Remarks at the Handover Ceremony for the Japanese Translation of “Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do!”

By

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Ms. Kaoru Nemoto, Director, UNIC Tokyo,

Project Associate Professor Terue Okada, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo,

Excellencies, distinguished guests and colleagues, ladies, gentlemen and students,

Thank you to the United Nations Information Centre for organizing this ceremony. It gives me great pleasure to be here to receive the Japanese language version of “Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do!”

Let me start by commending you and your fellow students for the initiative and dedication you have shown in translating “10 Things”. Your Japanese version marks the first translation of this important and practical document. I hope it will be the first of many more.

I am also grateful that you will make this Japanese translation freely available to all. In so doing, you make a significant contribution to the international effort to increase public awareness about the urgent need for progress on nuclear disarmament.

I have been honoured in the last few days to meet with a number of hibakusha. These inspiring women and men have unwaveringly, over decades, led efforts to make sure we remember the devastating impact of nuclear weapons and the importance of action to advance the goal of their elimination.

This important document also aims to spread awareness and encourage practical action to advance nuclear disarmament goals.

Hence, the fact that this project was undertaken by you – students – is especially laudable. For it is a reality that your generation must carry forward the hibakusha’s message and honour them by leading the campaign to attain the long held goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

I would like to acknowledge the strong leadership and vision of Professor Okada, in this project and in the many other efforts she has taken to advance nuclear disarmament.

I would like also to express my gratitude to the University of Tokyo and its readiness to join UN Academic Impact. I encourage the University to connect with Academic Impact member universities in my own country, the Republic of Korea.

Finally, as we mark the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is important to take stock and reflect. I look forward to exploring these issues with you in our interaction to commence shortly.

This generation did not create nuclear weapons. You inherited them. Hopefully your generation will be the one to eliminate these weapons once and for all. I believe you can.

Thank you.