I am delighted to send warm greetings to all participants and concert-goers in the United Nations Singers Japan Concert Tour. In appearing alongside many local chorus groups, this concert tour will benefit from the performances of nearly 100 participants from across the generations, and in Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This year’s tour coincides with the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The unimaginable destruction and suffering of World War II, as well as a desire to ensure that it could never happen again, helped mobilize the international community to establish the United Nations.

I am grateful to Japan for continuing to advance human rights, peace and development -- and for the country’s efforts as we prepare a new sustainable development agenda and a meaningful agreement on climate change, both to be adopted later this year.

I also thank Ambassador Kenzo Oshima for his assistance organizing these events. As a Hiroshima survivor, he has been a tireless advocate for nuclear disarmament.

Our gifted United Nations singers will not only raise their voices for peace and a life of dignity for all in Japan, they will do so for a better life for all across the globe.