

As we mark the 80th commemoration of the use of atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as the anniversary of the end of the second world war, we, young citizens of the world, alarmed by the ongoing global violence, gather today in Hiroshima to demand peace. Over 120 million people are displaced world wide because of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and instability. Now, more than ever, is the time to come together as humans to address these life-threatening issues for the future.

In the context of the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future (IYCPF), we have succeeded in obtaining international consensus on the priorities for tackling the impacts of climate change on communities and the rising ideological polarization that ultimately lead to war.

With over 12 thousand nuclear weapons in the hands of only a few countries, we have reached a point in which war is an existential threat for all of humanity. We also waste a massive USD 2.2 trillion yearly on global defense that could have been invested in improvements for human life and knowledge. We also question the value of the so-called "nuclear umbrellas". Achieving peace requires changing global priorities, the building of a peace culture, and rethinking international norms.

Armed conflicts can be caused by and cause various environmental issues, like climate change, loss of biodiversity and biomass, and water scarcity. The link between armed conflicts and environment is a vicious cycle that damages us, humankind, and our world.

Solutions to these problems rely on focusing on these threats regionally and pursuing sustainable development in economic, social and environmental issues. Additionally, technology can be an important ally in this mission.

Unfortunately, technology can also be a double-edged sword. Because of propaganda, echo chambers and a lack of media literacy, there is a lot of misinformation, which can lead to extremism, discrimination and hatred. To avoid these negative effects we should focus on educating people. In a time of rising extremism and polarization we want people to focus on communicating and showing empathy to each other.

To make a change, we as people of the world need to come together and recognize the power that we hold. After all our discussions on topics that threaten our world today, like the vicious cycle between environmental issues and armed conflicts, we conclude that all these problems do not have a single simple solution. Education is the key change. Technology advancements like social media can be used to tell people all over the globe what they can do to achieve world peace. However, it should not be limited to certain people with a higher social class. Everyone should have access to it as an essential human right. It is also essential to consider that education is not limited to just classrooms, it is also through our peers, parents and programs like IYCPF. Today is undeniably the best time ever to come together and demand a world that puts peace as the number one priority. What a tragedy it would be if programs like this continued for 100 years without achieving this one universal shared goal.

We, as the youth of the world, have gathered from Bangkok, Daegu, Evora, Granollers, Hannover, Honolulu, Ieper, Manchester, Montreal, Muntinlupa, Nördlingen, Poznan, Santos, Tasman, Tehran, Wellington and Hiroshima.

Together, we discussed problems society faces today and found solutions for said issues. In order to bring our solutions to light, we call on the governments and leaders of the world to cooperate, communicate, and create lasting peace, for all peoples that call Earth home.

However, it cannot just come from leaders. It must come from us, we must look into ourselves and ask, "How can I make an impact as well, how can I contribute to that lasting peace?"

It can be as simple as treating one another with kindness and respect.

It can be as simple as saying Hello' to an unknown neighbour.

It can be as simple as lending a hand to someone in need.

We need these acts to be in our mind, body, and spirit at all times.

The IYCPF participants in Hiroshima, 5th of August, 2025.