

*Appeal by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*

**Never again: Nagasaki must be the last atomic bombing**

We, leaders and representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement participating in the Conference on the Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in Nagasaki, congratulate the 132 States that have so far participated in the UN negotiations to prohibit nuclear weapons. We urge all other States to take part in the next phase of these negotiations in June-July 2017. All nations have a responsibility to their populations and to future generations to faithfully use this opportunity to shape the course of history.

We have witnessed the past devastation and heard of the ongoing physical and psychological suffering of thousands of Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) 72 years on.

We know that the destructive capacity of nuclear weapons in arsenals today is many times greater than the bombs used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The risk that nuclear weapons will again be used by intent, miscalculation or accident is higher than most people realize and ever increasing. The threat to humanity is beyond imagination.

We deplore that tremendous financial and human resources continue to be invested in modernizing and maintaining nuclear weapons, resources that should be dedicated to preserving life.

We therefore appeal to all States to use the unprecedented window of opportunity to take a decisive step towards a world without nuclear weapons.

We are standing at the brink of what will be the turning point in efforts to end the era of nuclear weapons. By negotiating and adopting a treaty that recognizes the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and contains a clear and unambiguous prohibition, States have the opportunity to ensure that Nagasaki is the last place in history to have suffered the effects of an atomic bombing. Prohibiting nuclear weapons will strengthen current nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

Achieving a world without nuclear weapons is an obligation to future generations and imperative to preserve our common humanity. Weapons that risk catastrophic humanitarian consequences cannot possibly be viewed as providing peoples' security. Protecting humanity requires courage, commitment and concerted action: it is time to put humanity first by prohibiting and completely eliminating nuclear weapons.

Nagasaki, 26 April 2017

**Participating National Societies:**

Algerian Red Crescent  
Australian Red Cross  
Austrian Red Cross  
Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society  
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society  
Belgian Red Cross  
Costa Rican Red Cross  
Danish Red Cross  
Fiji Red Cross  
German Red Cross  
Indonesian Red Cross  
Red Crescent of Iran  
Iraqi Red Crescent  
Magen David Adom in Israel  
Italian Red Cross  
Japanese Red Cross Society  
Jordan Red Crescent  
Kazakh Red Crescent  
Latvian Red Cross  
Lebanese Red Cross  
Micronesian Red Cross  
Netherlands Red Cross  
Nigerian Red Cross  
Norwegian Red Cross  
Philippines Red Cross  
Qatar Red Crescent  
Red Cross of Serbia  
South African Red Cross  
Swedish Red Cross  
Thai Red Cross  
Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross, on behalf of 13 Caribbean National Societies  
Turkish Red Crescent  
Vanuatu Red Cross  
Vietnam Red Cross

**And:**

International Committee of the Red Cross  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies