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UN OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

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Excellency,

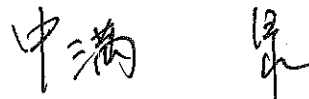
I would like to thank you for your letter of 13 September 2018. It was my honour to represent the Secretary-General for a second time at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony. Once again, I found the experience to be deeply moving and was left with a renewed determination to work towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

I would also like to thank you for the useful discussion during our meeting in Hiroshima.

Engaging youth in the cause of disarmament is a priority for the Secretary-General, who has referred to young people as “the ultimate force for change.” I am therefore pleased to provide a message to the Hiroshima Junior International Forum, which I attach to this letter.

I look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Izumi Nakamitsu
Under-Secretary-General
High Representative
for Disarmament Affairs

Enclosure

His Excellency
Mr. Hidehiko Yuzaki
Governor, Hiroshima Prefecture
Hiroshima

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HIROSHIMA JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Message from Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

First of all, I want to express my deep appreciation to you all. Thank you for your dedication to the vital cause of nuclear disarmament. Ridding the world of a type of weapon that has not been used since the end of the Second World War may seem like an abstract endeavour, but I assure you, the catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons are very real and very frightening.

As with other issues of global importance, like the fight against climate change, your generation will have to deal with today's failure to act long after mine has faded into history. That is why the Secretary-General of the United Nations made the empowerment of young people a key part of his disarmament agenda "Securing Our Common Future," which he launched earlier this year.

The truth of the matter is that we are stuck. 73 years after the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, world leaders have agreed, many times over, on the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

That goal, however, seems as far away as ever. The international security environment is at its most dangerous point since the end of the Cold War. Multilateral disarmament negotiations are in a rut and further bilateral arms control deals between the States with the largest nuclear arsenals are not imminent. At the same time, the stakes are unchanged.

Nuclear weapons pose unacceptable threats to global, national, human and environmental security. Their unparalleled power makes them the only weapon with potentially existential consequences – that ability to destroy all life on our planet.

As the Secretary-General makes clear: ridding the world of nuclear weapons is disarmament to save humanity.

This is where you come in. We need bold ideas, innovative approaches and a fresh perspective. Young people have been a big part of every disarmament breakthrough in recent years, including in nuclear disarmament. When the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, every single member of its staff was younger than 35.

"Securing Our Common Future" sets out the priorities of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. Over the next years, my office and I will be implementing that agenda, but we need your help to make it happen. Only with the help of young people like yourselves can we hope to make the world more safe and secure through the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

I wish you the best of luck in your endeavours and remind you that in the pursuit of our shared goal you have a friend in the United Nations.