



**Statement to the World Conference against A and H bombs
Hiroshima Day Commemorative Rally**

By
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Excellencies, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, I would like to thank Hiroshi Taka, Co-chair of the Steering Committee, for inviting me to mark with you this solemn occasion – the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, the first use of a nuclear weapon.

I bring to you all the greetings of the Secretary General.

In the words of the Secretary General on his visit in 2010: I came to Hiroshima for world peace.

I come here today to pay my respects to the victims of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The hibakusha are living reminders of the human consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

Yet over the course of seven decades, the hibakusha have become so much more. They have become ambassadors for peace and emissaries for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Ladies and gentlemen

When the Secretary General came to Hiroshima he said we were all on a journey, a journey from ground zero to global zero — a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

Let me tell you, that commitment has not waned. Nuclear disarmament is a priority for the Secretary General and the United Nations.

Nuclear weapons are the most powerful and destructive weapons ever created. It is our duty as an international community to energetically work towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

The world is at a crossroads when it comes to nuclear disarmament. The Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or NPT, was unable to reach a consensus outcome in May this year. The United Nations' disarmament machinery remains gridlocked.

None of this can be an excuse for not moving forward. The international community must demonstrate compromise and dextrous diplomacy to find innovative solutions.

Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty and the commencement of negotiations on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty are two obvious first steps. I urge all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT. Likewise, I call upon all members of the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on an FMCT without delay.

I congratulate the E3+3 and Iran on reaching a historic agreement over Iran's nuclear programme. This is proof that we can achieve diplomatic breakthroughs. We must build on this momentum to address other pressing nuclear non-proliferation issues.

Ladies and gentlemen

When it comes to nuclear disarmament, nuclear-armed States must lead the way. But all nations have a role to play.

For decades, Japan— with the hibakusha and the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – has played a leading role in educating the world about the benefits of disarmament. I believe that every country can emulate Japan in this mission. We all have a part to play in teaching succeeding generations to remember the dangers of nuclear weapons.

As the Secretary-General said five years ago, the enduring lesson of Hiroshima is that a world free of nuclear weapons is our common responsibility.

70 years after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let us embrace this responsibility.

No more Hiroshimas. No more Nagasakis.

Thank you.