

Speech at the Ceremony of Hiroshima Commemoration

August 6, 2022

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Ambassador of Japan to Ireland

Good afternoon,

Councillor Darcy Lonergan, Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin,
Reverend Patrick Comerford, President of Irish Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament,
Dr. David Hutchinson Edgar, Chairperson of Irish CND,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude, on behalf of the Government of Japan, to the Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament for hosting this annual commemoration ceremony for the victims of the atomic bomb on this Hiroshima Day. Our sincere respect for the continued effort of Irish CND towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. My thanks also go to the City of Dublin for hosting this event.

Since February, we have been gravely concerned with the threat to use nuclear weapons by Russia in its aggression against Ukraine. So, regrettably, this year, we have to take the current situation surrounding nuclear weapons even more seriously than last year.

This is a matter of concern for both Ireland and Japan. When Taoiseach Micheál Martin visited Japan last month, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation was one of the topics he discussed intensively with Japanese Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio. As you might know, Prime Minister KISHIDA's constituency is the ground zero district of the Hiroshima atomic bombing. The two leaders discussed the way forward under the current challenging circumstances.

As we gather at the ceremony today, the 10th NPT Review Conference has been held since 1 August. As is well known, the original idea of this Treaty was presented by the Irish government. Prime Minister KISHIDA attended this conference as the first Japanese Prime Minister to do so. Let me quote his statement at the General Debate of this conference five days ago.

“Today I have come to this Review Conference driven by a strong sense of urgency. ... I cannot but admit the path to a world without nuclear weapons has become even harder. Nevertheless, giving up is not an option. As a Prime Minister from Hiroshima, I believe we must take every realistic measure toward a world without nuclear weapons step by step, however difficult the path may be.”

He further itemised five actions in this spirit. Promoting an accurate understanding of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons through encouraging visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki is one of them. I am of the view that today's ceremony here also serves the same purpose.

On this day to mark another anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima, I would like to appeal to all to renew our commitment and determination for striving towards a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.