

**2023 WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST
ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMBS**

**“WITH THE HIBAKUSHA, LET US ACHIEVE A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-
FREE, PEACEFUL AND JUST WORLD – FOR THE FUTURE OF THE
HUMANKIND AND OUR PLANET”**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

**CLOSING PLENARY
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(PRE-RECORDED VIDEO MESSAGE)

Opening

- May I first record my appreciation to the organizing committee of the 2023 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs for inviting me to speak at this year’s conference, building on Malaysia’s participation in previous iterations.
- Amidst a range of challenges confronting the international community in the peace and security as well as socio-economic domains, this Conference retains a critical role. It is part of global efforts to achieve

nuclear disarmament, leveraging on the convening power of civil society, and its capacity to effect substantive change.

- In this regard, the resolve of the Hibakusha is indeed admirable, and a source of inspiration to many. The experience of the Hibakusha will forever remain, in the collective consciousness of humankind, a reminder of the unacceptable dangers and moral repugnance of nuclear weapons. We must never forget the loss of life, injury and unspeakable suffering caused by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.
- It is inconceivable that, over seven decades later, nuclear weapons continue to plague our world. Today, their possession by a select group of States undermines peace, security and sustainable development for all.

Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

- In the wake of the Second World War, the Preamble of the UN Charter boldly declared that the peoples of the United Nations were “determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”. This central promise of the world organisation remains ever relevant in times of heightened geopolitical tension.
- Any threat or use of nuclear weapons is totally unacceptable. Indeed, their very existence cannot be reconciled with basic ethical and security considerations. We must reject arguments which seek to justify the retention and modernisation of nuclear arsenals.

- The abhorrent nature of nuclear weapons cannot be masked by sophisticated military concepts, doctrines and policies which place the interests of some States above others', to the detriment of the entire planet.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It plays a critical role in international peace and security as well as the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology.
- The full and effective implementation of the NPT, across its three pillars, is as vital today as it has ever been. The inability of two successive NPT Review Conferences to adopt a substantive outcome is indeed a cause for concern. States Parties should redouble our efforts to uphold the integrity and credibility of the Treaty, which cannot be taken for granted.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) represents an important milestone in our steady advance towards a world free of nuclear weapons. This landmark instrument is fully compatible with and complementary to the NPT.

- As Co-Chair of the informal working group on universalisation of the TPNW, together with South Africa, Malaysia has worked with TPNW States Parties and partners to increase the Treaty's membership. Equally important is promoting the Treaty's underlying rationale and message, through advocacy to governments and publics at large.
- During the TPNW's First Meeting of States Parties in Vienna in June 2022, the testimony from Hibakusha as well as communities harmed by nuclear testing was indeed moving. Their collective voice is a powerful force for change, as we prepare for the Second Meeting of States Parties in New York later this year.

Closing

Ladies and gentlemen,

- I trust you have had productive deliberations over the last few days, and look forward to considering new ideas and recommendations from this Conference.
- Let us remain steadfast in our resolve to attain a nuclear-weapon-free world, recognising the role of key stakeholders such as our partners in civil society. Meaningful change requires sustained political will, uniting peoples around the world in a common endeavour to ensure lasting peace and prosperity.

Thank you.