First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Vienna, 21–23 June 2022

Hear Our Silenced Voices

Working paper submitted by Kinokokai (Association of Atomic Bomb Microcephaly Sufferers and Their Families)

1. We welcome wholeheartedly the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

2. Radiation from nuclear weapons damages even the youngest lives it touches, those yet to emerge from their mothers’ wombs;

3. Microcephaly can occur when a fetus is exposed to intense radiation in the early stages of pregnancy. The cases in Hiroshima were caused by exposure to the atomic bomb. Exposed fetuses were born with mental retardation, internal organ disorders, and many other disabilities. Had they not been exposed to the atomic bomb at their respective stages of life, they would have, in all likelihood, lived normal lives;

4. Being mentally handicapped they never shout, "Abolish nuclear weapons!" But their very existence is persuasive testimony to the inhumanity of those weapons;

5. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons states in its preamble that "Total abolition is the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again under any circumstances." The nuclear weapon states must hear this message;

6. Japan, the only country attacked in combat by nuclear weapons, has long boasted its three non-nuclear principles. And yet, the Japanese government refuses to accept the TPNW. We demand that Japan immediately sign and ratify that treaty;

7. We hope the TPNW will go into universal effect in time to prevent any repetition of our tragedy.