

**Peace Boat Statement at the Common Agenda consultation 3:
"Frameworks for a peaceful world – promoting peace, international law and digital cooperation"**

*Delivered by Watanabe Rika
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As we discuss frameworks for a peaceful world, let me firstly express my deep concern about the extremely heightened tensions around Ukraine. Peace Boat joins many other civil society organizations in calling on all parties concerned to stop military activities and provocative speeches that risk escalation potentially even into a nuclear disaster.

As Our Common Agenda pointed out, the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) of last year was an extraordinary achievement, based on the recognition of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. We would like to ask all UN Member States how they are working for the universalization and full implementation of the treaty. We look forward to the upcoming first Meeting of States Parties to the treaty, particularly important in the current international security context, along with the 10th NPT Review Conference.

Here we would like to emphasize the importance of assistance to victims of nuclear weapons and remediation of the environment contaminated by nuclear testing and related activities. The UN should facilitate discussions toward creating a mechanism of international cooperation for that purpose. In the process, survivors and communities affected by nuclear weapons must be fully represented, and their rights and dignity protected. We would like to draw your attention to the World Nuclear Survivors Forum that Peace Boat held last December in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and encourage you to listen to the survivors' voices in the archived videos.

The Hibakusha, survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki of 1945, have been courageously and tirelessly giving their testimonies in solidarity with many people affected in various other stages of the nuclear chain, including Indigenous people. They are calling for "No More Hibakusha."

States need to reduce their military budget and instead invest in prevention and peacebuilding. This is all the more crucial as the world suffers the severe impacts of the pandemic and ever-growing natural disasters. Money for armaments should be diverted to public health and climate actions. We urge Member States to agree to set disarmament as a major and essential agenda to achieve the SDGs and global peace.

Thank you very much.