Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to reinforce the recommendations presented by civil society during this session today.

We strongly encourage you to overcome the disarmament impasse during this Review cycle, so we can collectively avoid any weakening of the NPT regime. This beginning of the 2015 Review Cycle is a new opportunity to break from past timidity and we urge states to explicitly commit to concerted time-bound action that contributes to a global ban on nuclear weapons.

Towards this end, we call on States in full compliance with their treaty obligations to expend all necessary political capital, economic leverage and any other peaceful means of persuasion to demand that states begin “negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament.” Nuclear disarmament must constitute a foreign policy priority for all nations.

Starting negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention or framework does not alleviate the urgent need for measures and steps which can be achieved immediately or in the medium term, including ratification and Entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, stockpile reductions by all nuclear-weapons-possessing States, taking all nuclear forces off high operational readiness (high alert and launch-on-warning), banning the production of fissile materials, lowering the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, establishing additional nuclear-weapon-free zones- including the Middle East and NorthEast Asia, building verification capacities, implementing confidence-building measures and strengthening the legal norm against any use of nuclear weapons.

We call on the nuclear weapons states to eliminate nuclear weapons modernization programs. We recommend that funds be shifted away from nuclear weapon modernisation to, at a minimum, achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We call on the nuclear weapons states to de-alert and de-couple their nuclear weapons from delivery systems.

We call on the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon to convene a meeting, as early as 2014, for the creation of a roadmap for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. In this way he will honour the 33 heads of state from Latin American and the Caribbean who have expressed their support for such a high-level conference to set forth a programme, in stages, for the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified timeframe. The 2015 NPT Review Conference will then become the starting point for the realization of this roadmap meeting and the place to gain the consensus to conclude a Nuclear Weapons Convention. We trust that the 2015 NPT Review Conference will clearly show how and in what timeframe a world without nuclear weapons will be realized.

We call on all states to recognize that military action is not an effective non-proliferation policy, it is counter to that- it is an incentive to proliferate.
This review cycle should be used to analyse the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan and to build upon it in order to achieve the legally-binding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations set out in the NPT. The 2010 Action Plan should be used as the basis for negotiating concrete time-bound commitments for further action—the final document of the 2015 Review Conference should not be limited to reaffirming the commitments made in 2000 and 2010 but must also include measures for further progress. We hope that you will accept the invitation of the Mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui, to hold the next Review Conference in that city.

We call for all states parties to submit regular reports on their activities to implement the treaty, as well as the 2010 NPT Action Plan.

We urge all states to reaffirm the need to observe international humanitarian law and to seize any and all opportunities presented to you, including the recently announced Conference scheduled in Norway in early 2013, to recognize the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons.

If one or two countries continue to block progress at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) – as they have done for 16 years now - then governments have an obligation to explore and empower other for a to fulfil negotiating responsibilities. You can always swing it back into the CD if it becomes unblocked.

We call on nuclear weapon states, and states covered by ‘nuclear umbrellas’ or involved in nuclear sharing arrangements, to issue declaratory policies rejecting nuclear deterrence. To that end, countries under nuclear umbrella agreements should declare their security is not reliant on nuclear weapons.

We call on NATO countries to seize the opportunity presented by the coming Chicago Summit and the adoption of an Alliance Defence and Deterrence Posture Review to end the anachronistic practice of nuclear sharing, and remove U.S. weapons from five European countries. We hope to celebrate a return to full, unquestioned compliance with all treaty obligations in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Turkey and The Netherlands soon.

We demand states refrain from engaging in nuclear trade, of any type, with countries not party to the NPT.

We call on states to ensure that workers in Uranium mines and mills are fully informed as to the consequences of their work, and we urge governments to require industries to provide protective equipment to these workers to mitigate, in some small way, the risks they face.

We insist that states clean up the radioactive legacy at nuclear weapons development, production and testing facilities around the world. We demand that human rights obligations towards affected populations are met fully. To that end we encourage states to examine and implement recommendations that will be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2012 by Special Rapporteur on the human rights obligations related to environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Calin Georgescu.

We urge states to close down sites that continue to produce materials related to the ongoing development, testing, and deployment of nuclear weapons and fissile materials. Ongoing monitoring of affected sites and their surrounding communities should take place so that damage to populations,
water supplies and agricultural efforts from leaks or radioactive contamination entering the atmosphere around such facilities can be mitigated to the best extent possible.

We very much want to celebrate, with you, a nuclear-weapon-free world in our lifetimes. To that end, we urge you to heed the call made by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, in August 2010 in Hiroshima, who said “…let us pledge to join together on the 75th anniversary of the bombing -with the Hibakusha- to celebrate the end of nuclear weapons.”

We urge you to take the time to listen to the stories atom bomb survivors, they are here, they are ready and willing to share their heartbreak, their humanity and their hope with you.

We recommend that you promote and support the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb exhibitions, you can see this now here in the VIC, and it will also be in Vienna City Hall this week.

As you have heard repeatedly, we are calling on all States Parties to acknowledge and act on their responsibility to commence work on a global, legal ban on the development, possession, and use of nuclear weapons without further delay. The misguided view that work on nuclear disarmament can only be conducted in a strictly sequential manner must give way to parallel processes that advance various agendas, including laying the groundwork for the end goal itself. You have heard this from the Mayor of Nagasaki, from Parliamentarians, from atomic bomb survivors, and from a broad spectrum of civil society. This is your responsibility. It is time to act on it.