

To: Mr. Fumio KISHIDA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Request regarding a Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons

Draft resolution L.41 “Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations”, which was submitted to the U.N. General Assembly First Committee by Austria etc. on October 14, requests that the U.N. convene in 2017 a meeting to negotiate a treaty for the legal prohibition of nuclear weapons. This draft resolution is supported by many states, following the growing international public opinion on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons.

The commencement of negotiations on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons coincides with the position of Japan, that it has been pursuing the abolition of nuclear weapons as the only nation having suffered from wartime atomic bombings. It also responds to the wishes of hibakusya, or atomic bombing survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan should support the draft resolution and participate actively in the meeting for the treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons which is to be held next year.

According to media reports, the Government of Japan is not going to support the draft resolution for reasons of security concerns and the growing discord between nuclear-armed states and non-nuclear-armed states. However, there is no doubt that the prohibition of nuclear weapons contributes to world security. The Government of Japan should take the lead in participating in the negotiations for the treaty, having nuclear-armed states engaged in it and trying to find solutions for pending issues through the negotiations. Non-support and non-participation will badly hurt Japan’s moral position as the nation that suffered from atomic bombings.

Reportedly, the vote for the draft resolution L.41 will take place on the morning of October 28th (Japan Time). We request the Government of Japan to make a decision that will not be disgraceful to the future generations.

October 27, 2016

Concerned Parliamentarians

Shoichi KONDO (House of Representatives, DP)

Shinkun HAKU (House of Councilors, DP)

Sohei NIHI (House of Councilors, JCP)

Satoshi INOUE (House of Councilors, JCP)

Taro YAMAMOTO (House of Councilors, LP)

Mizuho FUKUSHIMA (House of Councilors, SDP)

(a voluntary translation by Peace Depot)