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Urgent Appeal by the Parliamentary Group of the Democratic Party of Japan toward a World without Nuclear Weapons

Currently, a so-called “draft resolution to prohibit nuclear weapons” has been submitted by Austria, Mexico etc. to the U.N. General Assembly First Committee. This draft resolution decides that the U.N. shall convene a meeting to negotiate a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons next year. It attracts much attention as to how our nation Japan will act on the voting.

As Japan is the only country that experienced wartime atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is entrusted with a mission to widely spread the inhuman nature of nuclear weapons to the world. On the other hand, our nation has a security policy relying on nuclear deterrence provided by the United States. Therefore, to date, our nation has aimed at abolishing nuclear weapons in a long time frame.

This draft resolution requests a U.N. meeting to negotiate a legally-binding instrument. It does not request an outright prohibition of such weapons, and it does not contradict our nation’s current position. Also, this draft resolution is useful for the international community to express a strong message that repeated nuclear tests and ballistic missile tests by North Korea will never be accepted.

For the reasons above, our nation should support this draft resolution to prohibit nuclear weapons as our best choice. We should not oppose even in the worst case.

We once more request the Abe Administration that it will communicate with the United States and explain our nation’s position carefully, while taking into consideration the reality of the international community regarding nuclear weapons, and that it will continue to make constructive contributions in order to generate cooperation between nuclear-armed states and non-nuclear-armed states. (a voluntary translation by Peace Depot)