

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

1. Summary

The Governor participated in the First Session of the 11th Preparatory Committee for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from July 31 to August 5. 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 Delegation also participated in the Preparatory Committee and side events organized by the prefecture.

2. Current Situation and Background

The First Preparatory Committee for the 11th NPT Review Conference was held from July 31 to August 11, 2023. Amidst the ongoing severe international situation surrounding nuclear weapons, including 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 2026 Review Conference.

3. Approach at the “First Preparatory Committee for the 11th NPT Review Conference”

(1) Summary

Two side events were held during the First Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference. The first session, co-organized with Nagasaki Prefecture, focused on the theme “Sustainable Peace and Prosperity for All,” with the participants discussing the connection between nuclear weapons and sustainability. The second session focused on the theme “Looking Beyond Nuclear Deterrence: A Mid-term Perspective on Nuclear Disarmament,” with the participants discussing medium- to long-term initiatives toward nuclear disarmament. Furthermore, the Governor met directly with key stakeholders of the Preparatory Committee to seek their support for the prefecture's initiatives, and a banner exhibition introducing the initiatives of the Prefecture and HOPE was also conducted at the venue.

(2) Main Content

A. Hosting of a Side Event (1) [Tuesday, August 1]

From a backcasting perspective of what must be done now to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons as early as possible by 2045, the visions and activities of various organizations were introduced. In addition, discussions were held on how nuclear weapons and sustainability are connected.



[Date] Tuesday, August 1, 2023

[Location] Conference Room M4 (Vienna International Centre)

[Theme] Sustainable Peace and Prosperity for All

[Speakers]

Moderator: Kunihiko Shimada (Principal Director, HOPe)

Panelists:

- Asako Okai *participated online

(UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director, United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] Crisis Bureau)

- Ms. Patricia Jaworek

(Program Officer of Global Nuclear Policy Program, Nuclear Threat Initiative [NTI])

- Mr. Sebastian Brixey-Williams

(Executive Director, British American Security Information Council [BASIC])

- Ms. Marcina Langrine

(Program Manager & ESG Coordinator, Marshallese Education Initiative [MEI])

[Participants] 25 persons (including 7 members of the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly Delegation), 14 online participants

[Main Discussions]

- The UNDP expressed that in the current situation, where politics and policies are shifting away from a fair and inclusive society due to the threat of nuclear war and cultural fragmentation, new approaches and solutions that ensure sustainability are needed and that it is crucial to act first rather than wait for the environment to be prepared, and to adopt a perspective for humanity and the Earth that transcends individual interests in order to enhance trust and solidarity.
- The NTI's analysis was that nuclear issues are systemic problems in which policies, people's actions, behaviors, decisions, beliefs, and hypotheses interact and that it is necessary to act together with the nuclear community and other relevant fields to thoroughly understand the long-term impacts of the use of nuclear weapons on social, economic, and environmental systems, and thereby positively envision a world without nuclear weapons.
- BASIC pointed out that nuclear weapons impose significant harm on humans and the Earth in the process from their manufacture to their use and that the safety of nature and the environment forms the basis of human livelihoods, and further, that normal life cannot be sustained if this basis is destroyed. It then introduced initiatives aimed at considering a sustainable security system in Europe after the war in Ukraine.
- MEI talked about the impact and history of nuclear testing at Bikini Atoll on the people of the Marshall Islands and explained that considering the ongoing effects on ecology, the natural environment, and culture, nuclear weapons and environmental issues are the greatest threats to world peace.

- o Finally, the HOPE Youth Ambassadors introduced HOPE’s “Craft Cranes For Our Future Campaign” and called for people to participate.

B. Hosting of a Side Event (2) [Wednesday, August 2]

Experts discussed what can be done as medium- to long-term nuclear disarmament initiatives beyond the current crisis management stage and the importance of reconsidering nuclear deterrence and exploring alternatives.



[Date] Wednesday, August 2, 2023

[Location] Conference Room M4 (Vienna International Centre)

[Theme] Looking Beyond Nuclear Deterrence: A Mid-term Perspective on Nuclear Disarmament

[Speakers]

Moderator: Professor Nobumasa Akiyama (Dean, School of International and Public Policy, Hitotsubashi University)

Panelists:

- Dr. Tytti Erasto (Senior Researcher, Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute [SIPRI])
- Professor Andrew Futter (Professor of International Politics, University of Leicester)
- Dr. Stephen Herzog (Senior Researcher, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich)

[Participants] 22 persons (including 7 members of the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly Delegation), 28 online participants

[Main Discussions]

