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Dear Mr. Katamine,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10 April inviting me to the commemorative symposium, “Pursuing a nuclear weapons-free world from Nagasaki” to be held on 18 April 2012 on the occasion of the opening of the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), at Nagasaki University.

Due to my prior commitments, I am unable to attend the symposium. However, I am very pleased to support the cause by sending a message to welcome the opening of the Center for nuclear weapons abolition. Please find attached a message to the symposium.

The United Nations will continue to speak out for peace and for a world free of nuclear weapons. I applaud your pledge to work for the same goals.

Sincerely yours,



Angela Kane  
High Representative  
for Disarmament Affairs

Mr. Shigeru Katamine  
President  
Nagasaki University  
Nagasaki City  
Japan

**MESSAGE TO THE COMMEMORATIVE SYMPOSIUM:  
PURSUING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS-FREE WORLD FROM NAGASAKI  
Nagasaki City, Japan, 18 April 2012**

By  
Angela Kane  
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs  
United Nations

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I am pleased to send my greetings to the commemorative symposium, "Pursuing a nuclear weapons-free world from Nagasaki" on the occasion of the opening of the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), at Nagasaki University.

I also wish to express my gratitude to Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture and to the Government of Japan for their support in establishing the Center.

The elimination of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction has been, and continues to be, the top disarmament priority of the United Nations. This is a specific priority of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Cooperation among governments, international organizations and civil society groups, including think tanks such as RECNA is essential in achieving our shared goal of ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

Your meeting offers an excellent opportunity to explore specific ways to strengthen the world community's solidarity and determination to achieve this great goal. You can send a strong message to world leaders that institutions such as yours are moving forward to do everything possible to realize a world free of nuclear weapons.

Too often, we hear that global nuclear disarmament is a utopian dream. Too often, we are tempted by such claims to pass along the responsibility of achieving this goal to future generations.

Nuclear disarmament is surely one of the greatest undertakings, and its achievement will not be easy because of the unique dangers of nuclear weapons and the need to establish the highest standards for compliance. However, these cannot serve as excuses for inaction.

So I wish to thank you for realizing your ambition to establish this Center for nuclear weapons abolition. May it grow and prosper and successfully inspire a new generation of students, academics and researchers to bring their energy and vision to the service of this historic goal. The future is truly in your hands. Please accept my very best wishes for a successful meeting.