

# Result of Participation in the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference

## 1. Summary and Purpose

The Governor participated in the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from July 21 to 27. At this session, he shared initiatives by Hiroshima Prefecture and the Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPE) and advocated for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Prefectural Assembly also participated in the Preparatory Committee and side events organized by the prefecture.

## 2. Current Situation and Background

The Second Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference was held from July 22, 2024 to August 2, 2024. Amidst the ongoing severe international situation surrounding nuclear weapons, including the armed conflict between Israel and Palestine, the growing threat of the use of nuclear weapons in Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and tensions between countries with nuclear weapons, the discussions to be held during the three Preparatory Committees scheduled between 2023 and 2025 will be crucial to the success of the Review Conference.

## 3. Summary

At the venue of the Preparatory Committee, two side events and a briefing session for UN Ambassadors in Geneva and representatives of governments of other countries were held. Additionally, a banner exhibition introducing the initiatives of Hiroshima Prefecture and HOPE was conducted. Furthermore, the Governor met directly with key stakeholders of the Preparatory Committee to seek their support for the prefecture's initiatives.

[Dates and other information]

(Dates are in local time)

Date	Event	Location
Monday, July 22	- Banner exhibition (until July 26) - Explanation of the banner exhibition to Mr. Takamura, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs	Geneva
Tuesday, July 23	- Meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ichikawa (Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament) - Meeting with Ambassador Turner (Ambassador and the U.S. Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament) - Meeting with Chair Rakhmetullin of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference - Briefing session for government officials	
Wednesday, July 24	- Side event organized by Hiroshima Prefecture - Co-organized side event - Meeting with Ambassador Goebel (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament)	
Thursday, July 25	- Meeting with Ambassador Escobar (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva) - Meeting with Ambassador Fernandez (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva) - Meeting with Chief Regumbal (Chief of Service of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Geneva Office) - Courtesy call on Mr. Nikhil Seth, UN Assistant Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNITAR	
Friday, July 26	- Meeting with Dr. Szorenyi, Senior Policy Advisor (Global Cities Hub)	

## (1) Hosting of a Side Event [Wednesday, July 24]

To achieve a world without nuclear weapons, a security system that can exist without relying on nuclear deterrence is necessary; therefore, the participants discussed alternative proposals with experts based on the research findings to date of the research project on security without reliance on nuclear deterrence, which has been conducted by the prefecture and HOPE together with world-class research institutions.



[Date] Wednesday, July 24, 2024, 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

[Location] Room XXIII (United Nations Office at Geneva)

[Organizers] Hiroshima Prefecture and HOPE

[Theme] “Alternatives to Nuclear Deterrence: Proposals for a World Without Nuclear Weapons”

[Speakers]

Moderator:

Professor Nobumasa Akiyama (Professor, Graduate School of Law, Hitotsubashi University)

Panelists:

- Dr. Tytti Erasto (Senior Researcher, Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute [SIPRI])
- Mr. Lukasz Kulesa (Director, Proliferation and Nuclear Policy, The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies [RUSI])
- Dr. Polina Sinovets (Head of the Odessa Center for Nonproliferation [OdCNP])

[Participants] 71 persons (including 22 members of the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly Delegation)

[Main Discussions]

- o According to an assessment of the consistency between the security concerns of U.S. allies under extended nuclear deterrence (so-called umbrella states) and the security policies of each country and current military capabilities including conventional forces, there is no need to increase reliance on nuclear weapons. There are many steps umbrella states can take to reduce their dependence, such as adopting a no-first-use policy.
- o The role of nuclear weapons is not only limited to the deterrence of nuclear attacks, but also includes the deterrence of large-scale attacks using conventional weapons, provision of reassurance to allies, and the conferring of international status and prestige. It is necessary to diminish the central role of nuclear weapons in security and reduce the prestige they are said to provide.
- o Russia has been skillfully utilizing nuclear weapons during its invasion of Ukraine. It has prevented third-party intervention and deterred NATO countries from supplying weapons. It employs military, political, and psychological tactics of fear to deter or coerce opposing countries. How this war ends will determine the assessment of the effectiveness of nuclear deterrence.
- o Since nuclear deterrence is a theory based on numerous assumptions, it is crucial

to demand and require clear explanations of the actual impact on adversaries against the political narrative that nuclear deterrence is functioning well.

## **(2) Hosting of a Co-organized Side Event [Wednesday, July 24]**

To realize a sustainable world without nuclear weapons, practitioners, youth, the United Nations, and other stakeholders held discussions from the perspectives of security, humanitarian concerns, and sustainability. During this event, the Governor talked about the status of support for atomic bomb survivors in the prefecture and emphasized the importance of working towards the abolition of nuclear weapons from the perspective of sustainability.



