Please forgive me, Mr Chairman if I don't speak the formal speak I've heard from the previous speakers. I'm not an expert, nor a politician, just an ordinary citizen, a street-woman, if I may say so. Which means I'm a bit intimidated.

They were also ordinary people who founded, forty years ago, with the help of a distinguished scientist, Théodore Monod and a woman pacifist, Solange Fernex, the association which I represent on this occasion. That is the "Maison de Vigilance" from France. "Maison" because we bought, through crowd-funding, a little house located in Tavernu, in the outskirts of Paris, where used to be located the headquarters or the French nuclear armed forces. "Vigilance" we regularly "watched" the entrance of the base with sit-ins and fasts demanding the abolition of nuclear arms.

Today the center of command has been re-incorporated into the huge building of the Ministry of Defense so we decided to move our own headquarters to Paris. Every month we observe a silent wake calling for abolition on the sidewalk in front of the Ministry. And every year, from August 5 to 9, we organize what we call a "fast-action" in order to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since two years this fast takes place on the Place de la République, famous for another citizens' happening: the "Nuits debout".

Allow me to speak in a more personal way. These days I have been overtaken by two, more or less contrradictory, sentiments. The first, already ancient but which is still with me, is a feeling of perplexity. The second is a feeling of marvel, of a new hope.

My perplexity is due to the enormous gap I discovered between the haughtiness and the disdain with which we are usually treated by the high army- and statesmen who pass in front us - "Go tell your story to the Iranians" and "It's you we are defending, my dear lady" - and my own gradually growing awareness of the monstrous consequences that would be caused by a single bomb and thus, the delusion of the deterrent-doctrine. Perplexity also, incredulity nearly, facing the silence of the mainstream media on this topic and the total absence of a public debate in France, making nuclear arms look like a taboo. Not to mention my subsequent scepticism concerning the procedures of the United Nations and the Security council. Being an admirer of the founding Charter of this body, I found out that often, too often, initiatives meant to take forward a just and real peace between peoples have been blocked by the actions of the five super-powers. Which happen to be exactly the five official nuclear powers. I have even wondered whether these powers don't think that it's in their interest not to have peace.

Now let me mention my reasons for marvelling and hope.
When I heard, when we heard, that last autumn, at the General Assembly of the U.N., 138 delegations of states had voted in favour of the creation of a working group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negociations, our hearts lept! We told each other: "At last, the peoples of the world have taken to the sky". The people of the world, represented by small countries, the poor countries. But also by the NGO's of some rich countries. Those NGO's with whom the nuclear states refuse to negociate because they are aware that most of them represent George Orwell's "common decency" of the ordinary man.

So, being one of these NGO's we say: "By all means, let's negociate together with the transparency we all long for. By putting all our stakes on the table, all the real motivations and in acceptance, like the Mexican delegations proposed, of our polarities.".

- We congratulate the 138 non-nuclear states for their courage to listen to the voices of their populations and their parliaments and we encourage them to rise up to their responsibilities in moving forward towards a ban treaty.
- We invite the countries which have alliances with nuclear states to take in account not only the positions of the non-nuclear states but also to listen to the growing cries of their own people and especially, like in Italy, in Norway and in the Netherlands, to their own parliaments.
- We urge the nuclear states to renounce the illusion of building their security on the sacrifice of the rest of the world. As we claimed on the streets during the Cop-21 conference ; "Our lives are more precious than your profits."

- Finally, I thank the organizers of this meeting, UNO, the presidency, ICAN and Reaching Critical Will. I really think we are heading in the right direction. Facing the mortal dynamic of the nuclear escalation in which are engaged the dominating powers of the world, we must and can oppose the dynamic of the peoples who yearn for peace.

We, at least, of the Maison de Vigilance, are convinced of one thing : States, governments and delegations will change and pass by : civil society, and public opinion stay and gain in strength every day.