

# We Express Our Warmest Welcome to the Adoption of Nuclear Weapons Convention

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On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the 122 nations in the United Nations adopted the Nuclear Weapons Convention. We would like to express our warmest welcome to the adoption of the Nuclear Weapons Convention and celebrate this day which will be recorded in human history, together with the atomic bomb survivors all over the country, who vow from the bottom of their heart “to save themselves and save all humans from crisis through their experiences,” and who have been appealing to public opinion that “there should be no more Hibakusha again,” and all the people on earth who aim to eliminate nuclear weapons through grass-roots movements, such as collecting signatures and participating in peace marches.

The world-wide movements to abolish nuclear weapons have been done in the conferences of the NPT, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for so long. The NPT, which allows only 5 nations including the US to possess nuclear weapons and stop its proliferation in other nations, has an important article that the 5 nations have to eliminate nuclear weapons at some point. We have been demanding the fulfillment of this promise, and depending on the article, we have been asking them to abolish nuclear weapons. However, the nuclear powers never showed us the responsible attitude to specify an end date for eliminating nuclear weapons, even though they pretended to eliminate them because of overwhelming international public opinion.

After all, we set guidelines and objectives for the actions “to create a treaty to ban nuclear weapons without the consent of the 5 nations,” “to declare that nuclear weapons are ‘the weapons of evil’ and illegal by appealing to the inhumanity of the weapons, and prohibit it legally by creating a new treaty” mainly after 2015. The Nuclear Weapons Convention was born for the first time in history through sincere and faithful discussions with representatives of more than 130 nations, which are all equal and even, including citizens’ NGOs as official members for the first time in history of the United Nations, pushing aside the pressures of the superpowers — the nuclear powers.

The treaty specified a fundamental point that nuclear weapons are definitely unacceptable from the perspective of inhumanity. The treaty declared that the weapons are illegal based on international law and indicated that this would be a great contribution for total elimination of nuclear weapons. The articles of this treaty refer to the sufferings of the victims of atomic bombing and nuclear testing, and the power of the citizens all over the world, and especially expresses that these should be taken into consideration. The developing, the testing, the production, the transfer, the disposition, and even the threat of use were specially established as prohibited matters, to say nothing of the use. The contracting states are also obligated to relieve and aid those who suffer from the effects of nuclear weapons or testing, and to repair the environment contaminated by radioactive material.

The Nuclear Deterrent Theory, which is based on threat and intimidation, would only bring the world a chain of violence and an intensification of the tensions of international society. History has showed that that is the road to ruin for human-beings. The real desired future will come true when all the nations and the all the citizens establish a new world order without nuclear weapons, based on this faith and justice. We are sure that the adoption of the Nuclear Weapons

Convention would be an important step for realizing it.

The Nuclear Weapons Convention adopted this time would become effective after the contracting states sign and ratify it. Above all, we demand that the Japanese government sign and ratify it, and we hope that the Japanese government would be the very government to show leadership for the world without any nuclear disaster.

We will make further efforts to spread the campaign for “The International Petition for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by the Hibakusha, the Survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” than ever, and we aim for the day of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.