Nagasaki Declaration

As our responsibility towards the peace and environment of the future generations, we call for negotiations towards a treaty banning nuclear weapons to begin immediately.

We, PEACE&GREEN BOAT 2016, docked in Nagasaki seventy-one years after the atomic bombing of the city. Through a variety of programmes to consider peace and the environment, participants from Korea, Japan and elsewhere together confirmed the necessity to work together for coexistence as neighbours.

We mourn the many lives lost as a result of the atomic bombings, including those from the Korean Peninsula. Furthermore, we express our deep respect for the Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) from both Japan and Korea who have continued to appeal for nuclear weapons abolition and peace, despite their great suffering.

We believe that Barack Obama's visit to the atomic bombed city of Hiroshima this year, the first such visit by a sitting United States President and the focus of the world's attention, was a result of the dedicated efforts of the Hibakusha over many years.

We also reaffirm the significance of the war-renouncing Japanese peace constitution, as a tool to prevent such a tragedy from ever being repeated.

It is our responsibility to realize a world free of nuclear weapons for the next generation. When we reflect upon the inhumane and catastrophic experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the irreversible environmental and human damage caused by nuclear testing around the world, we are reminded that assuring that nuclear weapons will never again be used - whether intentionally or accidentally – is one of the most urgent challenges facing human society.

Yet, it is of great concern that there is now an arms race progressing in Asia, which involves nuclear weapons including the DPRK nuclear issue.

Our world's environment is also at great risk through the promotion of nuclear energy by the governments of both Japan and Korea, despite the serious Fukushima nuclear disaster. Operation of nuclear power plants creates plutonium, a substance that was also used in the bomb dropped on Nagasaki. We need to face the fact that this situation has the risk of leading to destruction beyond prediction.

However, there are now greatly encouraging developments internationally. At the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) meetings held at the UN in Geneva, a great number of countries are voicing their support for the creation of a treaty banning nuclear weapons. We hope that the OEWG will adopt recommendations clearly expressing support for the commencement of negotiations for such a treaty, and that this will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly.

We call upon all countries of the world to proactively participate in negotiations towards a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The Japanese and Korean governments hold a particularly important responsibility. Both governments have been reluctant on this issue, due to their dependence on nuclear deterrence – a policy based on fear. We believe that now is the time to broadly shift this policy, and participate in negotiations towards a treaty banning nuclear weapons. Progress in such negotiations would also contribute to creating a nuclear-weapons free zone in Northeast Asia.

Nagasaki must remain as the last place where the atomic bomb was dropped. We pledge to spare no effort towards the establishment of an international legal norm that nuclear weapons are inhumane and must never be used, and to open the next page in humanity's history.

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