

Results from participating in the third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

1. Summary

Kunihiko Shimada, Principal Director of the Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPE), participated in the third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, U.S. He promoted the efforts of the prefecture and HOPE, and called on other nations to strengthen their efforts towards the abolition of nuclear weapons.

2. Current situation and background

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is an international treaty that comprehensively prohibits nuclear weapons. It opened for signature on July 7, 2017, and entered into force in January 2021.

The first Meeting of States Parties was held in Vienna in June 2022, and the Declaration entitled “Our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons” and the Vienna Action Plan were adopted.

The second Meeting of States Parties was held in New York in November and December 2023, where discussions were held on promoting the Vienna Action Plan and a political declaration was adopted.

At the third Meeting of States Parties, held from March 3rd to 7th this year, a political declaration entitled “Strengthening our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons amid the rising global instability” was adopted, and it was decided that the first Review Conference will be held in 2026.

3 Overview

The Principal Director met directly with officials from the UN missions of various governments in New York to encourage them to support the prefecture and HOPE's efforts, and also participated in a side event hosted by members of the Global Alliance “Sustainable Peace and Prosperity for All” (GASPPA) in an effort to collaborate with civil society groups.

[Activity schedule (dates are local time)]

Date (mm/dd)	Program	Location
3/3 (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The third Meeting of States Parties begins Participation in a side event hosted by GASPPA members 	New York
3/4 (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations 	
3/5 (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations Meeting with the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations Meeting with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of El Salvador to the United Nations 	

(1) Target

Government officials from various countries and organizations participating in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

(2) Activity details

He met individually with those involved in the third Meeting of States Parties, as well as the permanent missions of various governments to the UN, to explain the prefecture's and HOPE's efforts and ask for their understanding and cooperation. In addition, he exchanged views on the international situation surrounding nuclear weapons and directly urged them to make solid progress in their nuclear disarmament efforts.

A. Meeting with Ms. Deborah Geels (Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, Ambassador for Disarmament)

He explained the approach to raising the issue of nuclear weapons from the perspective of sustainability and his aim to establish a Friends Meeting for government officials, and asked for her cooperation. The Ambassador commented that the idea of mainstreaming discussions on nuclear weapons, along with the SDGs, in discussions in the international community is a very good one, and that she would consider cooperating with activities within the United Nations.

B. Meeting with Ms. Vivica Muenkner (Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations)

Views on the future outlook for the international situation surrounding nuclear weapons were exchanged. In particular, this year marks the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing, and interest in the issue of nuclear weapons is growing. Therefore, it was suggested that it would be a good idea to spread the message of the prefecture and HOPE at opportunities such as the NPT and the United Nations General Assembly.

C. Meeting with Ms. Margaret Murphy (Disarmament Adviser, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations)

Opinions were exchanged on the future outlook for the international situation surrounding nuclear weapons, the status of the discussions in New York on the SDGs, and nuclear disarmament, and she advised that in order to participate in discussions on UN goals for 2030 and beyond, the prefecture and HOPE should quickly move forward with promoting their efforts.

D. Meeting with Minister Counsellor Julia Rodriguez (Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations in New York)

He explained the approach to raising the issue of nuclear weapons from the perspective of sustainability and his aim to establish a Friends Meeting for government officials, asked for her cooperation, and support was gained. The Minister Counsellor commented that El Salvador is working hard towards the abolition of

nuclear weapons and that she would like to work together with us.

(3) Activity effects

[Contribution to the third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons]

HOPe was able to appeal to government officials from the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons signatory states to work towards the abolition of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament from the perspective of sustainability.

[Expanding the supporter base]

HOPe was able to gain support from government officials regarding its proposed "new approach to raising the issue of nuclear weapons from the perspective of sustainability," and received concrete advice for future activities.

[Strengthening the delivery of messages from the atomic bomb-affected areas]

We were able to directly highlight and share with government officials from various countries the importance of the approach advocated by HOPe, which is to reconsider the nuclear weapons issue from the perspective of sustainability and to continue promoting such efforts.