If Governments Agree That Nuclear Weapons Should Never Be Used,
We Can Achieve Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

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(A-bombed at 2.3km from Ground Zero of Hiroshima at 16 months old)

Honorable Chairperson,
Delegates attending this Open-Ended Working Group session,
Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak before you today, representing
the Hibakusha, the A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The two atomic bombs dropped on August 6th and 9th 1945 by the US forces totally
destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in an instant, and killed and wounded hundreds of
thousands of people without discrimination. With corpses charred black, bodies with their
skins peeled off and with lines of people tottering in silence, a hell on earth emerged. Those
who narrowly survived soon collapsed one after another. For more than 70 years since then
we have struggled to live on, afflicted by the delayed effects and by anxiety about the possible
effects of radiation on our children and grandchildren. Never again do we want such
tragedies to be repeated.

After 11 years of silence following the A-bomb suffering, Hibakusha assembled in Nagasaki
in August 1956 and founded Nihon Hidankyo, the Japan Confederation of A- and H-bomb
Sufferers Organizations. There we pledged that we would work to “save humanity from its
危机 through the lessons learned from our experiences, while at the same time saving
ourselves”. Since then we have continued appealing to the world that “there should never be
another Hibakusha.” This is the cry of our soul.

Wars and conflicts are still going on in the world, and many lives of innocent people are lost.
Nuclear weapons are being used to threaten others. There are also moves to develop new
nuclear weapons. The destructive power of existing nuclear weapons, which number well
over 10 thousand, amounts to that of tens of thousands of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs
combined. Nuclear weapons are the “weapons of the devil”. They could wipe out the human
race and all other creatures. They could destroy the environment and turn the globe into a
dead planet. Through the international petition we have just launched, we, the Hibakusha,
call on all State Governments to conclude a treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons.
This demand is neither absurd nor unrealistic.

On April 10 and 11, the G7 Foreign Ministerial Meeting was held in the A-bombed city of Hiroshima. The “Hiroshima Declaration” issued by the foreign ministers of the 7 states, including 3 nuclear weapon states and 4 states relying on the U.S. nuclear umbrella, was concluded with the following sentence: “We share the deep desire of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that nuclear weapons never be used again.”

If they really share our deep desire that nuclear weapons should never be used, banning and eliminating them should not be difficult. Invoking the representatives of these G7 countries, let us achieve an international treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons, and march forward to a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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