

Statement on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing

August 5, 2025

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

Eighty years have passed since Hiroshima and Nagasaki were attacked with atomic bombs, ushering the human race into the nuclear era. The hot summer is particularly hard on our aging bodies. This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the First World Conference against A and H Bombs, where our pioneers, who rose from the ruins first appeared before the public. It was a landmark year that led to the founding of Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations) in 1956.

Today, the number of Hibakusha Certificate holders has fallen below 100,000, with an average age of over 86, and the time remaining for us is running out. Meanwhile, nuclear risk has reached an extreme level, with the “Doomsday Clock” warned by scientists showing the shortest time ever to midnight, at 89 seconds. We are facing an unprecedented crisis.

As seen in the tragic situations in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, the chain of retaliation between Israel and Iran and between India and Pakistan, wars continue unabated, with nuclear powers involved in each case, increasing the risk of a third world war and the use of nuclear weapons. With the nuclear arms race continuing in defiance of international law, there is no end in sight to nuclear proliferation.

Last year, the Nihon Hidankyo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Norwegian Nobel Committee called on the world to listen to the messages we have consistently advocated: “Abolish nuclear weapons,” “Abolish war,” and “Never again create atomic bomb survivors.” This was a warning against complacency in the face of crisis. In other words, it is an indication that the international community has become so desperate for solutions to the crisis that it should rely on the voices of the Hibakusha.

Our top priority now is to get the leaders of the nuclear-armed states, who are turning their backs on us, to move even a millimeter. We must quickly move them toward the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), the only treaty that is truly effective in leading nuclear disarmament to the elimination of nuclear weapons, as well as providing assistance to nuclear victims. The role of the Japanese government, which calls itself “the only country to have suffered atomic bombings in war,” is indispensable in this effort, but it has refused even to participate as an observer in the Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW. Japan’s increased defense spending and demand for the use of nuclear weapons in Japan-U.S. military exercises simulating wartime scenarios only heightens the danger of moving toward “nuclear sharing.” We cannot possibly allow the destruction of the three non-nuclear principles enshrined in our national policy, or a reversal of progress toward a “nuclear-free world.”

The Japanese government has applied “State compensation” to military personnel and their civilian employees only, while abandoning ordinary war victims, under the pretext of the policy of “endurance.” Without correcting this unconstitutional injustice and unfairness, the postwar period cannot be considered over. Furthermore, the United States cannot escape responsibility for its clear violation of international law in the use of nuclear weapons (the atomic bombings). We must also urgently question the serious responsibility of scientists who have deepened the nuclear age and call for the strengthening of research activities for peace.

Our movement has been sustained thanks to the support of many people both in Japan and abroad. We hope that the next generation will continue to build on this movement with even greater ingenuity. We will continue to appeal, as long as we live, that nuclear weapons cannot coexist with humanity.

Citizens of Japan and people of the world, to ensure the path to a peaceful nation and save humanity from its crisis, let us work together for a human society, in a world free of nuclear weapons and of wars.