

**Statement on the Adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:**

**-- For Achieving the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons Desired by the  
Hibakusha for 72 Years --**

**July 8, 2017**

**Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations  
(Nihon Hidankyo)**

We the survivors of the atomic bombing are overcome with joy by the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations. For 72 years since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and 61 years since Nihon Hidankyo was founded, we have appealed that there should be no more Hibakusha like us. We share our joy with many of the deceased who are only recorded as numbers, with many forerunners who have been involved in the movement and with our supporters both in Japan and internationally.

The Treaty's Preamble, which refers to the "unacceptable suffering of and harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons (hibakusha)", clearly expresses the inhumanity brought about by a single nuclear bomb.

Many people lost their lives instantly without knowing what had happened. The sufferings of the Hibakusha who managed to survive on that day are profound and still continue – death of their loved ones; survivors' guilt; scenes, sounds, voices and smell of that day burned into memory; illnesses of unknown cause; economic hardships; prejudice and discrimination in society and many given-up dreams. They forced the survivors under the mushroom cloud irrespective of their race, nationality, age or sex, to die or live as the Hibakusha.

In the "Message to the World" issued at the founding of Nihon Hidankyo in 1956, we declared "our will to save humanity from its crisis through the lessons learned from our experiences, while at the same time saving ourselves", and to date have continued our work without giving up. Now we can see a path to achieve what we have pledged in our declaration. We the Hibakusha will continue to play the role of the "public conscience" by conveying the inhuman consequences caused by nuclear weapons to the people of the world through the lessons learned from our experiences, and to work to achieve a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons were invented by humans. They were also used by humans. Then it should be humans that can abolish them. Until the day when all nuclear weapons will be abolished, let us continue to work together with our fellow civil society members.