



HIROSHIMA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT

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August 28, 2024

Your Excellency,

It is with great respect that I present to you the "Hiroshima Watch" document.

On August 6th this year, Hiroshima solemnly commemorated the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing. On that tragic day in 1945, Hiroshima became the first city in human history to suffer the devastation of an atomic bomb, resulting in the loss of approximately 140,000 lives by the end of that year. Even now, many Hibakusha continue to endure the lingering effects of this catastrophe.

In the context of increasingly severe global security challenges, including the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the hostilities between Israel and Palestine, the threat of nuclear weapons use has escalated, leading to a growing dependence on nuclear deterrence.

Given these circumstances, Hiroshima Prefecture convenes the "Hiroshima Round Table" annually as a forum for multilateral discussions on nuclear disarmament. This forum brings together distinguished experts and practitioners in the fields of nuclear disarmament and international relations. The outcomes of these discussions have been shared with the international community through chairman's statements and other forms.

At this year's "Hiroshima Round Table," held in July, and attended by experts and practitioners from Japan, Australia, China, South Korea, Russia, and the United States, we took the significant step of introducing the "Hiroshima Watch" in place of the traditional chairman's statement.

The "Hiroshima Watch" serves as a monitoring tool, tracking the progress or lack thereof concerning the obligations and commitments of various countries related to nuclear disarmament, including those under Article VI of the NPT. By offering targeted recommendations, it seeks to encourage concrete actions by each country towards advancing nuclear disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Through the "Hiroshima Watch," we aim to hold nuclear-armed states and those under the nuclear umbrella accountable, urging them to work earnestly towards nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

I earnestly hope that you will give serious consideration to the voices from Hiroshima, the first city to suffer a nuclear attack, and take meaningful steps toward building a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons.

In closing, I wish to extend my warmest regards for your personal health and prosperity. I also hope that you may have the opportunity to visit Hiroshima in the near future to witness firsthand the enduring impact of the atomic bombing. It is my sincere hope that we can collaborate towards achieving a peaceful international society, free of nuclear weapons.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of four characters in cursive Japanese calligraphy: 湯崎英彦 (Yuzaki Hidehiko).

Hidehiko YUZAKI

President of the Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPE)

Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture