

**A New Stage of Denuclearization after TPNW adoption under NPT Regime:
Bridge-building between Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) and Non-Nuclear
Weapon States (N-NWS) plus NGOs: Recommendation by Eminent Persons
Group (EPG) of the Japanese Government**

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Deterioration of international security environment

And a divide on approaches towards a world without nuclear weapons between NWS and N-NWS plus NGOs are now serious. After TPNW adoption Japan's Former Foreign Minister Kishida announced at the 1st NPT PrepCom that Japan would not join the treaty because of her nuclear deterrence policy under US-Japan Security Treaty. Nevertheless, he established Eminent Persons Group (EPG) asking to recommend bridge-building policies between NWS and N-NWS plus NGOs for substantive advancement of nuclear disarmament.

Emblem of Recommendation

16 (10 from abroad) members of EPG met twice and handed it to new FM Kohno on March 29. Its emblem is that the common goal of all NPT member states is nuclear weapon-free world in line with Article VI. Unfortunately under the present NPT regime nuclear disarmament process is sluggish along with nuclear proliferation. There is "International Norm" not to use nuclear weapons in any circumstance. This norm must be maintained. EPG considers that civility in discourse and respect for divergent views are essential to work together under NPT.

NPT still plays a central role

All previous NPT commitments on nuclear abolition are important to be realized; CTBT to be ratified completely/ full compliance of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran/ start negotiation on Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction/ Russia-US nuclear arms control framework as a fundamental basis for the global nuclear arms reduction/ EPG urges Russia and United States to secure further reductions and extend New START for 5 years/ to avoid catastrophic consequences from the North Korean nuclear-missile crisis by all stakeholder through peaceful means as the present negotiation shows.

Proposed Bridge-building actions

1. Enhancing the implementation of the NPT review process: Most importantly NWS must report their nuclear disarmament plans to ensure the transparency and start dialogue between NWS and N-NWS and Civil Society.

2. Confidence-building measure as a foundation of bridge-building: reduction of the role of nuclear weapons in national security policies/ UN Security Council Resolution (984) to strengthen negative security assurance for non-nuclear weapon states and states parties to NWFZ treaties.

3. Preparing the ground for convergence of different approaches: a lack of consensus on common understanding on verification and enforcement/ intensification of verification and compliance mechanisms/ stock problem of nuclear fissile materials/ promotion of Cut-Off Treaty negotiation.

4. There remains hard questions: Although nuclear deterrence may arguably enhance stability in certain environment, it is a dangerous long-term basis for global security, therefore all nations must seek a better long-term solution/ What is minimization point for total denuclearization/ Addressing the right of self-defense under extreme circumstances of national survival envisage the possibility of limited threat of use or use of nuclear weapons, mindful of international humanitarian law/ Solutions for ultimate dilemma of how to guarantee of all states by ensuring obligation under NPT regime, including timely enforcement when compliance fails. As shown above there are various common steps to practice under two treaties.

FM Kohno spoke on this Recommendation in Geneva at the 2nd NPT Prep-Com.

Japan may proceed along with this recommendation. When the convergence between NPT and TPNW will be successful, we may be closer to nuclear-free world.