



His Excellency Fumio Kishida
Prime Minister of Japan

4 October 2021

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), I write to extend our sincere congratulations to you on your election as Prime Minister of Japan. Please accept our best wishes and hopes for your success for the duration of your term as leader of the government.

Renewed global leadership is acutely needed. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has taught us that greater international cooperation to address the major threats faced by humanity has never been more urgent. Paramount among these threats is the threat of nuclear war.

ICAN commends you for your longstanding commitment to nuclear disarmament throughout your career, and we acknowledge that you have emphasised that this issue is of particular personal importance for you. Indeed, we celebrate the efforts you made as Foreign Minister to support a humanitarian-based approach to nuclear disarmament through Japan's adherence to the *Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons* at the United Nations General Assembly on 21 October 2013, which noted, "It is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances. . . . The only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again is through their total elimination."

The 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force earlier this year, codifying the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law and establishing the first multilateral framework for the total elimination of nuclear-weapon programmes. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, has hailed it as a "major step" towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

As a representative and citizen of Hiroshima, you have been outspoken in recognising and deploring the catastrophic humanitarian impact of any use of nuclear weapons. We look forward to your continued leadership to spread this message worldwide. A personal commitment, such as yours, is integral to universalizing a norm against nuclear weapons.

ICAN has no doubt that we can rely on Japan's constructive contributions both to the upcoming Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as well as the First Meeting of States Parties of TPNW (MSP), the latter of which will take place on 22-24 March 2022.



As you know, the first MSP is open for all countries, including non-signatories. I hope that you and I will have the opportunity to meet in person during this historic event. In the meantime, I encourage you to continue to deepen your engagement with ICAN's Partner Organisations in Japan, and, of course, the hibakusha who light the way for the global movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

You can always rely on ICAN to work with you and your government to achieve a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

We look forward to your leadership.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Fihn".

Beatrice Fihn