Thank you, Madam President, and distinguished delegates,

It is a great honor for me to be given this opportunity to speak before you on behalf of a civil society movement in Japan, the only A-bombed country in the world. The Japanese people, including the Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors), are welcoming this conference. Since 1955, we convene every year the World Conference against A and H Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and have called for a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons. We heartily suggest that this conference will achieve a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, and thus taking a major step to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In particular, I would like to emphasize the following points..

First, in view of the founding objective of the United Nations “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”, the prohibition of nuclear weapons is the prime task for the UN to fulfill. The appeal of the Hibakusha that “humans cannot coexist with nuclear weapons” should find its expression in the treaty.

Second, the states possessing nuclear weapons should participate in the treaty. We are in the position that even if they do not do so at the initial stage, a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons should be agreed upon in this conference, and be signed, ratified and put into effect without delay. The Hibakusha are saying that they cannot wait any longer. It is time to take a bold step to achieve the treaty.

Third, we hope that the treaty should have clear formulation that all states, regardless of nuclear or non-nuclear, have an obligation to achieve the prohibition and the elimination of nuclear weapons and to maintain a world without nuclear weapons. In this regard, our government should carry out its responsibility as the A-bombed country

The treaty will outlaw nuclear weapons for the first time in history. We believe that it will be a decisive step towards a world without nuclear weapons. We will do our utmost, together with you, to advance the process from banning nuclear weapons to their complete elimination. Thank you for your attention.