- o Even if U.S.-Russia arms control negotiations do not progress, nuclear deterrence remains effective with the existence of thousands of nuclear weapons. In the medium-term, adopting minimal nuclear deterrence with a minimal number of warheads will increase the possibility of avoiding the catastrophic consequences that would result from the collapse of deterrence. Furthermore, there are things that can be accomplished not only by countries possessing nuclear weapons, but also by nuclear umbrella states, and the benefits of participating in nuclear deterrence should be examined from the perspective of costs and benefits.
- o Nuclear deterrence and nuclear disarmament cannot be considered separately. Strategic non-nuclear technologies may be able to replace some of the roles that

nuclear weapons have played. Furthermore, to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, it is also important to balance the civilian use and military use of nuclear technology for the purposes of nuclear disarmament and development. If we seek a world without nuclear weapons, it is also essential to design what that world would look like.

- Reducing risks caused by nuclear weapons is not disarmament, but a policy for living in a world with nuclear weapons and avoiding their dangers. Nuclear deterrence relies largely on luck at any given moment and is not something that will never fail. On the other hand, nuclear deterrence has become a bastion for countries to seek protection through nuclear weapons.
- Overcoming nuclear deterrence requires bold change. It is necessary to outline a long-term desirable and feasible way to achieve nuclear disarmament. In academia, nuclear-related classes devote a considerable amount of time to nuclear deterrence, while nuclear disarmament is merely touched upon in reference materials, and alternatives to nuclear deterrence are not even discussed. The “Harvard University-MacArthur Foundation Working Group on Transcending Nuclear Deterrence” works with experts from around the world to engage in this much-needed discussion, with the aim of driving change.
- Finally, the HOPE Youth Ambassadors introduced HOPE’s “Craft Cranes Campaign” and called for participation.

C. Approach to the United Nations and Stakeholders of Various Countries

[Monday, July 31 to Thursday, August 3]

During his stay, the Governor met individually with executives involved in the operation of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference and stakeholders from various countries. He delivered the Chair’s Statement of the Hiroshima Roundtable and directly urged them to make solid progress on nuclear disarmament initiatives at this conference.

- (A) Meeting with Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

They exchanged opinions on the future outlook for the international situation surrounding nuclear weapons and discussions held within the United Nations on nuclear disarmament. While welcoming the reaffirmation of the commitment to nuclear disarmament by G7 leaders in the Hiroshima Vision



at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, they discussed the challenge of how to move back to nuclear disarmament in the current international situation, which has entered an era of expanding nuclear arsenals. Furthermore, the Governor explained initiatives to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons from a sustainability perspective and gained support for them.

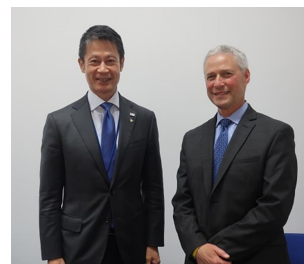
(B) Meeting with Ambassador Goetz Schmidt-Bremme (Ambassador, Permanent/Resident Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to other International Organizations, Vienna)

The Governor explained a new approach to raising issues concerning nuclear weapons from a sustainability perspective and introduced the activities of the Global Alliance “Sustainable Peace and Prosperity for All” (commonly known as GASPPA). They also exchanged opinions on nuclear energy issues, and the Ambassador acknowledged that balance is crucial and that neither nuclear weapons issues nor nuclear energy issues should be treated as daily political controversies.



(C) Meeting with Ambassador Adam M. Scheinman (Ambassador, Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, U.S. Department of State)

They exchanged opinions on the international situation surrounding nuclear weapons, particularly the current situation among countries possessing nuclear weapons. The Ambassador explained that the U.S. has opened the door to dialogue with Russia and China without preconditions, and that the U.S. aims solely to maintain the current global status quo.



(D) Meeting with Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen (Ambassador, Chair-designate of the First Session of The Preparatory Committee for the 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)

The Governor introduced initiatives from the perspective of sustainability, and the Ambassador expressed his support, stating that public engagement with issues surrounding nuclear weapons could serve as an opportunity to change policy decisions in many countries. The



The Ambassador also showed understanding for the pursuit of security that does not rely on nuclear deterrence and emphasized the importance of political will in each country, even though it has become difficult to relinquish nuclear weapons amid the current severe international situation. He also acknowledged that Hiroshima and Nagasaki play an important role in passing on the experiences of the atomic bombings to future generations and emphasizing that nuclear weapons are not a means of war.

