JCCU’s Proposal of Peace Resolution at the ICA General Assembly

Thank you, Chairperson, Cooperative Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.
My name is Toshifumi Yamashita, President of the Japanese Consumers’ Cooperative Union.

It is my greatest pleasure to have this opportunity to make a proposal in respect of peace and security of the world at this ICA General Assembly.

When we think of the world peace, we cannot evade the issue of nuclear weapons. I would like to ask support from all cooperators and humbly persuade them to seek peace and security by promoting on-going movements in the world to make nuclear weapons the thing of the past.

Twenty years have passed since the end of the Cold War. At that time there was the view that the world would be extricated from the stress of the war and that a new period of peace and affluence would begin.

We should note that economic inequality will lead to an increasing number of disputes and conflicts around the world and these will continue to challenge the attainment of international peace.

Furthermore, pandemics, natural disasters, starvation and poverty, climate change and the depletion of biological diversity would create additional instability in the world.

We should recognize that we live in a time that we have to come together as co-operators with the same philosophy to face the difficult challenges in our time.

It is clear that the world needs Co-operation today more than ever before. It should be noted that for more than 60 years, the existence of nuclear weapons has constituted one of the greatest challenges to mankind alongside that of Global Warming.

We should understand that these nuclear weapons could destroy all life on our planet.

We should also be aware that despite the continuous efforts of world leaders and the Nobel Peace Prize laureates and peoples’ movements calling on-going movements in the world today for nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, there continues to be a proliferation of nuclear weapons and an increasing risk of their use.

In 2010, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) member states will hold a review conference on the treaty.

1. We call on ICA member organizations to lobby their governments to support concrete action towards nuclear disarmament and the destruction of nuclear weapons.

2. We also urge co-operators worldwide to appeal for the elimination of starvation and poverty, call for world stabilization and prosperity and build a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

I believe that this is the time for all co-operators to play a crucial role. It is my hope that this year and this General Assembly would be the historical turning point for the realization of world peace without nuclear weapons.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Nuclear Abolition by 2020!
The Chairperson, Representatives from the world Cooperatives who are here at this ICA General Meeting, Ladies & Gentlemen

My name is Okamura Nobuhite, from the Consumers' Co-operative Union of Hiroshima Prefecture. I am pleased to be given time and opportunity to speak at this ICA General Assembly.

I have come to Geneva this day to convey a heartfelt message from the people of Hiroshima and the members of the Japanese co-operatives, to you all Co-operators around the world.

This year April in Prague, the US President Barack Obama addressed the people of Prague stressing the need to "make the world without nuclear weapons" which had a great impact on many people in the world. He also stressed the danger of nuclear terrorism and the need to accelerate nuclear extinction.

However since some countries are still advancing in nuclear development, nuclear extinction has a long way to go.

For nuclear extinction to be real, we have to make sure that the two commitments are adopted by the United Nations.

Firstly, the United Nations has to draw a time frame for the disarmament of nuclear weapons that exist in the world. A deadline must be set, and all nations including nuclear-capable ones must strive towards nuclear disarmament by the given deadline.

Secondly, there must be an international treaty that would prohibit the development of new nuclear weapons.

In May 2008, the mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Akiba who is also the chairperson of the "mayors for peace meeting" announced the "Hiroshima-Nagasaki" protocol. This protocol clearly specifies that the year 2020 be the deadline for nuclear extinction and that the manifestation of the international treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons must be made more realistic than the present time.

In May next year during the review conference on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York, we plead for the adoption of the "Hiroshima-Nagasaki" protocol to prevent the next use of atomic bombs.

Human beings cannot coexist with cruel and inhumane nuclear weapons. As Cooperators, by the year 2020 are we not looking to a future society of free nuclear weapons, where one can have the peace and security, a society that can be handed peacefully to the next generation!

This is the message from the bomb affected Hiroshima.

Thank you.