

<Statement>

February 5, 2018

Objection to the United States' 2018 Nuclear Posture Review

On February 2, the Trump administration released the United States' latest Nuclear Posture Review (NPR). We survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Hibakusha), who are filled with anger, declare our objection.

This NPR lays out the possibility of deploying nuclear weapons to retaliate for the use of conventional weapons and also a path toward developing low-yield nuclear weapons. No matter how small a nuclear weapon is, using just one can cause untold damage and runs the risk of inciting a war by provoking retaliation.

Will President Trump create a nuclear hell like that which has ensued since Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

We, the Hibakusha, definitely cannot tolerate North Korea's development of nuclear weapons either, but we fear that this NPR provides North Korea with an excuse for pursuing nuclear development. This only threatens the security of the world and deepens the crisis.

We certainly cannot accept this current NPR.

We must not create more nuclear victims! No one should ever have to experience a hell like the one we did. If a nuclear war breaks out, humanity will be wiped out. The only road that can save humankind from total destruction is the abolition of nuclear weapons. In 2017, 72 years after the end of the war, our appeals as survivors finally succeeded in producing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The call for nuclear abolition is becoming a global trend. This NPR is moving in direct opposition to the current of world opinion.

We demand that President Trump immediately retract this NPR.

Taro Kono, Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, promptly announced that he supports all provisions of the United States' NPR. We couldn't believe our ears. Are those the words of the Foreign Minister of the only country ever attacked by atomic bombs during wartime? At the same time that Kono asserts "we are cooperating with the aim of creating a nuclear-free world," he did not participate in the negotiation meeting for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, opposed this treaty, and accepts the United States' plan to use nuclear weapons. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, this is beyond shameful.

We insist that the Japanese government seek the retraction of the United States' NPR.

Sueichi Kido

Secretary General of Hidankyo

(Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organization)