



HIROSHIMA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT

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July 26, 2023

Your Excellency,

I am delighted that the first Preparatory Committee for the 11th NPT Review Conference will open at the end of July. I expect that discussions will be held in quest of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

At the previous Review Conference in 2022, as in the one in 2015, the states parties were unable to reach agreement on the draft of the final document. We were truly disappointed at this fact since it revealed retrogression in the process towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

In this environment, the Leaders' Declaration adopted at the G20 Bali Summit, held in November 2022, stipulates: "The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible ... Today's era must not be of war." Moreover, at the G7 Summit held this past May in Hiroshima, the G7 leaders agreed to take practical measures to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. It is truly encouraging that they have agreed to work towards nuclear abolition.

On the other hand, the risk of the use of nuclear weapons in actual warfare is greater than ever before. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is long lasting, and President Putin engages in repetitive nuclear saber-rattling, referring to the "precedent" that the United States had created by using nuclear weapons at the end of World War II. In addition, North Korea continues to develop nuclear weapons and missiles, while some nuclear states are radically increasing their nuclear arsenals.

Amid this extremely challenging situation, Hiroshima Prefecture recently held Hiroshima Round Table 2023, a platform for multilateral discussions in quest of nuclear disarmament. Specialists in international politics and security issues gathered from around the world and held discussions on the theme "Beyond Nuclear Brinkmanship." The discussions have been summarized in the Chair's Statement, which calls for the following three actions: taking measures for nuclear reductions, reviving arms control, and rethinking nuclear deterrence. In addition, the statement describes the preparation of *Hiroshima Watch*, a report card on the efforts of major powers to promote nuclear disarmament. Enclosed herewith please find a copy of the Chair's Statement. It is my sincere hope that you will read it.

I truly hope that you will seriously reflect on the calls from Hiroshima, the first A-bombed city in the world, and take practical actions to build a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Finally, I would like to express my warmest wishes for your personal good health and prosperity and hope that you will visit Hiroshima not too far in the future to see the real state of the impact of atomic bombing. It is my sincere hope that we can work with you towards building a peaceful international society, free of nuclear weapons.

Respectfully yours,

Hidehiko Yuzaki

President of the Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPE)

Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture

Attachment

Hiroshima Round Table 2023 Chair's Statement

Discussions were held on the theme "Beyond Nuclear Brinkmanship" by leading specialists in nuclear issues and international politics, including a former Australian foreign minister and a former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. The discussions have been summarized in the Chair's Statement.

<https://hiroshimaforpeace.com/en/hiroshimaroundtable2023chairsstatement/>

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