

Joint Appeal from Japanese NGOs for the NPT PrepCom

We, Japanese NGOs working for nuclear weapons abolition, make the following appeal to all NPT States parties and citizens of the world at the timing of the 3rd Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT PrepCom).

1. To participate in the Vienna Conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and to make progress towards outlawing nuclear weapons.

We sincerely welcome the developments that since the 2012 NPT PrepCom, support for the joint statements on the humanitarian aspects of nuclear weapons has continued to spread, and international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons have been held in Norway and Mexico. As citizens of Japan, which experienced the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we are greatly encouraged by the fact that the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, about which we have long appealed, is now becoming a common recognition of the international community. We have high expectations of the 3rd such international conference to be held later this year in Vienna by the Austrian Government. All countries should participate in this conference, and actively contribute to making progress in the debate. We hope that countries participating in this conference will go a step further than deepening understanding of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, and that the debate will progress to concrete actions towards outlawing nuclear weapons.

2. Countries dependent upon nuclear weapons should deeply reduce the role of nuclear weapons, working towards eliminating it.

The call to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in security policies as set forth in the NPT Review Conference Action Plan is a challenge not only for the nuclear-weapon states, but also for all non-nuclear -weapon-states which are dependent upon nuclear weapons. The fact that such countries under the so-called “nuclear umbrella” are insisting upon nuclear deterrence, and even opposing declarations of no first use of nuclear weapons, is of grave concern. We call on such non-nuclear-weapon states to revise this stance, and to deeply reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their security policy, working towards eliminating it. These countries should actively provide information and reports and explanation to the NPT States parties as to how they are reducing their own dependence on nuclear weapons.

3. To cease nuclear energy cooperation with countries not party to the NPT.

The facts that Japan is continuing negotiations in nuclear energy cooperation with India, a nuclear weapon state which is not party to the NPT, and Australia is moving to export uranium also to India, are serious challenges to the NPT regime. While this nuclear energy cooperation is presented on the surface as civil cooperation, it virtually supports nuclear weapons development and exacerbates the nuclear arms race in South Asia. We call on all countries to cease nuclear energy related export plans to states not party to the NPT.

4. Considering international concerns regarding its plutonium stocks, Japan should cease reprocessing activities.

Japan's stockpiling of more than 44 tonnes of separated plutonium within and outside the country is

of great concern for nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear security. The people of Japan, which experienced the atomic bombings, support the country's three non-nuclear principles, and the strong public opinion in Japan will never permit the transfer of this plutonium to be used for nuclear weapons. However Japan's possession of plutonium and reprocessing activities must not be used as an excuse for other countries to call for the same activities or status. We call on Japan not to operate the Rokkasho reprocessing plant, and to withdraw from its nuclear fuel cycle policy, including reprocessing.

Signatories:

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