



August 22, 2023

Mr. Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan

Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

Mr. Akihiro Nishimura, Minister of the Environment

Satoko Fujitani, President

Chie Yamamoto, General Secretary

YWCA of Japan

We Oppose the Discharge of "ALPS Treated Water" into the Ocean and Call for a Democratic and Sincere Dialogue

Since the announcement of the government's policy on April 13, 2021 to discharge ALPS treated water from TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the ocean, the YWCA of Japan has spoken up against this decision and demanded a sincere response to opposing voices. We strongly reiterate our opposition to the discharge of ALPS treated water into the ocean without the consent of the citizens, after 12 years without adequate dialogue around the issue, in addition to the absence of prospect for the decommissioning process of the plant.

The issue of the ALPS treated water is not the only example of the structural problem, in which the affected community and society as a whole has been forced into a "social consensus" to accept the adverse effects of the accident, without any responsibility on the part of those who caused the damage. This structure has extended its scope to people in neighboring countries, reminding us once again of the seriousness of the prolonged nuclear disaster. Discharge despite the concerns and opposition expressed by civil society in a number of countries and regions, is something that cannot be overlooked.

According to experts, long-term storage of ALPS treated water on land is feasible by considering the installation of large tanks and disposal by mortar solidification. The Japanese Government's position to discharge the ALPS treated water containing tritium, which is feared to be harmful to the human body, into the ocean without consideration of such measures, is clearly an inhumane and careless act lacking regard for the health of citizens. It

is outrageous to dump into the environment something that nature has no cleansing mechanism for.

In 2015, the then Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry promised the fisheries community that "no disposal (of treated water) will take place without the understanding of the concerned parties". Today, the fisheries community still opposes the ocean discharge. While Prime Minister Kishida, during the press conference on August 20, stated that "as a result of explanations, a calm response based on scientific knowledge is spreading internationally", the actual situation is far from adequate consensus when the Government continues to ignore the opposition of local stakeholders. Dialogue is needed, not one-sided explanations.

The YWCA of Japan, as an international NGO that opposes the use of nuclear weapons/energy and aims to protect human rights and the environment, is committed to protecting the health, livelihood, and lives of women. The discharge of ALPS treated water into the ocean will not only threaten the health of all people including women, but also inflict negative effects in the lives of local people. The YWCA of Japan strongly opposes the ocean discharge and urges a fundamental review of the policy, including the decommissioning of the plant.