Chairpersons, government representatives, fellow NGO workers,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak before you on behalf of the Hibakusha, the A-bomb victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I am Fujimori Toshiki of Nihon Hidankyo, the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, which has long worked for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

I was a year and 4 months old baby on August 6, 1945 when the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. As I was sick on that day, my mother was taking me on her back to the hospital and walking along the riverbank 2.3 kilometers from ground zero. Immediately after the explosion, we were blown off down the dry riverbed. Fortunately, we were shielded by a two-story house and escaped from the direct heat rays. But I sustained a head injury, which later festered. My entire head was wrapped in bandages, leaving my eyes, nose and mouth only. People believed that I would die soon. But fortunately I survived this life-or-death crisis, and now I stand before you filled with deep emotion.

My family consisted of 12 members: Grandfather, Father, Mother and 9 brothers and sisters. Excluding 4 children who had been evacuated away from Hiroshima, the other 8 members of my family were all affected by the A-bombing. My 4th sister, who was in the first year of a girls high school, had been mobilized together with her schoolmates to work in the building evacuation work near the ground zero area. After the bombing, my parents and other sisters looked for her for many days in the area, but her remains were nowhere to be found. Among the students who were mobilized from different places to work inside Hiroshima City on that morning, more than 6000 students were killed. Their hope for the future was crushed, their remains were unaccounted for and they were not allowed to die as humans. The mortification and bitterness of their deaths continue to denounce the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. By the end of that year, a total of 210,000 people were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It is simply impossible to fully describe what these atomic bombs have brought to human beings.
The atomic bomb not only indiscriminately killed men and women, young and old, without distinguishing between combatants and non-combatants, but they were weapons of the devil, which did not allow the survivors to live free from diseases. They murdered them slowly. My third sister, who was in the 4th year of a girls high school at that time, lost her second son, a second generation Hibakusha, from acute leukemia. And she herself died at the young age of 56 of a liver disease common among the Hibakusha. Of the 8 family members who were in Hiroshima on that day, only my second sister and myself are still alive. My grandfather, father, mother and two sisters all died of cancer, presumably caused by the exposure to the atomic bomb. Still, 68 years later, many surviving Hibakusha are suffering from the aftereffects of radiation.

We the Hibakusha have continued to appeal to the world: “No one, anywhere in the world, should experience the same suffering that we went through”; “No More Hibakusha”; and “Abolish nuclear weapons.” After listening to our testimonies, some people often ask us if we have thought about retaliation. But we never sought “retaliation.” It is intolerable even to think of that hell on earth being recreated by retaliation. We must not allow such a thing to happen again.

I sincerely ask all of you to accept our heartfelt appeal. We urge you to set a clear path leading to the abolition of nuclear weapons in the 2015 NPT Review Conference. This is the desire of the Hibakusha.