Statement by Kimiaki Kawai, Soka Gakkai International (SGI)
Cluster 1
United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination
16 June 2017, New York

Thank you, Mme. President,

I speak on behalf of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global grassroots network of Buddhists and international partner of ICAN.

We believe the convention text can be further strengthened by expanding the frame of reference to highlight its relevance to the lives of all people—whether they live in the NWS or NNWS.

The following are our specific proposals to be considered for incorporation:

The preamble expresses deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use. This could be stated in even broader and more comprehensive terms by including reference to international human rights law, in particular, the right to life.

For example, the following could be added after the paragraph 7:

*Bearing also in mind* the inherent right to life which is declared in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We also feel that the preamble could be strengthened by more explicit acknowledgement of the nonmaterial impacts of nuclear weapons on the human person and human dignity.

To this end, we would like to propose an additional preambular paragraph:

*Noting* that the continued existence of nuclear weapons hampers people’s ability to envisage a hopeful future and thus threatens human dignity, one of the principle objects of protection under international humanitarian law.

In closing, although the Convention is to be adopted by States, it could be argued that it should rightfully be adopted in the name of all humankind.

To this end, we would like to propose a modification to paragraph 10, as follows:

*Determined* to act towards that end, in the name of humanity, for human security and the long-term well-being of all inhabitants of our planet.

Other proposals can been found in a working paper SGI submitted to the Conference, which is available as NGO/WP.25.

I thank you, Mme. President.

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