

2023 World Conference against A and H Bombs – Nagasaki

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Good morning to everyone attending the international conference against A and H bombs on 9 August 2023. Greetings to all the Hibakusha and their families. Respect for your ongoing efforts to denounce the crimes against humanity of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to win the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Personally, I'm still as inspired as ever by Kobe's formula, which shows that, united and determined on specific objectives, we can achieve decisive results.

When it comes to eliminating nuclear weapons, we need to be more aware than ever:

- 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 States, numerous trade unions, political parties and a network of **NGOs** throughout the world,
- that we have achieved important results such as the ban on chemical and biological weapons, and with regard to nuclear weapons, the NPT and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (**TPNW**).

We must be aware that we, the supporters of peace, are a decisive force in the face of the military-industrial lobbies and their media supporters.

In the current international context, many people around the world are concerned about the possible use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

A few days ago, Dmitri Medvedev, former President of Russia and current Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council, once again alluded to

nuclear weapons, stating that Russia "would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons if the Ukrainian counter-offensive were successful".

I will now talk about our proposal for an international appeal for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

For months now, within the Peace Movement and in our actions, we have felt the growing need for a world petition capable of uniting all peoples in the same demand for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This need has been expressed repeatedly.

The idea is to draw up a short petition, translated into as many languages as possible, and circulated all over the **world** on all social networks, with the following aims:

to obtain hundreds of millions of **signatures** around the world. A short, clear, global appeal should enable many different sensibilities to work together towards collective awareness and joint action for nuclear disarmament, peace and human well-being. Everyone should be able to contribute to this success through their own networks and by developing their own arguments.

This initiative would be likely to give rise to a popular appropriation **throughout the world** likely to positively modify the balance of power in favour of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The first meeting would be the NPT Review Conference in 2026.

In making this proposal, we are convinced that we are responding to a current and deep-rooted aspiration of peoples throughout the world, and a need to give a new united and mobilising impetus to "world action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

We have initiated contacts with the World Social Forum that could lead to support and therefore a strengthening of support in Latin America and Africa.

Here is the text we are proposing for this global petition:

Global call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons

*"Nuclear **weapons** are illegal, dangerous, expensive and immoral.*

***Their elimination** is provided for in the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which came into force on 22 January 2021.*

***We, citizens** of all countries, **demand** that*

all the States of the world to do everything in their power, without delay and in compliance with the above-mentioned treaties, to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, weapons of terror and weapons of mass destruction.

mass extermination of populations, or even the annihilation of all life on Earth.

***We demand** that all the resources wasted on these weapons be used for the well-being of humanity, the protection of our common planet and the construction of a peaceful world based on justice, solidarity and cooperation".*

An initial list of world-renowned signatories from a wide range of sectors needs to be drawn up, and a strategy devised for circulating the petition, which could be launched, for example, from Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September.

Thank you for your attention.