

January 22, 2024

Statement

On the Occasion of the Third Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

This new year marks the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. With a strong determination to never repeat this tragedy, the Hibakusha have tirelessly worked together with many people in Japan and overseas who wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2021 has given us great joy and hope. With tears of joy to be alive, the Hibakusha have taken a new step toward abolition, the true end of nuclear weapons.

To date, 93 countries and regions have signed the treaty, and 70 countries and regions have ratified it, with approximately half the countries around the world supporting the treaty.

Meanwhile, after the treaty entered into force, the war in Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, continues to this day, and the armed conflict between Islamist militant Hamas and Israel, which began on October 7, 2023, continues to rage mainly in the Palestinian Gaza Strip, giving the world unrest with no end in sight. Amidst these situations, some have referred to the use of nuclear weapons. How many lives will be lost before a ceasefire is reached? The leaders of nuclear weapon states and their allies must have strong awareness, determination, and action toward a ceasefire.

The Second Meeting of State Parties to the TPNW was held from November 27 to December 1, 2023, where progress has made on the details of the 50 items in the Vienna Action Plan adopted at the First Meeting in June 2022. Even if nuclear weapon states do not join the treaty, we can work toward increasing the number of countries that sign and ratify it and toward promoting the understanding that the use of nuclear weapons is inhumane. International cooperation is needed to support not only the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki but also nuclear victims around the world and to remediate the environment. We hope to see further serious discussions as well as a further increase in the number of signatory countries, and we strongly urge the Japanese government to join the treaty.

The Hibakusha, together with our supporters, will continue to proclaim to the Japanese government and the global community the tragic consequences of a world where nuclear weapons are allowed to exist and are used.

Japan Council of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations