



The TPNW First Meeting of States Parties: Report from Vienna

Masao Tomonaga, Visiting Professor of RECNA

I attended the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which was held in Vienna between June 21 and June 23. It proved to be a very lively event under the vigorous chairmanship of Amb. Alexander Kmentt, the Austrian Ambassador and Director for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. I think that the Japanese NGO attendees and mass media journalists accounted for the largest presence. The Meeting was concluded with an agreement on the Vienna Declaration, and the 50-point Vienna Action Plan. I have selected the main matters and provide a report on the gist of them below.

The paramount issue for the future is to increase the number of member states, especially to promote membership among nuclear weapon states and nuclear dependent states.

1. Outline of the Vienna Declaration

Since it entered into force on January 22, 2021, nuclear weapons have become clearly illegal under international law as are biological and chemical weapons. From now on the verification of denuclearization with legally binding powers will be important. Nuclear weapons shall not be allowed to proliferate, the threat of their use will be prevented, victims of nuclear weapons supported, and devastated environments restored. The deterrence theory is declared as erroneous. Signatory states to the NPT are required to fully execute the obligation in Article 6 of the Treaty to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race.”

2. Outline of the Action Plan

The 50-point Vienna Action Plan was decided upon. The top-priority item is the universalization of the

TPNW. The promotion as an international norm of regarding the risks and inhumane results brought about by nuclear weapons will be facilitated and the number of nations ratifying the Treaty will be increased. Dialog will be held with the nuclear-weapon states and the nations under the nuclear umbrella who rely on deterrence. The implementation of Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty concerning international cooperation in victim assistance and environmental remediation will be made specific. Discussions will be held on the practical feasibility of a trust fund for the international assistance of nations affected by nuclear explosions and victims. Each state party will formulate specific policies on victim assistance and environmental remediation. An organization composed of experts involved in the TPNW will be established by the next Meeting of States Parties, and care will be taken to avoid regional or gender bias in its composition. Fifteen scientific experts will be selected within the space of 90 days from the end of the Meeting. Discussions will be held with the NPT Review Conference and multilateral nuclear arms reduction systems, and the mutual complementariness of the TPNW and NPT pursued. An unofficial coordinator will be appointed for this purpose. There will be cooperation with international organizations such as the IAEA and the CTBTO, as well as the UN, International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

3. Observers

The NATO member nations such as Germany, attended as observers, highly praised the content of the TPNW, and earned a loud round of applause from all those gathered at the venue for promising to strive to become a state party in the future. This was the greatest achievement of the First Meeting.

The TPNW First Meeting of States Parties: Working Paper on Victim Assistance

Satoshi Hirose (Vice director, RECNA)

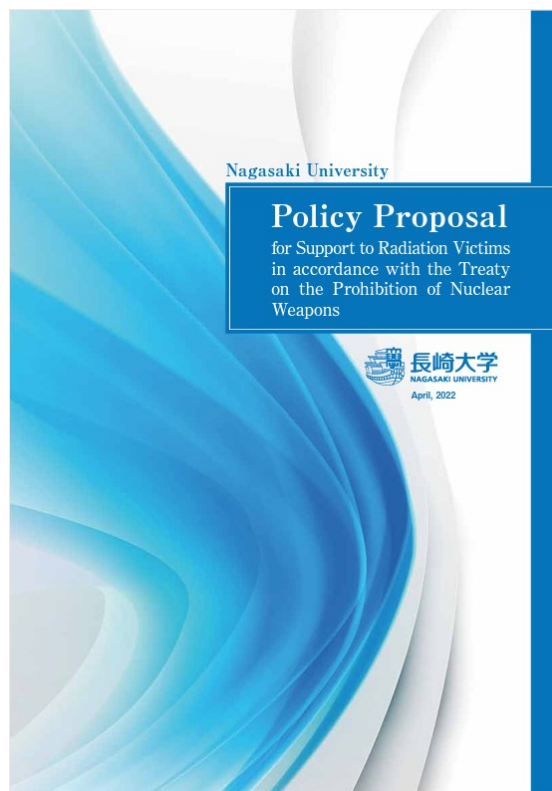
In preparation for the TPNW First Meeting of States Parties, RECNA and the Atomic Bomb Disease Institute at Nagasaki University publicized their “Policy Proposal for Support to Radiation Victims in accordance with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons”

with regard to Articles 6 and 7 of the TPNW. Based on the history of the atomic bomb damage caused to the Nagasaki Medical College — which was Nagasaki University’s predecessor — the proposal was created by these two research facilities of the university that have been involved in the medical treatment of hibakusha and the abolition of nuclear weapons by combining their powers and exercising the strengths of Nagasaki University towards the realization of the TPNW’s text.

The contents of the proposal include, in order to materialize victim assistance and environmental remediation in accordance with the TPNW, to collate information and data from Japan and other nations that have suffered from nuclear explosions, formulate international medical guidelines, establish an international health care working group to consider the selection of effective approaches, and an institutional support system working group to coordinate international cooperation and consider mechanisms to procure and manage funds. The proposal also mentions the necessity of both securing and fostering the human resources required for these purposes.

In addition, prior to the meeting, the policy proposal was also sent to the Chair of the First Meeting, Amb. Alexander Kmentt, the major countries involved in the nuclear issue and the states parties. Furthermore, a summary of the proposal in the form of a working paper was officially submitted to the First Meeting and passed around the states parties as the document TPNW/MSP/2022/NGO/34. The Vienna Action Plan adopted as result of the Meeting includes the exchange of information and ascertainment of situations

about victim assistance in each nation, an international coordination mechanism, and the securing of requisite funding and technical cooperation. Moreover, the Meeting agreed on the establishment of working groups to conduct specific considerations towards the implementation of the above. Although we cannot go as far as saying that this was all the result of the working paper submitted by RECNA, the content created by RECNA and the Atomic Bomb Disease Institute was in line with the flow of debate at the TPNW First Meeting of States Parties and we feel that it did perhaps make a contribution to the success of the Meeting.



“Policy Proposal for Support to Radiation Victims in accordance with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” (full text)

https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/bd/files/RECNA-PProp-202204_E.pdf

TPNW/MSP/2022/NGO/34 (full text, English only)

https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TPNW.MSP_2022.NGO_34.pdf

"Nagasaki Before the A-Bomb" Slide Materials and "Aerial Photo Archive"

Mitsuhiro Hayashida (RECNA Visiting Researcher)

Since fiscal year 2021, we at RECNA have been working on the "Project to put online and digitalize and the Reality of Atomic Bombing" (hereinafter the "Joint Project") as commissioned by the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for Atomic Bomb Victims. As a progress report, we introduce here two content segments publicly released this summer.

Slide materials portraying daily life in Nagasaki Before the A-Bomb

As part of the Joint Project, in July last year we began soliciting photos that show the circumstances of

Nagasaki before the atomic bomb was dropped, and by the end of March 2022, received more than 6,000 photos. Based on contacts with the donors, we prepared "slide materials" usable in school classrooms. They are currently available on the RECNA website and can be freely used by anyone for educational purposes. In preparing the materials, we made use of outside writers who helped collect testimony.

Two slide sets were released. "Central Nagasaki area life" and "Student life at the time" brought together daily living in pre-A-Bomb Nagasaki. Going forward, we expect to increase the number of these materials.



From "Student life at the time" * The slides can be downloaded from [here](#).

Aerial photo archive

We have released the current results of our aerial photo digital archive led by professor Byungdug Jun. The archive has two large 3D images of Nagasaki City photos taken by the U.S. military on August 7 and September 7, 1945, and enables comparisons of conditions around the time of the bombing on the website.

Use of the aerial photos enables 3-D reconstructions of mountainous region elevation differences and

townscapes, and they provide provides a detailed look at how the atomic bomb destroyed Nagasaki. Multiple buildings on the map are also rendered in 3D, enabling a greater feel for the Bomb's destructive power.

Going forward, we are planning to use of the unique characteristics of aerial photos reproduce maps of the escape routes used by victims in the immediate aftermath of the bombing, with a view to enabling vicarious experience.



Aerial photo of Nagasaki City * 3D images are available [here](#).

Future development

As noted in our newsletter's previous issue, we are currently creating a website that brings together photos collected in the Joint Project and created contents (slide materials, aerial photo archives, movie materials). Slide materials and aerial photo archives used in combination, for example, can provide more multi-

level learning opportunities, but we expect to adopt a design whereby special pages will also connect these related materials and teaching aids. We would like to work on the website so that we can introduce it by the next issue.

Launch of Panel on Peace and Security of Northeast Asia (PSNA) 2

Tatsujiro Suzuki (Vice Director, RECNA)

In 2016 RECNA, in line with the 2015 proposal of “A Comprehensive Approach to Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone,” established the Panel on Peace and Security of Northeast Asia (PSNA) made up of members who are specialists in the region’s main nations, and has continued with its activities. The Panel reached its fifth year of activities in 2021 and at an online workshop held in October 2021 it was agreed that based on the five years of activity from 2016 to 2021, PSNA2, consisting of a fresh team of members, will be launched.

The following points were confirmed regarding the new PSNA2 member structure and activity policy: 1) the members will be made more diverse and a more youthful membership including next-generation spe-

cialists; 2) a shift will be made from workshop activities towards a focus on academic research, and the publishing of around three papers per year; and 3) workshops will in principle be conducted online, and hosted when appropriate with flexibly including small-scale unofficial workshops. In line with these basic policies, PSNA2 was officially launched in June 2022.

PSNA2 will not appoint a joint chair and has instead assigned core members to take charge of activity policy and planning. The four assigned are Wooksik Cheong (Peace Network, South Korea), Gregory Kulacki (The Union of Concerned Scientists, U.S.), J.J. Suh (International Christian University in Tokyo (Professor Suh is South Korean)), and Associate Professor Keiko Nakamura of RECNA. The other mem-

bers are a diverse group drawn together from the U.S., Russia, China, South Korea, Israel, the U.K. and Japan. Their age range is wide, from those in their 30s to those in their 50s, and the proportion of women has risen to six out of 16. Seven figures agreed to serve as senior advisors including Dr. M. Halperin (U.S.), former Ambassador Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia), and Chung-in-Moon, president of the Sejong Foundation

(South Korea).

PSNA2 has held core member meetings since May, convened five meetings by September, and decided upon four working papers. In July an unofficial meeting of all PSNA2 member and senior advisors took place, and it was decided that this fiscal year's PSNA2 meeting will be held online in January 2023.

2022 Nagasaki Peace Declaration – Time to Regain an Awareness of Civil Society's Role

Satoshi Hirose (Vice director, RECNA)

Looking back over the previous year, it has become certain that 2022 will be a year of enormous change for nuclear disarmament. Firstly, in January the five nuclear-weapon states of the U.S., Russia, the U.K., France and China issued a joint statement declaring that “We affirm that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.” This statement was welcomed as an expression of the will by the nuclear-weapon states to prevent the use of nuclear weapons bearing in mind international public opinions and amid the imminent hosting of major international conferences regarding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, namely the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) First Meeting of States Parties, and the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation (NPT) of Nuclear Weapons.

However, in February, Russia invaded Ukraine and hinted at the threat of using nuclear weapons, thus snuffing out the optimistic view of progress in nuclear disarmament. With the subsequent fierce conflict between Russia and the West as well as the conduct of China, which is proceeding to boost its nuclear arsenal while continuing to show a pro-Russian stance, the international state of affairs suddenly became tense and are now said to be at their worst since the Cold War. This casted a dark shadow over the prospects for the NPT Review Conference.

Although the TPNW Meeting of States Parties held in Vienna in June achieved the hoped-for results, amid the participation as observers of NATO-member Norway, the Netherlands and Germany, and the squeezing into the venue of many citizens from Japan and people representing the mass media, in the end the Japanese government was conspicuous by its absence. This leaves a sizeable question mark about whether Japan really can play the role it preaches of being a mediator between the nuclear-weapon states and the non-nuclear states.

Reflecting this background, this year's Peace Declaration, while reflecting the bleak international situation, refuted security based on the so-called “deterrence theory” of “power against power,” and strongly affirmed the policy of demanding peace through the rejection of nuclear weapons. The Declaration emphasized the roles that should be played particularly by Japan and civil society. Obviously, as the only nation to have experienced atomic bombing, and as a nation with a peace constitution and the three non-nuclear principles, Japan should not be adopting a lukewarm stance but exercising clear leadership towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. The wording of the Declaration enables one to sense a frustration with Japan's stance on nuclear disarmament, which appears to be receding on the grounds of “reality.”

Furthermore, with regards to civil society, rather than merely praising social action and expressing

hopes for it, in the face of the current bleak situation the Declaration encourages caution in order that the public are not swept along by the apparently simple logic of “power against power, nuclear weapons against nuclear weapons.” The line in the Declaration stating that “Our civil society can become either a

keystone to peace or a hotbed of war,” is a truly vital message aimed at each and every one of us. We must all build a bastion of peace in our very own hearts.

Nagasaki Youth Delegation Visits New York

Myogyon Kan, Ami Inohara (Tenth Nagasaki Youth Delegation)

The Nagasaki Youth Delegation made its first overseas activity in three years when the members visited the United Nations headquarters in New York upon the convening of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty(NPT).

Presentation: “Invisible Walls”

On our recent visit to New York we gave a presentation entitled “Invisible Walls -Strengthening bonds between peace activists and the general public,” which focused on the “invisible wall” between people who conduct peace activities and ordinary people who do not. The members of our delegation have a shared awareness of how important it is to widen the topical forums regarding the nuclear weapons issue, and we used the expression of an “invisible walls” regarding the three elements we believe are essential in order to achieve this goal.

The first wall is the disparity in education concerning nuclear weapons. Citing literature obtained from our seniors in the Ninth Delegation on the geographical differences in peace education in Japan, I explained about the gaps in peace education in cities other than Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

The second wall is the difficulty of generalization that become apparent when comparing nuclear issues with such issues like environmental issues or gender issues, which are commonly raised. Although problems such as environment and gender have recently started to head in the direction of resolution, it could

be said that the nuclear weapons issue is something outside the ordinary problem awareness of most people. However, the fear of nuclear weapons, which could be launched at any time, is a fear common to all humankind and one that we should all surely regard as something more familiar.

Finally, as the third wall I cited the image of peace activists and the peace movement itself, the point that alongside the regional differences in peace education “peace activities” and “peace activists” are distant from ordinary people’s daily lives and regarded as difficult to approach.

Through this presentation on these three walls I sought to clearly state the importance of gaining opportunities to think about how we can more easily involve people from all walks of life in peace activities, regardless of where they live or their roots.

Tenth Nagasaki Youth Delegation

Myogyon Kan

Second year student at School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University

Meetings with representatives of various nations

At the Conference in New York, in addition to listening to the proceedings we also held discussions with the representatives of some nations with whom we had made prior appointments. We were able to learn the opinions and claims of nations in all sorts of positions such as the nuclear-weapon states of the U.K. and France, Pakistan, which is not an NPT signatory but does possess nuclear weapons, and NATO member states such as Turkey and Canada.

I had deepened my learning through study groups between joining the Tenth Delegation and travelling to New York, but the circumstances of each nation surrounding nuclear issues was even more complicated than I had imagined. In particular, when I was confronted head-on with the opinions of various nations I felt a renewed sense of the difficulty in achieving an international consensus on nuclear disarmament.

We also met with both Mr. Ichiro Ogasawara, Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament and Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and went to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) headquarters to meet Japanese staff members there. They told us about maneuvering round the Conference as ambassador or Under-Secretary-General, and the state of progress of the

Conference, as well as answering questions from us. At the UNDP headquarters the Japan Unit's Special Advisor and a program specialist from the UNDP Crisis Bureau talked to us about all sorts of matters using the Afghanistan crisis as an example.

I was able to learn a great deal about the searching for more realistic ways and the necessity for strengthening the collaboration between each and every actor or the sake of solving the nuclear issue and building peace.

Tenth Nagasaki Youth Delegation

Ami Inohara

Second year student at School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University



Aerial Nagasaki Youth Delegation Members with Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara, Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, New York, on 17 August 2022, Photo by RECNA

Announcements

“World’s Nuclear Warheads Data” 2022 and “World’s Fissile Material Data” 2022 by RECNA are now available from the URL below;

“World’s Nuclear Warheads Data” 2022

<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/40908>

“World’s Fissile Material Data” 2022

<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/41356>

RECNA’ Eye

RECNA issues short statements on various occasions which may have some impacts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Some of such statements are also available in English from the URL below;

<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-recnaseye>

Summary Assessment of the NPT Review Conference

The 10th Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from August 1 to August 26 was monitored by RECNA faculty members (Deputy Director Suzuki, Deputy Director Hirose, Associate Professor Nakamura, and Adjunct Professor Nishida). After the conference, a multifaceted "summary" of the conference in general by each faculty member is posted. Please click [here](#) to view.

Winners of the First Essay Contest Announced

RECNA held a call for “Opinions” applying to the First Essay Contest on “Nuclear Weapons and Our Future” as one of its 10th anniversary commemorative projects. The winners of the contest were announced on 24 September as follows;

Grand Prize

Ms. Kokoro Nishiyama (23 years old)

Master’s course at Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Monterey, USA

Second Prize

Mr. ALOK CHANDAN (26 years old)

PhD Candidate, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, India

Second Prize

Mr. Keisuke Aoki (29 years old)

Lives in Tokyo. Company Employee.

The details of the contest and full text of “Opinions” of the winners are available [here](#).



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