

We Strongly Condemn the Takaichi Administration’s Remarks Suggesting a Review of
the “Three Non-Nuclear Principles” and a Senior Government Official’s Remarks
Advocating Nuclear Possession

Pugwash Japan
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We express our deep concern over the recent series of careless remarks, both domestically and internationally, that suggest the resumption of nuclear testing and invoke the supposed legitimacy of possessing nuclear weapons. In particular, since the inauguration of the Takaichi administration, the Prime Minister’s remarks suggesting a review of Japan’s Three Non-Nuclear Principles, as well as remarks by a senior government official asserting that Japan “should possess nuclear weapons,” are utterly unacceptable for a government that ought to demonstrate leadership toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. We strongly condemn such remarks.

Such discourse unnecessarily heightens tensions within the international community, reverses years of hard-won progress toward nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and betrays the earnest appeals of the *hibakusha*—who, based on their indescribably painful experiences, have long called for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the eradication of war.

As the only country to have suffered atomic bombings in wartime, Japan bears a historical responsibility and moral obligation to continue to urge the world to recognize the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. We strongly urge the Japanese government to firmly uphold and strictly adhere to the Three Non-Nuclear Principles, and to refrain from any words or policies that would undermine or obscure their spirit. Furthermore, we call on the Japanese government to demonstrate genuine leadership toward achieving a world without nuclear weapons by joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and shifting away from outdated defense policies that rely excessively on military force. It is particularly urgent that Japan break free from the illusion of nuclear deterrence—the flawed belief that the existence of nuclear weapons ensures peace.

We reaffirm that dialogue and cooperation, security grounded in humanitarian perspectives, and Japan’s Constitution—particularly Article 9, which renounces war—represent the only viable path toward sustainable peace.