to doubt our ability to thwart their monstrous and criminal plans.

More than ever, we **must be aware that it is the vast majority of peoples who reject these nuclear weapons, that we have with us international law, the United Nations, the vast majority of the world's peoples, and that we have a duty to act of governments, trade unions, political parties and NGOs around the world, and that we have won huge victories, including the ban on chemical and biological weapons and the NPT and, more recently, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).**

**We need to be aware that peace advocates are a decisive force** in the face of the military-industrial lobbies and their media supporters, and in the face of the producers and sellers of weapons - in other words, a minority who, as always, influence political decisions in favor of a militarization of the world that benefits them, and whose peoples are the first victims. **At our last national congress in November 2022, we stressed that we were facing challenges that threaten**

the very existence of humanity, and indeed of all life on the planet.

The importance of these challenges was underlined by the UN Secretary-General, who in September 2022 declared that "inequalities are growing, hardships are spreading, the United Nations Charter and the ideals it upholds are being undermined are in peril!

**Russia's aggression against Ukraine increases the gravity of the international situation** and carries the risk of a globalization of war, because the confrontation with the presence of NATO in the background broadens the issues.

### **In short, we face global challenges through**

- the peril of nuclear weapons,
- the militarization of the world
- Climate change
- the economic crisis and development inequalities
- the rise of far-right forces

**And yet, while we should be investing in human welfare, global military spending is from \$1,000 billion in 2000 to \$2,250 billion in 2023. At the same time, 850 million people suffer from hunger. In this situation, what are the points of support from which we can fight, together, to defend and build alternatives for the future? peace and achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons?**

There are 5 main points of support

- **the United Nations Charter**, which represents a positive breakthrough in the history of mankind by making peace a right and a foundation of international law
- **United Nations resolutions in favour of a culture of peace** adopted at the UN in 1999
- **the 17 Sustainable Development Goals**, which set concrete objectives for peace.
- **Scientists are working hard to combat climate change**, but by taking action to take better account of the consequences of military activities on climate change, such as **the risk of a nuclear winter**, which has already been documented in numerous studies.
- **Last but not least, people's aspiration to well-being.**

**Is it easy? NO! all the more so since the Covid crisis has contributed to a major shift in individual behavior in a direction that does not appear to be the case. doesn't encourage commitment but rather withdrawal.**

**But for our future and the future of the planet, we have no other path than Peace.**

**At this point I must mention the situation in France, which is marked by social unrest and violence and a policy in favor of a war economy.**

In his speech to the armed forces in January 2023, French President Emmanuel Macron called for, and I quote, "**budgetary efforts in favour of the armed forces". military spending for several decades". His stated aim is to "always be one war ahead, to win the wars of the future".**

***proposes war as a prospect for future generations, while for our own future***

***peace is the only way to build a civilization and a world that are finally human.***

Despite our mobilizations from January to July 2023 we failed to develop a sufficient movement to prevent the vote on the new 2024-2030 military programming law, **especially as the mainstream media totally censored the Peace movements.**

**The law was passed by 408 deputies, while 87 voted against and 53 abstained (see National Assembly website). It amounts to 413 billion euros, a 40% increase on the previous law.**

**previous year. It includes 60 billion euros for new nuclear weapons in violation of the NPT- signed and ratified by France. On the eve of our on July 14th, President Macron boasted "We're proud to have doubled the military budget in the space of 2 military programming laws.**

**We refuse to be drawn into this logic of war and demand that budgets be redirected towards social needs and an economy for peace.**

**We are continuing our fight to get France to sign and ratify the treaty banning nuclear weapons.**

**Let's move on to the a war in Ukraine,** which is being used as a further pretext to increase military spending, even though Macron says that these increases were committed to and planned before this war.

**Faced with this war, we have from the outset**

- denounced Russia's **aggression** against Ukraine
- affirmed our **solidarity with the Ukrainian people** but also with pacifists in Ukraine and Russia
- stressed that **war is never the solution**
- advocated a **diplomatic solution** led by the United Nations, with concrete proposals in line with the UN Charter (articles 2, 23 and 51 in particular).

This position does not prevent us from denouncing the negative role played by the USA and NATO in the process that led to this war, by enlarging NATO to Eastern Europe in contradiction with the commitments made after the fall of the Berlin Wall. This does not detract from the responsibility for Russia's aggression against the Ukraine.

As the Mouvement de la Paix, we call on France to withdraw from NATO, especially as we consider this military organization to be contrary to the United Nations Charter.

**Everywhere in the world, our responsibility is to unite all peoples, in our respective countries and on a global scale, to preserve not only Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, but also the Russian people and the Ukrainian people. humanity as a whole from the unspeakable suffering that could result from the globalization of conflict and the use of nuclear weapons.**

I'd like to finish by mentioning **the Vienna International Summit for Peace in Ukraine**, in which I took part along with 8 other delegates from the Mouvement de la Paix. **The summit set objectives for the struggle to unite the world in the cause of peace.**

**In France, after the days of August 6 and 9, we are calling for action on September 21 (day of International Day of Peace), September 26 (UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons), and culminating in the national action on Saturday October 7 for peace in Ukraine as part of the global week of action advocated in Vienna between September 30 and 8 October 2023.**

We will act

- For an immediate ceasefire and **a diplomatic solution in Ukraine** and for all conflicts in the world.
- respect for the principles and charter of the United Nations
- for France and all the world's states to apply Article 6 of the NPT and sign, ratify and implement the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty (NWBT).

**The time has come to mobilize in the face of the dangers** of a worldwide extension of war, or even the use of nuclear weapons. The Hiroshima and Nagasaki conferences will signal a new dynamic for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and for Peace.

**Long live friendship and solidarity between peoples, long live peace! Long live Japanese pacifists. Long live the KOBE formula!**

**Roland Nivet for Mouvement de la Paix - August 2023**