

Mr Barack Hussein Obama, President of the United States of America
Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan

Calling for Real Action, not Just Words to Achieve a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

We, the Japan Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, express our sincere respect for President Barack Obama's upcoming visit to the a-bombed city of Hiroshima on May 27, at the timing of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit. On this occasion, we call upon the leaders of the United States and Japan to directly face the unprecedented, inhumane experience of the use of nuclear weapons 71 years ago, and to take real action towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. The historic first ever visit of a sitting US President to Hiroshima must not end just with rhetoric. Concretely, we call for the Governments of the United States and Japan to pledge to take the following actions:

1. To clearly acknowledge the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and to depart from national security policies that depend on nuclear weapons.

- Please listen directly to the voices of atomic bomb survivors (*Hibakusha*); acknowledge that the dropping of the atomic bombs, which brought about indiscriminate mass killings, was a historical mistake; that any use of nuclear weapons would cause catastrophic and inhumane consequences; and make clear the firm determination that such a catastrophe must never be repeated.
- The United Nations Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) is an important platform to create universal, legal structures to ban and abolish nuclear weapons. We call on the United States to participate in this OEWG, and on Japan to support the beginning of negotiations for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, and play an active and constructive role in this process.
- We call on the Governments of both the United States and Japan to take action towards building security policies which do not depend on nuclear weapons. Reduction of the role of nuclear weapons in security policy is an important issue spoken of by President Obama in his Prague speech. However, United States policies to this end are still insufficient, and Japan is taking barely any action for this purpose.

2. To strengthen efforts to bring about a nuclear-free and peaceful order in Northeast Asia.

- Regarding the continued DPRK nuclear missile development programme, we urge governments to pursue diplomatic efforts that bring about a nuclear-free and peaceful order in Northeast Asia, including the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone, rather than relying upon sanctions and military threats. Promotion of disarmament dialogue with China is also a priority.

3. To strictly control nuclear materials and bolster measures that prevent nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

- Minimization and strengthened controls of plutonium and highly enriched uranium are urgent issues for global nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear security. It is a serious problem that Japan possesses as much as 48 tonnes of plutonium, the use of which is not accounted for. The Governments of Japan and the United States should cooperate on this issue, including freezing operations of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant in Aomori Prefecture, Japan.

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Japan NGO Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

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