

HIROSHIMA NUCLEAR FORECAST 2026

Early warning and policy responses to nuclear risk



A HIROSHIMA-BASED PLATFORM FOR FORESIGHT AND ACTION

The Hiroshima Nuclear Forecast brings international expert judgment, structured risk analysis and policy design together in one forward-looking initiative. Looking 12 months ahead, it identifies where nuclear risks may intensify, explains how they could materialize, and proposes practical measures to reduce those risks while advancing the longer-term goal of nuclear disarmament.

55 EXPERT RESPONDENTS

17 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

12 MONTH FORECAST HORIZON

1 THE HIROSHIMA NUCLEAR FORECAST

The project combines an international expert survey with analysis of risk likelihood, international impact, recent changes, and general awareness. Respondents considered ten risks, ranging from regional flashpoints—including Russia-Ukraine, the Korean Peninsula, Iran/Middle East, U.S.-China tensions, and India-Pakistan—to cross-cutting challenges. These include the erosion of rules and norms surrounding the NPT, nuclear testing, and attacks on civilian nuclear facilities; the interaction between emerging technologies and inadvertent escalation and intensifying arms racing. The discussion emphasized that these risks are interconnected and can amplify one another. Led by the Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPe), Hiroshima Prefecture and the Center for Disarmament, Science and Technology (CDAST) of the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), the Forecast translates Hiroshima's historical and moral perspective into a practical resource for governments, international organizations, researchers and civil society.

2 CONNECTION WITH THE HIROSHIMA ROUNDTABLE

The Hiroshima Roundtable convened on 2–3 September 2026 and considered the Hiroshima Nuclear Forecast Report as an input. From Hiroshima—a city that has experienced the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapon use—it sought to connect that experience to today's nuclear dangers, increasingly entangled with conventional war, emerging technologies, the erosion of accountable governance, and humanitarian consequences borne by affected communities. The TPNW has sharpened international attention to those consequences and the needs of affected communities, even as states continue to differ over nuclear deterrence and the Treaty itself. The focus was on areas where those differences need not prevent action. Hiroshima's message should be more than a reminder of nuclear devastation. It should inform how governments and societies respond to the risks that could lead to nuclear use. Participants of the Hiroshima Roundtable discussed the recommendations that follow, which set out practical steps to reduce those risks and to provide a robust foundation for a world without nuclear weapons.

CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES

1 Prevent armed conflict before managing escalation

2 Reaffirm nuclear non-use as the baseline

3 Make risks and responsibilities visible

4 Uphold the pillars of the non-proliferation regime

5 Recognize the linkages between nuclear weapons and other domains

POLICY PRIORITIES

1 Prevent nuclear use and escalation

- Reject nuclear threats and normalization of any nuclear use
- Preserve meaningful control over nuclear decision-making
- Refrain from interference with nuclear command and control
- Maintain crisis-management channels
- Emphasize risk-reduction measures

2 Upholding rules, norms, and regimes

- Strengthen the norm against attacks on civilian nuclear facilities
- Prepare for radiological emergency across borders
- Prevent a return to nuclear testing
- Restore verification where it has broken down
- Maintain responsible standards of nuclear supply and sensitive technology transfer
- Support multilateral arms control and disarmament initiatives

3 Preventing unconstrained nuclear competition

- Halt further nuclear expansion
- Prevent a permanent vacuum in strategic arms control
- Strengthen N5 strategic arms dialogue and risk reduction
- Renew the disarmament bargain