

## People of Faith in Japan Call for Japan to Stop Relying on the U.S. Nuclear Umbrella and to Move toward the Establishment of a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

Any use of nuclear weapons brings about catastrophic humanitarian consequences, and is against our religious values, moral principles, and the humanitarian law. Therefore, we believe the nuclear weapons abolition is a spiritual imperative.

In order to achieve a World Free of Nuclear Weapons, all states need to adopt a security policy that does not rely on nuclear weapons. In particular, as a nation that suffered from nuclear bombing, it is vital for Japan to leave the U.S. “nuclear umbrella” without further delay. The policy to establish a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (NEA-NWFZ) enables Japan to leave the “nuclear umbrella” while ensuring its national security. It is also an effective way both for strengthening the global tide toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons, and for overcoming the aggravated political situation in Northeast Asia.

In July 2013, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to the UN Secretary-General made a landmark recommendation stating that the “Secretary-General should also consider appropriate action for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in North-East Asia”. Furthermore, at the UN High-Level Meeting in September 2013, the Mongolian President Elbegdorj, whose country is a nuclear weapon-free zone, mentioned he was ready to provide cooperation for the establishment of a NEA-NWFZ. Moreover, well-known scholars from countries including the United States, Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea have proposed a comprehensive approach in establishing a NEA-NWFZ.

We, the people of faith in Japan, express our support for the establishment of a NEA-NWFZ. And by so doing, we call for Japan, as a nation victimized by atomic bombing, to stop depending on nuclear weapons, weapons of an inhuman nature, and to contribute actively towards the achievement of a World Free of Nuclear Weapons,.

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