



**Religions for Peace**   
Japan

## **A Joint Statement on Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

*Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Japan (PNND Japan) and  
Religions for Peace Japan (RfP Japan)*

The history of total destruction and mass murder caused by the dropping of the atomic bombs on the city of Hiroshima on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 1945 and on Nagasaki on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 1945 should never be put by humankind into the remotest corner of world history. These two atomic bombs were incomparably horrible weapon of mass destruction in the way to have killed some 200 thousand valuable lives by the end of 1945. Moreover it should never be forgotten that the radiation effect has been still damaging the health of enormous number of atomic bomb survivors, *Hibakusha*, including the descendants in later generations. In this sense the moment of the dropping of atomic bombs should never merely be regarded as one of the billion scenes of the human history and yet it is manifesting as human tragedy even at this moment, “Right Now.”

On the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the World War II and the dropping of the atomic bombs, we, the parliamentarian and religious leaders in Japan came together to share views in aiming for the creation of a peaceful world and the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. Both parties mutually confirmed that we were still short of full discharge of responsibility to realize these two goals and candidly expressed deep regret. Based on sincere self-reflection on our past record of commitment to peace, today we got together to hold the meeting in order to clarify our roles and to fulfill our responsibilities to realize the total elimination of nuclear weapons, based on mutually shared firm conviction on the fundamental nature of nuclear weapons which is “totally unusable” and is “never to be used.”

The members of parliament, respecting the principle of the rule of law, fully recognize that early realization of the elimination of nuclear weapons stockpile is an urgent legal demand, in view of the general principles of the international law and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the “illegality of the use and the threat of use of nuclear weapons.” Religious leaders, embracing the “Golden Rule” of all religions, “Do not harm others,” are firmly convinced that early abolition of nuclear weapons causing indiscriminate mass killing of every life on earth is to contribute to the common good for all humanity.

As the result of our analysis of recent development of nuclear disarmament, we pay a special attention to the following two points, namely, the adoption of nuclear weapons convention, and the issue of the breach of humanitarian principle of the nuclear weapons, which are increasingly drawing the attention of the international community after the 8<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) held in 2010. At the meeting of two parties, the deep concern was expressed on the prevalent view of the nuclear weapons, namely, the possession of nuclear weapons is the most undoubting clear sign of the power of the states. Receiving the comment on the necessity of further examination on the actual and practical effectiveness of the doctrine of the nuclear deterrence, it was shared among the participants that scrutiny into justifiability of nuclear weapons system itself will be the focus of our urgent examination.

At the meeting it was agreed to encourage the development of North East Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, and to promote advocacy campaign appealing widely to international community as well as in Japan for the abolition of nuclear weapons through closer collaboration between political and religious leaders, keeping in mind the inter-related linkage of issues among early realization of nuclear weapons convention, examination of inhumanity and unjustifiability of nuclear weapons. The participants of *PNND Japan* and *Religions for Peace Japan* shared their willingness to further promote the dialogue on the concrete steps to overcome the nuclear deterrence doctrine, and effective advisory proposal for effective operation of NPT which is regarded to be hampered due to its inequality nature, as well as ways to strengthen whole endeavor for elimination of nuclear weapons.

In the meeting special appreciation was expressed on the reference to the sentence in sixth page of *RfP Resource Guide on Nuclear Disarmament for Religious Leaders and Communities*, namely, “Legal prohibition against nuclear weapons thus finds deep roots in religious ethics and principles.” In order to eliminate the nuclear weapons from the world, mutually supplementary effort by both legal approach (the roles of parliamentarian leaders) and the religious approach (the roles of people of faiths) should be strengthened. The full meeting gave a unanimous support to the claim made on the twelfth page of the same Resource Guide, namely, “we should advance nuclear abolition as a global public good.” We firmly believe that the cause of nuclear abolition will immensely contribute to the realization of the vision of “Human Security” highly advocated by the Government of Japan and the vision of “Shared Security” proposed by *Religions for Peace*. The notable participant from the religious community made an observation as follows. “Despite much complex technical

aspects of disarmament work, we should be reminded that deepest motivation and elevation of the ethical standard within the mind of both political and religious leaders is the key in the final analysis. The above comment was concluded as follows. “It is very much indispensable to cultivate the mind and heart in peace.”

As dedicated parliamentarians and religious leaders of the country singularly devastated by atomic bombing, Japan, we are firmly determined to sincerely work for a complete abolition of nuclear weapons. We do not have any doubt in our determination to fulfill our shared mission of nuclear disarmament. Yet good will people’s hard work of only one country is not strong enough to realize the world free of nuclear weapons we are aiming for. This understanding demands us to visit the site of the United Nations, the venue of the NPT Review Conference starting from the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 2015, and to participate in the Roundtable Meeting, “Forging Cooperation on Nuclear Disarmament between Religious Leaders, Legislators and their Communities” during the session of the review conference. Now we know that the parliamentarians from the United Kingdom, Norway, the United States as well as Japan and religious leaders representing major world religious communities willingly expressed their desire to participate in the roundtable meeting. We are also determined to strengthen and expand the international network, desiring to give a meaningful and significant impact on the policy change of the member states, especially, five nuclear weapon states, by mobilizing the joint power of *PNND* and *Religions for Peace*, based on the repeated reminder of the responsibility of five major nuclear countries decisively leading to the world free of nuclear weapons. We are pleased to share the same commitment to continue our cooperation started with the meeting of *PNND Japan* and *Religions for Peace Japan* as the first step for further collaboration for the elimination of nuclear weapons.