United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) sends warm greetings and solidarity to the International Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition meeting in Hiroshima, Japan, 30 August 2015. This summit could not be more timely as the world marks the 70th anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Its mission, to bring young people from around the world together to make a breakthrough toward a world without nuclear weapons, could not be more important.

People have been mobilizing to “Ban the Bomb” for as long as the bomb has existed. The average age of the hibakusha, our moral leaders, is now over 80. The young mothers who led the movement to ban nuclear testing in the early 1960s are now grandmothers and great grandmothers. And the generation of nuclear abolitionists who in 1995 founded the Abolition 2000 Global Network for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons calling for immediate commencement of negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons within a fixed timeline, are now parents and grandparents themselves. The struggle to abolish nuclear weapons has been a long haul. And it is important to know our own history and to honor those who have come before us. The struggle to abolish nuclear weapons must be intergenerational, but your generation, as the last to be able hear the testimonies of the hibakusha first hand, bears a special responsibility to carry forward their urgent message: “What happened to us is so terrible it must never happen to anyone again!”

Just as the struggle to abolish nuclear weapons must be intergenerational, it must also be multi-issue. Nuclear weapons do not exist in isolation. They are at the center of the war system and the world’s military-industrial complexes. The threat of nuclear war and annihilation hovers over every major military conflict. The research, development, testing and production of nuclear weapons causes massive, long-term damage to the environment that disproportionately impacts indigenous and colonized people around the world. Because of the secrecy surrounding sensitive nuclear technologies and plans for nuclear weapons use, nuclear weapons are fundamentally anti-democratic. Despite overwhelming public opposition to nuclear weapon by their own populations, the nuclear-armed nations are planning to spend more than one trillion US dollars over the next decade to maintain and modernize their deadly nuclear arsenals.

UFPJ is working to end war and oppression, shift resources to meet human needs, protect the environment, and promote sustainable alternatives. Our long-term goal is to grow a culture of justice, peace, equality, and cooperation. We value diversity and respect the earth. Our Nuclear Disarmament /Redefining Security Working Group has been working for more than 10 years to situate nuclear weapons in the broader context of U.S. militarism and empire. We seek to raise awareness about the grave environmental dangers and exorbitant financial costs of the entire nuclear chain, and the inextricable link between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. Every August we observe “Nuclear-Free Future Month” to promote a world free of nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

We believe that the concept of security should be reframed at every level of society, with a priority on universal human and ecological security, a return to multilateralism, and a commitment to cooperative, nonviolent means of conflict resolution. Nuclear disarmament should serve as the leading edge of a global trend towards demilitarization and redirection of military expenditures to meet human and environmental needs.

We look forward to working in partnership with the “Generation of Change”!

**United for Peace and Justice National Co-conveners,**
Jackie Cabasso, Western States Legal Foundation
Terry Rockefeller, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows