

Open-ended Working Group to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations
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**Surviving Victims of the Atomic Bombings Will Devote Our Lives
to Achieve a Nuclear Free World**

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(One year old at the time of the bombing in Hiroshima)

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(Nihon Hidankyo)

Mr. Chairman and government representatives who are taking part in this session, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the victims of the atomic bombings.

Seventy-one years ago, on August 6 and 9, 1945, the two bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought about the worst catastrophe in the history of humanity. The blast, heat ray, and radiation killed and wounded tens of thousands of people in an instant, and devastated these two cities. Those who managed to survive were doomed to live a life in hell. The indelible physical and psychological injuries deprived them of human dignity both in life and death, and many survivors are still going through this ordeal today, even 70 years after the bombings.

When learning this, people in Japan as well as in many other countries often ask us if we have ever thought of retaliation. The answer is “no.” Our life experience tells us that no one and nowhere in the world should fall victim to nuclear weapons.

The Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held respectively in Norway, Mexico and Austria, concluded that the impact of a nuclear weapon detonation, irrespective of the cause, would not be constrained by national borders, and, moreover, that no state or international body could address the emergency or consequences caused by a nuclear weapon detonation. It also stated that not using nuclear weapons is in the interest of all of humanity and the only assurance against the risk of such event is the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

This is in complete accordance with the heartfelt desire of the victims of the atomic bombings. This working group is tasked with submitting the United Nations General Assembly an advisory opinion on concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions, and norms that will be needed to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. I sincerely hope that the group will fully live up to its task, which will in turn drive forward the progress in multilateral

nuclear disarmament negotiations. We surviving atomic bomb victims, as part of civil society, vow to dedicate our lives to this noble effort.

Thank you.