(E) Meeting with Ambassador Takeshi Hikihara (Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna)

Regarding initiatives aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons from a sustainability perspective, they shared the challenges of the current situation, where nuclear weapons issues are not perceived as personal concerns, unlike environmental problems. The Ambassador expressed understanding for the importance of having a scenario-based vision for nuclear disarmament including medium- and long-term initiatives and acknowledged that initiatives toward disarmament by countries possessing nuclear weapons will be necessary.



(F) Meeting with Ambassador Ryuta Mizuuchi (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan in Austria)

The Governor introduced the prefecture's initiatives toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and gained the Ambassador's understanding. They also exchanged opinions on nuclear disarmament, the international situation regarding issues of nuclear weapons, and trends in Austria.



(G) Meeting with Ambassador Luis Javier Campuzano Piña The Honorable Maria Antonieta Jaquez (Ambassador of the United Mexican States to Austria Director for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico) and others

The Ambassador acknowledged that nuclear weapons have impacts not only on military and national security, but also in various other areas such as food safety, climate change, health, the environment, and gender. Since the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) investigates impacts and promotes advocacy activities from the perspective of humanitarian initiatives, they shared an affinity with the prefecture's sustainability initiatives. Furthermore, as Mexico promotes the TPNW, he requested the Japanese government to participate in meetings of the States Parties as an observer.



(H) Meeting with Ambassador Teburoro Tito (Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kiribati to the United Nations)

Drawing from the history of Pacific nations, which have long suffered from nuclear testing conducted by the countries with nuclear weapons, the Ambassador expressed deep understanding that the use of nuclear



weapons would cause irreversible damage to the environment, food supplies, and human health, and he expressed his strong support for initiatives to address nuclear weapons and sustainability.

D. Banner Exhibition at the Venue of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference

- During the period, a banner exhibition introducing the initiatives of the Prefecture and HOPE was conducted in the passageway where many attendees gathered at the venue passed by.
- In front of the banners, the Governor met with Mr. Shunsuke Takei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and directly explained the initiatives of the Prefecture and HOPE. He also delivered the Chair's Statement on the Hiroshima Roundtable.



4. Schedule

(Dates are in local time)

Date	Item	Location
July 31 (Mon)	Departure from Japan / Arrival at destination Meeting with Ms. Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs - Banner exhibition (until August 3) - Explanation of the banner exhibition to Mr. Takei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs	Vienna
Tuesday, August 1	- Meeting with Mr. Bremme, Ambassador, Permanent/Resident Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to other International Organizations, Vienna - Side event (1) (co-organized with Nagasaki Prefecture) “Sustainable Peace and Prosperity for All” - Meeting with Mr. Scheinman, Ambassador, Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, U.S. Department of State - Meeting with Mr. Viinanen, Ambassador, Chair-designate of the First Session of The Preparatory Committee for the 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	Vienna
Wednesday, August 2	- Meeting with Mr. Hikihara, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna - Meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mizuuchi, Embassy of Japan in Austria - Side event (2) (hosted by Hiroshima Prefecture) “Looking Beyond Nuclear Deterrence: A Mid-term Perspective on Nuclear Disarmament”	Vienna
Thursday, August 3	- Meeting with Ambassador Luis Javier Campuzano Piña The Honorable Maria Antonieta Jaquez (Ambassador of the United Mexican States to Austria Director for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico) and others Meeting with Mr. Tito, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kiribati to the United Nations Departure from destination	Vienna
Friday, August 4	Arrival in Frankfurt (overnight stay due to flight delay)	Frankfurt

Saturday, August 5	Arrival in Japan	
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5. Outcomes

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

- Amidst intense discussions at the Preparatory Committee ahead of the 2026 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 new perspectives — sustainability and medium- to long-term perspectives of security — through expert discussions at side events.

[Expanding Supporters]

- The Global Alliance's new approach to raising nuclear weapons issues from a sustainability perspective gained support from side event participants and conference stakeholders, providing momentum to position nuclear abolition within the post-SDGs framework going forward.

[Policy Development]

- Through direct exchange of opinions 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.

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

- Through our prefecture and Nagasaki Prefecture—both atomic-bombed prefectures— jointly organizing side events following on from last year and also by meeting conference organizers 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.
- In addition, 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.

[Youth Ambassadors Activities]

- The HOPE Youth Ambassadors who accompanied the Governor attended the side events and called for participation in the Craft Cranes For Our Future Campaign in their own words. They also attended the meetings with conference stakeholders, directly engaging in conversation, and asking for participation in the campaign. Furthermore, they observed discussions at the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference, and this experience of witnessing negotiations on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation helped foster the next generation.