



The Honorable Fumio Kishida
Prime Minister of Japan
G7 Presidency, 2023

12th May 2023

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Greetings to you from leaders of the Catholic peace movement, Pax Christi International. Our worldwide membership includes peace organisations in each of the G7 countries which Japan will soon host in Hiroshima.

We would like to commend you for hosting the G7 summit in the first city to be attacked by an atomic bomb. You as Prime Minister, Hiroshima as a city and Japan as a nation are uniquely placed to ensure that the G7 addresses today's grave nuclear threats with a call-to-action worthy of the city where it meets.

Momentum is building for consequential new measures to abolish nuclear weapons. There is no better place to take such steps than in a city they have destroyed.

Threats made during the war in Ukraine have made it clear that possession of nuclear weapons is not a deterrent. Nuclear-armed states and their allies are on alert to respond.

Yet 147 states declared at the NPT Review Conference in August 2022: "The very survival of humanity" requires that "nuclear weapons are never used again". NATO's Secretary General stated in October 2022: "Any use of nuclear weapons is absolutely unacceptable". In November 2022 Chinese President Xi Jin Pin said he and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, "jointly oppose the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

Then the G20 summit in Bali declared: "The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible." We note that the G20 includes six nuclear-armed states and six states which rely on the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

The G7 Summit in Japan is a strategic opportunity to build upon these declarations of "never again," "unacceptable," "inadmissible" and neither "threat" nor "use".

We would therefore call your attention to Pope Francis' declaration in Hiroshima in November 2019. The pope called "the possession" of atomic weapon "immoral," as well as their use.



Surely, the greatest honour the G7 could offer the people of Hiroshima is to acknowledge in their city that no city is truly safe as long as any country possesses nuclear weapons.

We therefore respectfully suggest that all possible consideration be given for the G7 to take the following positive actions in Hiroshima:

- The G7 leaders meet with atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima;
- The G7 leaders resolve to adopt collective, verifiable steps to reduce nuclear arsenals;
- G7 leaders agree to cooperate with states-parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in providing victim assistance and environmental remediation for people harmed by nuclear weapons;
- G7 leaders undertake to pursue and set a common deadline for the elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

In closing, we would like to offer a word of hope regarding the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the first meeting of the new TPNW in Vienna last June, states-parties agreed on steps to help people and places harmed by nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan, Kiribati and other affected countries were encouraged. Japan would be uniquely welcome in this initiative too.

With best wishes for the Hiroshima Summit and for Japan's G7 Presidency, in the service of peace; 0

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Sincerely yours,

Martha Inés Romero (Colombia),
Secretary General of Pax Christi International

Teresia Wamuyu Wachira (Kenya) and Bishop Marc Stenger (France)
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