

For a Peaceful and Fair World, Without Nuclear Weapons

First of all, I would like to express the solidarity of the french Peace Movement (*le Mouvement de la Paix*) and all our compassion for the families who were bruised by the terrible floods that particularly affected the province of Hiroshima.

It is with great pleasure that we respond to the call of the organizing Committee of this World Conference against A and H Bombs.

The adoption by the UN of a treaty to ban nuclear weapons could not have been possible without the tireless testimony of the Hibakushas and the permanence of the mobilizations of the peace movements in Japan. It is also a victory for millions of people and NGOs who, throughout the world, have acted for decades for the definitive elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in connection and convergence with the actions of a number of countries and national and international institutions such as the UN, the International Red Cross, the ILO, the ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation).

Nuclear weapons are a deadly danger for humanity. The challenge of their eradication is linked to other issues such as war and peace, fair and sustainable development, the fight against global warming and more broadly for a world of justice, fraternity and equality (especially between men and women), so with the general struggle for human rights.

Humanity has never had as today the capacity and the means to face these challenges and to create the conditions so that every human being can live in peace and security.

The logic of power, domination and hoarding typical to present globalized economies is a major obstacle to building a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. It also comes with a questioning of the United Nations Charter and multilateralism for the benefit of NATO or supranational organizations such as the G8 or G20.

Thus this logic has favored the development of the military-political-industrial complex which is the main adversary in this phase of the struggle towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The military-industrial complex, which is mainly responsible for increasing military expenditure, also dominates and controls the media power. In France, for example, the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was totally ignored by the media or was fought by so-called experts.

The success of the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons should not be underestimated, nor overestimated, and we should neither underestimate the determination of our opponents to delay the elimination of nuclear weapons. What is really positive is that the balance of power has evolved in favor of the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In France, the majority and the current government (Macron) is in favor of nuclear deterrence, the militarization of international relations, military interventions abroad and alignment with NATO policies.

Regarding the doctrine of nuclear deterrence, more and more voices raise in France to question it, including those of former ministers of defense. For the French Peace Movement this doctrine inevitably leads to proliferation. Proof of this is the possession of the nuclear weapon by North Korea.

The French Peace Movement has launched a campaign for France to commit, sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). A petition has already collected several thousand signatures.

We are committed to do our best to make France, a nuclear power and permanent member of the UN Security Council, sign the Ban Treaty.