[Date] Wednesday, July 24, 2024, 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

[Location] Room XXIII (United Nations Office at Geneva)

[Organizer] Government of Austria

[Co-organizers] UNITAR, Hiroshima Prefecture, and Nagasaki Prefecture

[Theme] “Advancing the Global Agenda of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World”

[Speakers] Moderator: Executive Director Nikhil Seth (UNITAR)

Panelists:

- Ambassador Desiree Schweitzer

(Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva)

- Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki (Hiroshima Prefecture/Representative of Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace)

- Professor Kazuko Hikawa (Vice Director, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University)

- Ms. Vanessa Canola (Inaugural cohort of the “Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons” program)

[Participants] 84 persons (including 22 members of the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly Delegation)

[Main Discussions]

- Given the current circumstances under which the dynamics of the dangerous nuclear arms race are unfolding before our eyes, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) provides a pathway and compelling rationale for moving away from nuclear weapons. A study commissioned by the Austrian government and presented at the previous preparatory committee meeting provides an overview of the latest research on nuclear weapons and their areas of impact, focusing on the humanitarian impacts and risks of nuclear weapons; its purposes are to deepen understanding of the complex consequences and risks and to place diplomatic activities on a fact-based scientific basis.
- All the problems we face—nuclear weapons, division, conflict, environmental destruction—are caused by a society that is based on competition, profit-seeking systems, and economic systems. By cherishing shared values such as human

dignity, solidarity, democracy, and social and ecological sustainability in society, it is possible to change society and promote solutions for all these problems.

- It is necessary to make decisions about the future—now facing an existential crisis—with the involvement of young people. Young people should be encouraged to grow and take steps forward, and it is essential to nurture their potential and meaningfully incorporate their perspectives. To achieve this, it is necessary to prepare an environment where young people’s voices are heard and genuinely valued.

### **(3) Hosting of a Briefing Session for Government Officials [Tuesday, July 23]**

In collaboration with Nagasaki Prefecture, the connection between sustainability and nuclear weapons was explained to the UN Ambassadors in Geneva in charge of disarmament and the permanent missions of various countries, seeking their understanding and cooperation.



[Date] Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

[Location] Room XXVI (United Nations Office at Geneva)

[Speaker] Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki

(Hiroshima Prefecture/Representative of HOPE)

Yuko Baba, Vice Governor (Nagasaki Prefecture)

Kunihiko Shimada, Principal Director, HOPE

Professor Kazuko Hikawa (Vice Director, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University)

[Number of Participating Countries] 13 countries

[Main Opinions and Questions]

- It is important to continue advocating for such common goals among people who seek peace.
- Raising awareness of the humanitarian aspects could serve as one scientific basis for nuclear deterrence and risk reduction.
- It is necessary to have not only the presented vision but also more specific goals, targets and steps by 2045, and an approach anticipating further development.

### **(4) Banner Exhibition at the Venue of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference [Tuesday, July 22 to Friday, July 26]**

During the period, the banner exhibition introducing the initiatives of the Prefecture and HOPE was conducted in a passageway that many attendees gathered at the venue walked through.

In front of the banners, the Governor met with Mr.

Masahiro Takamura, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and directly explained the initiatives of the Prefecture and HOPE.



## (5) Approach to the United Nations and Stakeholders of Various Countries

[Tuesday, July 23 to Friday, July 26]

During his stay, the Governor met individually with executives involved in the operation of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference and stakeholders from various countries. He explained the three approaches toward the abolition of nuclear weapons promoted by the prefecture and HOPE, sought their support, and directly urged them to make solid progress on nuclear disarmament initiatives at this conference.

### A. Meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Tomiko Ichikawa (Permanent Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament)

They exchanged opinions on the future outlook for the international situation surrounding nuclear weapons and how the conference on the NPT is proceeding. The Ambassador noted that while the worsening international situation has increased opportunities for people to listen to the tragedies brought by nuclear weapons, many officials in charge of disarmament and non-proliferation in various countries are unaware of the realities of the Cold War era or radiation exposure, so she hopes to encourage diplomats to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



### B. Meeting with Ambassador Bruce Turner (Ambassador and the U.S. Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament)

They exchanged opinions on the international situation surrounding nuclear weapons, especially the current situation among countries possessing nuclear weapons. The Ambassador explained U.S. policies and initiatives on risk reduction. In addition, he showed his recognition that agreements and transparency between the United States and Russia, and between the United States and China, will be necessary to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons.



