

# Hiroshima Declaration

presented by

## G7 Youth Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Hiroshima

Hiroshima, Japan

March 20, 2016

We are the twenty-four delegates from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Together, we participate in the 2016 G7 Youth Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Hiroshima to learn the history of Hiroshima and promote global peace.

“Towards a peaceful world: What we can do” is the main theme of our meeting with a particular focus on nuclear weapons and other global challenges. It is paramount to G7 leaders and an increasing number of citizens, especially the youth, around the world to promote global peace and nuclear disarmament.

In Hiroshima, we had the opportunity to feel the real impact of atomic bombings on real people. We are appalled by short- and long-term effects of nuclear weapons and the tremendous suffering that innocent citizens in Hiroshima endured after the bomb was dropped.

Through hearing the testimony of atomic bomb survivor, Masahiro Kunishige, as well as seeing the memorials and Peace Memorial Museum, we have learned the importance and necessity of eliminating nuclear weapons from the world. When visiting the museum, we experienced a significant emotional impact, strengthening our concerns regarding nuclear weapons and prompting us to further promote the necessity and benefit of peace.

Together, we want to preserve the information and pass it on to the next generation. We learned how the stories were being passed down generation to generation and also how the legacy of the bombing was being preserved and honored in Hiroshima.

We think that the need for a sustainable world the G7 leaders strive for is unquestionable. While global peace within our international community is a goal of all generations, we face complex economic, environmental and social issues.

Steps have been taken to reduce the existing nuclear weapons; however, now is the time to take further action and work to completely disarm all nuclear weapons.

Additionally, we must work together to overcome global challenges. It is through education, economic assistance, and an acceptance of human rights and environmental standards that peace and prosperity can be reached.

Sharing moments with enthusiastic G7 counterparts, we gained a renewed awareness of the importance of friendships and leadership to shape our future.

The youth has a powerful voice. We urge the G7 leaders to consider our ideas to facilitate a more comprehensive dialogue of all the people concerned in the world. We would appreciate the consideration of our recognition, recommendations and commitments by the G7 leaders. We strongly believe these actions will promote a more peaceful, safe, and accepting world.

## **Nuclear Weapons Issues**

### **We Recognize:**

- We recognize the serious inhumanity caused by the bombing of nuclear weapons.
- We recognize that nuclear energy could be used for both peaceful and military purposes.
- We recognize that certain countries rely heavily on nuclear weapons for national security, even though nuclear deterrence entails the risk of accidental escalation.
- We recognize that the number of nuclear weapons is decreasing, but the risk of weapons falling into non-state actors with malicious intent is still present.
- We recognize that P5 do not sufficiently attempt to reduce nuclear weapons, due to the high cost of disarmament.
- We recognize that any nuclear tests, particularly recent tests by North Korea, pose serious threats to international security.

### **We Recommend:**

- We recommend establishing an effective international monitoring system for nuclear weapons. All nuclear states should be transparent with their capabilities and stockpile.
- We recommend that IAEA inspectors are allowed more access into the nuclear facilities of all nuclear countries, both for weapons and energy.
- We recommend that G7 countries accelerate the rate of disarmament, aiming to completely disarm all weapons by an internationally agreed date.
- We recommend that international society seeks gradual reduction of nuclear weapons in equal percentages towards total abandonment.
- We recommend promoting education on nuclear weapons, especially sharing testimonies of atomic bomb survivors with the global community.
- We recommend that India, Pakistan, Israel, and other nations agree to join the NPT.
- We recommend that each state ensures nuclear security in order to prevent terrorists from using nuclear power for harm.
- We recommend establishing an international organization that oversees nuclear security.
- We recommend that nations make more financial contribution and assist one another in funding the disarmament of nuclear weapons.

### **Our Future Commitment:**

- We promise to share stories and facts on the horrendous effects of nuclear blasts with our peers by various measures including the establishment of institutes and museums in each country.
- We promise to raise awareness through increasing dialogues.
- We promise to seek an international agreement to enhance transparency in regards to nuclear capabilities and stockpile.
- We promise to promote research and development to make nuclear disarmament technologically faster and less expensive.

## **Other Global Challenges**

### **We Recognize:**

#### <Poverty>

- We recognize that poverty has serious impacts on individuals, family and society, the increasing income gap and income inequality that has the possibility to cause social unrest and conflicts.
- We recognize that the continuous issue of poverty incurred from lack of education, diseases, hunger, living conditions and lack of access to clean water contribute to the growing conflicts around the globe.

#### <Education>

- We recognize that the lack of access to education could expand, solidify inequality of society, and provoke extremism.

#### <Environment>

- We recognize the ongoing threats of climate change, air and water pollution, as well as global reliance on non-renewable energy sources.
- We recognize that deforestation contributes to desertification and displacement of local wildlife.
- We recognize that littering could cause environmental degradation and undermine human quality of life.
- We recognize that climate change increases the chance and devastation of natural disasters.

#### <Human Rights>

- We recognize the importance of fundamental human rights, including education, health as well as gender equality, despite religious, political and cultural differences.

### **We Recommend:**

#### <Poverty>

- We recommend that each member state of G7 ensures access to basic social services for everyone, such as creating government employment assistance programs and guaranteeing affordable housing for everyone in support of poverty eradication.

#### <Education>

- We recommend setting minimum educational standards across the world, guaranteeing an equal opportunity for education through establishing international funds to help building schools in developing countries.

#### <Environment>

- We recommend enhancing enforcement of international environmental laws.
- We recommend that the G7 strengthens regulations on hazardous materials and innovates environmentally friendly products and technologies.

#### <Human Rights>

- We recommend that each state invests into programs that encourage an understanding and acceptance of cultural differences.
- We recommend that member states take initiative in vocational training and micro-finance loans given to citizens to help create self-sufficient businesses.

<Conflicts>

- We recommend that each nation aids refugees by giving them asylum, providing programs to help integrate them into society and through economic support.

**Our Future Commitment:**

<Poverty>

- We promise to educate ourselves and others about poverty.
- We promise to be engaged in empowering local communities and social enterprises for the sake of poverty reduction.
- We promise to raise awareness of the necessity to redistribute wealth.

<Education>

- We promise to improve access to education in developing countries by supporting charitable activities.

<Environment>

- We promise to support education on sustainable development.
- We promise to promote the use of public transportation and carpooling.
- We promise to purchase products from environmentally-friendly companies.

<Human Rights>

- We promise to partake in programs that create a society tolerant of citizens with different backgrounds.
- We promise to fulfill our global responsibility to use our available resources to improve the state of others' lives.

<Conflicts>

- We promise to help refugees to be integrated into society by providing them with training and educational programs.