

Youth Appeal



ican France
Campagne **Internationale** pour abolir les armes nucléaires

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

(01) We are grateful and honored to have the opportunity to speak with you today. We are honored to stand before you and represent the voices of youth from all around the world - China, Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Viet Nam, and the United States of America. We have come together, beyond our borders, to fight for our future.

(2) We, as global citizens, know that it is up to our generation to rise up and come together to put an end to the nuclear age. We are here because nuclear weapons continue to pose a major threat to our world, a threat that transcends our borders. Nuclear weapons are indiscriminate. They adversely impact indigenous communities, and destroy the lives of young children and women.

Distinguished Delegates,

(3) We are here because our leaders have failed. They have failed to make significant progress towards complete nuclear disarmament. Political will is lacking amongst the nuclear weapon states and their allies.

(4) Time and time again, these states continue to undermine international obligations or threaten to leave the negotiation table all together. They have failed to implement domestic policies that prohibit the production, deployment and use of nuclear weapons. Our leaders, those who serve us, have a duty to ensure our protection and safety.

Distinguished Delegates,

(5) Nuclear weapons remain a vast humanitarian peril. The possibility of nuclear detonations remain, whether caused by accident, miscalculation, or intention. A campaign of disinformation could escalate conflicts, which could lead to a nuclear war. The disastrous humanitarian, climate and ecological consequences would be tragic, immediately and over the long term. Scientists have warned us that even in a limited nuclear exchange, the ozone layer would be critically impaired, and growing seasons would be shortened, creating a world-wide famine.

(6) Given the level of digitalization of nuclear systems and the pace of the evolving cyber threats, one cannot assume that nuclear systems with digital components could not be compromised by hackers. The need for enhanced protection is more urgent now than ever. We also know that terrorist groups are present in the cyber battlefield. Even if the chances are small, the potential consequences will be devastating - we cannot have command and control systems vulnerable to terrorist groups.

Mr. Chair,

(7) The issues of disarmament remain the same; looking through gender dimensions casts them in a new light and can provide effective and sustainable solutions. We deeply regret the failure of Member States to engage with women in negotiations and high-level discussions on nuclear disarmament. Gender Diversity is essential and should be given priority. States must address gender disparities by increasing the participation of women in negotiations related to international peace and security.

(8) Today, global tensions are rising. States are engaging in a new nuclear arms race. Subsequently, the risk that nuclear weapons will be used - whether intentionally, accidentally, or due to miscalculation - is the highest it's been since the height of the Cold War.

We are also alarmed by the suspension of the INF Treaty, the stagnation of the FMCT negotiations, the continued development of nuclear weapons programs, lack of progress with the Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East, and regional conflicts in the Asia-Pacific.

(9) Governments have a responsibility to ensure the safety and health of our people. Our leaders must not forget about the catastrophic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Our leaders must also not forget about the nuclear tests which have affected the lives of citizens in the Pacific, North Africa, Kazakhstan, and the United States. The survivors and their suffering must never be forgotten, and must serve as a reminder of why we need to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

(10) Our leaders, in this room, let us learn from our past. Let us ensure that history does not repeat itself. We are counting on you to end the nuclear era and engage in a constructive dialogue on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

(11) At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, state parties recognized the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. However, state parties must now rise and condemn those states who continue to threaten our humanity.

(12) Nuclear-weapon states are modernizing their nuclear weapons in violation of their Article VI commitments. They are allocating billions of dollars to their nuclear arsenals. Billions that could be used to help build schools, alleviate poverty and provide quality healthcare to all citizens.

(13) These states have continually failed to implement the decisions adopted in the 1995, 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences; decisions that were adopted by consensus.

(14) The nuclear-weapon states and their allies further contend that the time is not yet ripe for a world free of nuclear weapons.

(15) The behavior of the nuclear-weapon states led to the recognition that a legal gap existed in the NPT architecture. We contend that the TPNW fills that legal gap by prohibiting nuclear weapons.

(16) In essence, the TPNW complements and strengthens existing arms control and disarmament instruments, including the NPT, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty of 1996 and the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963. We applaud the 73 signatories and 23 ratifiers of the TPNW, and call upon all states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the TPNW. You will do so if your commitment to nuclear disarmament is genuine.

Distinguished Delegates,

(17) Our generation is concerned about the future of our world. We believe that the answer does not lie in increased military spending, threats and use of force; but rather, in diplomacy, appropriate state policies, multilateralism, and peace education.

(18) Now is the time to take decisive actions that actually make a difference. It is time to bring hypocrisy and opaque policy formations to an end. NATO-states, in particular, claim to be advocates of human rights but are violating their own standards. They must improve their current policies.

Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

(19) Our future is in your hands. Please wake up! In a rapidly changing world, achieving success in next year's Review Conference is crucial, considering the current state of the NPT. We are calling on those states that have not yet signed or ratified the TPNW to step up! To rise! The time to disarm was YESTERDAY. We are calling on all states to recognize the insurmountable threat of nuclear weapons.

(20) All actors in this arena, including civil society, youth, parliamentarians, academia, and states, must work together to change the world and achieve our goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

(21) Already, throughout the world, young people are supporting the Hibakusha Appeal, a plea by the survivors of the atomic bombings to create a world free of nuclear weapons. They are raising awareness about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

(22) They are also supporting the Atom Project Petition to bring the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

(23) Young people are also engaging in petition drives calling for the early entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

(24) And here, in New York, in this august room, we are holding you, our leaders, accountable for your actions, which impact every single person on our planet.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

(25) We, as the next generation, are united here today to officially remind our leaders of the love and faith we should all have in humanity. We urge responsible leaders to respect our need and our right for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.

List of Supporters:

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