

Global Article 9 Conference Statement towards the NPT PrepCom

Makuhari, Tokyo, May 6, 2008

Article 9 of Japan's Constitution was born out of the excruciating human agony and devastating destruction brought about by the nuclear bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Following the nuclear attacks on two of its cities, Japan renounced war and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes and prohibited the maintenance of armed forces and other war potential. Thus, the spirit of Article 9 reflects the appeal of hibakushas (the A-bomb survivors) calling for "No more Hibakushas, No more Hiroshima/Nagasaki, No more Wars" and rejects dependence on nuclear weapons in security policies and demands that all nuclear weapons be outlawed and abolished.

So far, however, the international debate has prioritized non-proliferation over nuclear abolition and no significant steps towards disarmament have taken place. Moreover, nuclear weapon states have not carried out their obligations under Article 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and have been modernizing and developing new nuclear weapons and systems for their delivery. Nuclear weapon states parties to the NPT must revive the process of disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons by beginning immediate negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

We, the under-signed participants and supporters of the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War, reiterate the unlawfulness and immorality of nuclear weapons; express our strong support and solidarity to Abolition 2000 that held its Annual General Meeting on May 3; and make the following recommendations while the second Preparatory Committee meeting for the NPT 2010 Review Conference is taking place in Geneva.

We urge all governments to:

- 1) move beyond nuclear threats and preparation for nuclear wars, stop invoking the unstable security environment to justify their refusal to implement the NPT and engage constructively towards enhancing international security without relying on nuclear weapons;
- 2) respect their obligations under the 1970 NPT and the 1996 ICJ advisory opinion to "pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control," and implement their "unequivocal undertaking" as set forth in the 13 agreed practical steps of the 2000 NPT Review Conference Final Document;
- 3) support the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention produced by civil society and introduced to the UN as a basis for completing negotiations by 2010 on a treaty for the elimination of nuclear weapons;
- 4) immediately cease all programs for research, design, development and production of nuclear weapons and missile defense programs invoked to justify overwhelming military budgets, and reallocate these resources to cleaning up the toxic legacy of the nuclear age and provide for health, education and sustainable development, as well as develop non-military mechanisms to achieve and maintain national and global security;
- 5) support immediate negotiations for a Missile Ban Treaty and a ban on weapons in space;
- 6) promote the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, especially in the Middle East and Northeast Asia, as a step towards the speedy, universal and verifiable abolition of nuclear weapons and as a way to avert possible nuclear crises, while at the same time fostering a basis for dialogue and peaceful solutions;
- 7) promote peace and disarmament education and ensure that the appeals and voices of sufferings of hibakushas are passed on to present and future generations;
- 8) institute a ban on uranium mining, support the establishment of an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and join with other governments immediately to fund the initiative and provide technological assistance, as an alternative to nuclear energy, thus avoiding the risk of proliferation and the deadly environmental and health consequences of nuclear power generation;
- 9) recognize the major role played by civil society in raising awareness and making proposals for the abolition of nuclear weapons as a step towards general and complete disarmament; support NGOs financially and press for NGO attendance and participation at all multilateral disarmament conferences and meetings.

Individuals:

Mairead Maguire, Nobel Peace laureate, N.Ireland

Japan Organizing Committee of the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War:

Ikeda Kayoko [Translator/Co-Chair, Japan Organizing Committee of the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War]

Niikura Osamu [Japanese Lawyers International Solidarity Association/Co-Chair, Japan Organizing Committee of the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War]

Yoshioka Tatsuya [Peace Boat/GPPAC Northeast Asia/Co-Chair, Japan Organizing Committee of the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War]

GPPAC International Steering Group:

Fadi Abi-Allam [Permanent Peace Movement/GPPAC Middle East and North Africa]

Emmanuel Bombande [West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)/GPPAC West Africa]

Charles Danbach [Alliance for Peacebuilding/GPPAC USA]

Tina Gogueliani [International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN)/GPPAC South Caucasus]

Syed Rifaat Hussain [Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS)/ GPPAC South Asia]

Raya Kadyrova [Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI)/GPPAC Central Asia]

Andre Kamenshikov [Nonviolence International/GPPAC Western Commonwealth of Independent States and Northern Caucasus]

Kwezi Mngqibisa [African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)/GPPAC Southern Africa]

Florence Mpaayei [Nairobi Peace Initiative-Africa/GPPAC Central and East Africa]

Augusto Miclat [Initiatives for International Dialogue/GPPAC Southeast Asia]

Tatjana Popovic [Nansen Dialogue Network in the Balkans/GPPAC Balkans]

Rena Ramkay [Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC)/GPPAC Canada]

Andres Serbin [Regional Coordination for Economic and Social Research (CRIES)/ GPPAC Latin America and the Caribbean]

Paul van Tongeren [European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP)/GPPAC Global Secretariat]

Mosese Waqa [Pacific People Building Peace/GPPAC Pacific]

Akibayashi Kozue [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Kyoto]

Ban Zhongyi [Film maker]

Christophe Barbey [APRED]

Chen Jau-hwa [Peacetime Foundation of Taiwan]

Aidan Delgado [Iraq Veterans Against the War]

John Devaraj [Bornfree Art School]
Frederic Durand [International Peace Bureau]
Corazon Fabros [International Network for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases]
Joseph Gerson [American Friends Service Committee]
Verena Graf [International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples]
Hagio Izuko [YWCA]
Lennox Hinds [Professor]
Filo Hirota [Catholic Council for Peace and Justice, Japan]
Hoshikawa Jun [Greenpeace Japan]
Mario Joseph [Lawyer]
Jung Gyung-lan [Women Making Peace]
Augustin Kemadjou [Association des Avocats Africains Antillais et Autres de France]
Kimiko Takada [New Japan Women's Association]
Kwon Heok Tae [Sungkonghoe University, Korea]
Lee Junkyu [Peace Network]
Lee Suk-tae [Lawyers for a Democratic Society]
Lim Jae-sung [World without War]
Nicola Liscutin [Birkbeck College, University of London]
Maeda Akira [Tokyo Sokei University]
Ramu Manivannan [University of Madras, India/Nonviolent Peaceforce]
Kathy Matsui [Seisen University]
El Hadj Mbodj [Constitutional Lawyer]
Motofumi Asai [Hiroshima Peace Institute]
Nishihara Mikaho [YWCA]
Nakamura Keiko [Peace Depot Japan]
Oiwa Keibo [Meiji Gakuin University]
Betty Reardon [International Consultant on Peace Education]
Paul Saoke [Physicians for Social Responsibility – Kenya]
Alice Slater [Nuclear Age Peace Foundation]
Kathleen Sullivan [Education Consultant, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs]
Takasato Suzuyo [Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence]
Taniyama Hiroshi [Japan International Volunteer Center]

Auki Tituaña [Mayor of Cotacachi, Ecuador]

Kasim Turki [Rebuild Youth Group, Iraq]

Carlos Vargas [International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms]

Hans von Sponeck [Former UN Assistant Secretary General & UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq]

Cora Weiss [Hague Appeal for Peace]

Ellen Woodsworth [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Canada]

Ann Wright [Retired US Army Colonel and Diplomat]

Yoshida Kazuto [Nagasaki A-bomb Survivor]

Organizations:

Collectif des Juristes Progressistes Haitiens (CJPH)

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict International Steering Group

Japan Council against A&H Bombs (Japan Gensuikyo)

Peace Boat

Physicians for Social Responsibility - Kenya