### C. Meeting with Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Ambassador and Chair of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)

The Chair expressed his support for the prefecture's initiatives and they exchanged opinions on the status of discussions on nuclear weapons at the NPT. The Chair explained that while the situation is currently polarized, he is making every effort to achieve results at this



NPT. Regarding the Friends Group that the prefecture aims to establish, he advised on the importance of incorporating diverse national perspectives and values.

D.Meeting with Ambassador Thomas Goebel (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament)

They exchanged views on topics such as Germany’s nuclear disarmament policy, domestic public opinion, and its approach to nuclear weapons, particularly centered on the NPT. The Ambassador explained that there has been growing support in Germany since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine for the idea that Russia must be deterred. Meanwhile, they shared the recognition that bringing leaders and young people to atomic-bombed sites is crucial for advancing a clear understanding of the threat of nuclear weapons.



E. Meeting with Ambassador Francisca Elizabeth Mendez Escobar (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva)

The Ambassador expressed support for the initiatives aiming to abolish nuclear weapons from a sustainability perspective, and they also exchanged opinions. The Ambassador stated that he firmly believed both Hiroshima and Mexico share the same views, and they confirmed that they will continue to cooperate with each other.



F. Meeting with Ambassador Christian Guillermet Fernandez (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva)

The Governor introduced his prefecture’s initiatives toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and gained the Ambassador’s understanding. The Ambassador commended these initiatives, stating that linking the issue of nuclear weapons with sustainability is important and is a comprehensive approach. They also exchanged opinions on the importance of the role of local governments in multilateral cooperation.



G. Meeting with Chief Carolynne Melanie Regimbal (Chief of Service of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Geneva Office)

The Governor explained his prefecture’s initiatives toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and gained support for them, and they also exchanged opinions on the status of



discussions at the United Nations. The Representative acknowledged that the ultimate goal of the United Nations is nuclear disarmament, there are no winners in a nuclear war, wars must not be fought, and it is necessary to take practical steps to advance this. They shared their view that while major progress in nuclear disarmament is difficult, it is important to steadily advance contributions to the NPT and risk reduction. They also exchanged opinions on the necessity of supporting the activities of young people

#### H. Courtesy call on Mr. Nikhil Seth, UN Assistant Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNITAR

The Governor visited UNITAR's headquarters to pay a courtesy visit to Mr. Nikhil Seth, UN Assistant Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNITAR, together with the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly Delegation to Europe and the Hiroshima



Prefectural Assembly Administrative Delegation to Switzerland, Lithuania, and the Netherlands Ambassador Kozo Honsei, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva, also attended. The Governor expressed his respect for UNITAR's initiatives to provide continuous outstanding training and asked for continued collaboration in working toward the realization of a world without nuclear weapons and the establishment of a sustainable society.

#### I. Meeting with Dr. Andras Szorenyi, Senior Policy Advisor (Global Cities Hub)

The Governor explained initiatives aimed at the abolition of nuclear weapons from a sustainability perspective and requested advice on and cooperation for future activities. Dr. Szorenyi acknowledged that local governments play a vital role in the participation of diverse actors promoted by the United Nations and that local government initiatives are also necessary to advance the SDGs. We were able to gain understanding for the prefecture's initiatives.



### 4. Outcomes

[Contribution to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference]

- Amidst intense discussions at the Preparatory Committee ahead of the NPT Review Conference, we were able to convey the importance of the abolition of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament from multiple aspects based on two perspectives — sustainability and security without reliance on nuclear weapons — through expert discussions at side events and briefings for government officials.

[Expanding Supporters]

- We were able to gain support for the approach of raising issues concerning nuclear weapons from a sustainability perspective from many side event participants and

conference stakeholders, including many young people. We were also able to receive practical advice for future activities aimed at positioning the abolition of nuclear weapons within the post-SDGs framework.

[Policy Development]

- Through direct meetings with ambassadors and other relevant persons, we were able to gain understanding and support for the direction and necessity of the development of security policies that would replace nuclear deterrence, and were able to have frank exchanges of opinions.

[Enhancing the Ability to Convey Messages from Atomic-Bombed Sites]

- By our prefecture and Nagasaki Prefecture—both atomic-bombed prefectures—jointly organizing side events following on from last year and also by meeting those in charge of operating the NPT Preparatory Committee at the same time, we were able to powerfully demonstrate the importance of progress toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament to conference stakeholders.
- The dispatch of the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly Delegation was highly significant as it enabled us to convey our prefecture's commitment to working collectively as a government toward the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.