

The G-7 Summit in Hiroshima and U.S. Leadership on Eliminating Nuclear Dangers

April 19, 2023

Dear Mr. President:

The May 19-21 Group of Seven (G-7) Summit in Hiroshima creates an historic opportunity for you to acknowledge the horrors of nuclear war and reaffirm the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, while pledging concrete steps to prevent a new arms race, guard against nuclear weapons use, and advance nuclear disarmament.

We commend Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on choosing the city of Hiroshima--the target of the first use of a nuclear weapon in war--as the summit venue. We agree with Mr. Kishida's call to use the summit "to deepen discussions so that we can release a strong message toward realizing a world free of nuclear weapons," and, as [he said on Jan. 9](#), "demonstrate a firm commitment to absolutely reject the threat or use of nuclear weapons."

During the 2020 campaign and as president, you pledged to "restore American leadership on arms control and nonproliferation...and work to bring us closer to a world without nuclear weapons." This summit is the ideal opportunity to build upon the [powerful statement you made on the 75th anniversary](#) of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

In addition to supporting the strongest possible G-7 Leaders statement on nuclear weapons-related matters, we urge you to deliver your own address in Hiroshima (or Nagasaki) outlining your vision for advancing a new global nuclear restraint and disarmament dialogue. To do so, we urge you to:

- Acknowledge the tremendous, long-lasting human suffering that the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings inflicted on the *hibakusha* and underscore the fact that today, despite progress over the decades in reducing nuclear stockpiles and containing proliferation, a direct conflict involving nuclear-armed adversaries could lead to catastrophic devastation on a global scale.
- Reiterate that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, note that the G-20 agreed in November 2022, that nuclear weapons use, and threat of use, are "inadmissible," and pledge to work with responsible states to "demonstrate a firm commitment to absolutely reject the threat or use of nuclear weapons."
- Reiterate your invitation to Russian authorities to hold high-level talks designed to restore implementation of New START and to negotiate a new nuclear arms control framework to supersede New START.
- Underscore the growing concerns about China's nuclear buildup and reiterate the U.S. offer to engage in a bilateral risk reduction dialogue at any level to address mutual concerns and the shared goal of avoiding miscalculation that might lead to conflict.
- Remind other nuclear-armed states who are parties to the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that they all have special responsibility and obligation under Article VI "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament ..." and that concrete action toward this end reduces nuclear risk and is essential to maintain the credibility of the Treaty.

- Create the conditions for progress on disarmament and head off a new arms race by calling upon the other P-5 nuclear-armed states, China, France, and the UK, to freeze the overall size of their nuclear weapons stockpiles so long as the United States and Russia maintain limits on their strategic arsenals and engage in further diplomatic efforts to achieve deeper nuclear reductions.

Through the years, U.S. presidents and world leaders, including Kennedy, Reagan, Gorbachev, Gandhi, Mandela, and Obama, among others, have confronted the nuclear danger and sought to deliver the visionary leadership necessary to spur the action necessary to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons, proliferation, arms racing, and the ultimate catastrophe, nuclear war.

At a time of growing nuclear danger, we hope you will during your visit to Hiroshima elaborate on how the United States is willing and ready to work with other states, including those with nuclear weapons and those that have foresworn them, to ensure that no country or city suffers the horrors of nuclear war ever again.

There is no substitute for U.S. leadership in reducing nuclear risk. We look to you to provide that leadership.

Sincerely,

Andrew Albertson, Executive Director, Foreign Policy for America

Emma Belcher, PhD, President, Ploughshares Fund

Rev. Jamar A. Boyd, II, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference

Rachel Bronson, President & CEO, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Susan F. Burk, Former Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation

W. Taylor Carneiro-Johnson, Interim Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Jay Coghlan, Executive Director, Nuclear Watch New Mexico

Tom Collina, Policy Director, Ploughshares Fund

Tom Countryman, Former Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, current Board Chairman at Arms Control Association

Michele Dunne OFS, Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network

Sara Haghdoosti, Executive Director, Win Without War

Morton H. Halperin, PhD, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

Ira Helfand, MD, Immediate Past President, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

Charles K. Johnson, Program Director, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

Derek Johnson, Managing Partner, Global Zero

Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director, Arms Control Association

Sean Meyer, Co-Founder/Strategic Advisor, Back from the Brink Coalition

Stephen Miles, President, Win Without War

Bridget Moix, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Ben Rhodes, Board Member, Ploughshares Fund

Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, former Deputy National Security Advisor, University of North Florida

John F. Tierney, Executive Director, Council for a Livable World; Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, and former member of Congress (1997-2015)

John C. Wester, Archbishop, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM

Peter Wilk, MD, Administrative Chair, Back from the Brink Coalition