

The Japan Association for a Non-Nuclear Government

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Request from The Japan Association for a Non-Nuclear Government Concerning the 7th NPT Review Conference

On the occasion of the 7th Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, the focus of international attention is on whether it can accelerate the implementation of an "unequivocal undertaking" for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, pursuant to an accord on the 13 practical steps of disarmament adopted at the 6th Review Conference.

The Japan Association for a Non-Nuclear Government is a Japanese Non-Governmental Organization founded in 1986. We have tried to join efforts with the broadest possible sections of people, irrespective of differences in thoughts and beliefs, to carry out the following five non-nuclear objectives: (1) the prevention of nuclear war and the elimination of nuclear weapons as urgent tasks of humankind, (2) compliance with the Three Non-nuclear Principles (not to possess, manufacture or allow nuclear weapons to be brought into Japan) as our country's national policy; (3) opposition to all measures that may turn Japan into a nuclear battlefield, (4) enactment of a law to assist Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) on State responsibility; and (5) increased international solidarity based on the decisions of the annual World Congress against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs.

As we work to achieve a peaceful world free of terror, war or nuclear weapons and to pursue nuclear non-proliferation effectively, it is urgent and indispensable to put into practice measures for the abolition of nuclear weapons. This is confirmed by the fact that a series of 59th United Nations General Assembly resolutions calling for nuclear weapons abolition were adopted by an overwhelming majority of nations, including some allies of the nuclear weapon States. We must be on alert, however, against ongoing moves designed to prevent the international community from advancing toward the abolition of nuclear weapons: Research and development of new types of nuclear weapons continue under the doctrines of deterrence and preemptive attack premised on the use of nuclear weapons; and there is even an attempt to backtrack from the final document of the previous NPT Review Conference, on grounds "it is not legally binding."

A 21st century free of nuclear weapons is the goal not only of the 300,000 Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still suffering from atomic-bombing

after-effects, but also each and every citizen of Japan--the only atomic bombed country that has the Constitution with its war-renouncing Article 9. It is also a common desire of the majority of national governments, local entities and non-governmental organizations throughout the world. At the current NPT Review Conference, now in session in the 60th year since the first atomic bombing calamity humankind has ever experienced, the greatest task is to overcome all adverse currents and develop a clear and concrete perspective for the elimination of nuclear weapons. This is a common responsibility of all humankind. Specifically, the nuclear weapon States are urged more strongly than ever to make a political decision to fulfill their own responsibility for a nuclear weapon-free world.

We request that at the current 7th NPT Review Conference your government will take a lead in carrying out the following initiatives aimed at the abolition of nuclear weapons:

- 1. Reconfirm that the nuclear weapon States must fulfill their special responsibility for nuclear disarmament through honoring and implementing in good faith the "unequivocal undertaking" they made in the previous Review Conference to eliminate their nuclear arsenals;**
- 2. Take a hard look at the fact that 60 years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 30,000 nuclear warheads still exist in the world; call for the start of negotiations to conclude an international treaty totally banning nuclear weapons; and play an active role in establishing a program for the abolition of nuclear weapons;**
- 3. Include in the final document of this Review Conference a commitment by nuclear weapons States to end plans for research and development of new types of nuclear weapons and to abandon policies leading to the use of nuclear weapons, with a view to preventing a new arms race and acceleration of nuclear proliferation.**