



Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan

Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Statement of Protest against the Japanese Government's decision to vote against the UN resolution for Nuclear Abolition Treaty

On 27th October, a resolution aiming for the realization of the first treaty outlawing nuclear weapons was adopted by vote in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, with 123 nations voting in favor. This was a significant step forward, achieved by the efforts of many people striving for peace. Despite this remarkable fact, the Government of Japan, a country which has suffered from Atomic Bombs in the past, has voted against this resolution. The role that should be played by the government of Japan, which has experienced the Atomic Bomb damage in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is to lead the international society towards total abolition of nuclear weapons by continuing to point out the threat of nuclear weapons and the reality of the damages that they have caused; not to hamper the progress of nuclear abolition for the sake of staying under the U.S. "nuclear umbrella" and subserviently following their military strategies. The YWCA of Japan strongly protests against the Japanese Government's decision to vote against the UN resolution.

Since 1970, the YWCA of Japan has continued to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons, standing by our policy of denying nuclear weapons and energy. This opposition against nuclear was a wake-up call warning against the human race moving in the path of environmental and human destruction, set by the "nuclear civilization"; a question posed towards the lifestyle which solely seeks "prosperity". Every year for 45 years, the YWCA of Japan has continued the program "Pilgrimage to Hiroshima", where intergenerational participants, especially junior and senior high school students listen to the words of the survivors of the Atomic Bomb, walk in the places which suffered the destruction of the bomb, and to see, listen, feel and think about the experience. The testimonies of the survivors of the Atomic Bomb were each a strong determination to "lead the way towards nuclear abolition"; a deep prayer that the next generations may be spared from repeating the same mistake.

At the 28th World YWCA Council in 2015, YWCAs in 120 countries adopted the resolution "Equal Denial of Nuclear Weapons/Energy". The voices of the people of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukushima have moved the global network of women connecting with the YWCA.

On the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb victims in Hiroshima, it is inscribed: "Let all the souls here rest in peace; For we shall not repeat the evil". We strongly request the Japanese Government to once again reflect on this pledge for nuclear abolition by the people around the world, and to participate in the future discussions in the direction of establishing the treaty outlawing nuclear weapons.

2nd November, 2016

Naoko Matano, President, Mikako Nishihara, General Secretary, YWCA of Japan