Message to the Participants
in the
Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition
from
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To all and each of you gathered at this historic youth summit:

I wish you days of productive and promising deliberations, productive of fresh ideas and promising possibilities for bringing forth a future free of the ever present burden upon human wellbeing and threat to planetary survival posed by nuclear weapons. Every participant in this gathering has a unique opportunity to join with others of your generation to plan actions and to actively collaborate toward the abolition of this heavy burden and lethal threat, to articulate a common vision of a future untainted by such weapons and the wars that inspired their invention. This opportunity carries with it a responsibility to join in common endeavors to bring your vision into being. Undertaking these endeavors requires learning to understand the obstacles you face, acquiring the knowledge and skills to overcome those obstacles, sharing this learning with your peers at home, and entering dialogues with both the older and younger generations in your communities and countries to enlist them in a worldwide abolition movement, an essential first step toward a lasting and stable world peace.

You come together as world citizens, members of the rapidly growing and ever more creative and dynamic global civil society, comprised of citizens who work in all world regions for a more peaceful and just global order on an ecologically sustainable and life sustaining planet. When you take the enthusiasm you bring to this gathering back to your daily lives, pursuing every possible action, supporting every possible step that will bring about the abolition of nuclear weapons, you empower yourself and others as world citizens, collaboratively confronting the challenges your goals will present. There is no greater need than responsible and knowledgeable world citizens, and no more important and integrally interrelated
tasks facing world society than abolishing nuclear weapons and restoring the health of Planet Earth.

As you undertake the goal of renouncing and abolishing nuclear weapons and war that many have long pursued, undertake also to learn of the history of the long struggle to eliminate nuclear weapons from the time of their testing and use in 1945 to the day you begin this summit. In spite of this 70 year struggle, we continue to live under the shadow of planetary destruction, as these weapons remain within so many national arsenals, and arms races continue. So you must learn of these efforts, support those still pursued and build upon such precedents as the validation of illegality of nuclear weapons by the International Court of Justice, and the current case being brought before the court by the Marshall Islands. You can study the disarmament recommendations put forward in President Ikeda’s annual messages to the United Nations. This is but a start on the learning and action that lies before you, the foundation on which you can build your own contribution, the one that holds the greatest promise to finally achieve this long sought goal. That promise is most likely to be fulfilled if you continue to communicate and cooperate as an electronic global community; if you continue to support and learn from each other, you will be a great force for nuclear abolition.

Together you can envision a world in which expenditures on the weapons do not stand in the way of meeting human needs; in which their development and testing no longer wounds the Earth; in which we can strive toward human fulfillment free of the fear of nuclear annihilation. You can raise and reflect upon the ethical and strategic questions that imbue your chosen task. As representatives of the challenged and capable generation which now takes up this task, may you clearly discern the nature of the challenges and creatively use your capabilities to devise practical actions to overcome them. I am among the many who are with you in spirit and who wish you every success in this endeavor.