

Remarks Made by H. E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) On the 2017 Nagasaki Peace Memorial Dinner Reception Hosted by Mayor Tomihisa TAUE August 8, 2017:

- Tadamori Oshima, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Akira Gunji, Vice-president of the House of Councilors
- Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima
- Masanori Nagata, Hiroshima city council chairperson
- Hodo Nakamura, Governor of Nagasaki prefecture
- Toshiharu Yae, Nagasaki prefecture council chairperson
- Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki
- Tatsuya Noguchi, Nagasaki city council chairperson
- Honorable members of the diplomatic corps
- Ladies and gentlemen

On the onset, please allow me to express on behalf of all the diplomatic corps present here and on my behalf, our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the mayor and the citizens of Nagasaki for their kind invitation to this reception, warm welcome and hospitality extended to all of us.

My name is Estifanos Afeworki, the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo.

72 years ago two atomic bombs were dropped by the United States in the city of Hiroshima and Nagasaki consecutively. Though I was born in a very far off place and away from the epicenter of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, I still recollect from my childhood memories of the subsequent news, horrific photos, stories and fear, which echoed from these epicenters of humanitarian tragedy. It hit deep into our minds and souls, leaving scars, which deeply influenced our emotional and physical upbringings as a generation all over this planet. In the morning of February 14th 1960, France made an open atmospheric nuclear test explosion four times more powerful in the Sahara Desert of Africa. Following this, 17 consecutive atmospheric tests were undertaken on the same spot and the damage left on our generation, the people, environment and ecosystem by these are without any doubt horrendous. I think it is not hard to imagine what has happened to the people and the whole ecosystem as result of it during this period in Africa including but not excluding my country

Eritrea where the dry winds from the Sahara and moisture loaded winds from the oceans fight to dominate the weather condition every day.

Mr. Mayor,

Terrorism, war, conflicts, military tensions between the major nuclear powers, unprecedented since the end of the cold war period, are in general on the rise day-by-day threatening global peace and stability. Currently, in particular the global stability is not at all in a "business as usual" situation. Humanitarian situation, displacements of populations have deteriorated to an unprecedented level never seen since World War II. Hence, global security and stability is getting continuously complicated - as we stand here today.

I believe that now is an opportune period of history, to make a united call and to rally for a stronger international commitment, to change the present course homing in to humanities destruction and navigate to a different direction of sustainable development and nuclear non-proliferation. Our traditional saying goes: "The one who caused the wound by his sword might forget but the one who was wounded by that same sword never forgets". Humanity must listen carefully to the plea of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mr. Mayor,

In this brief remarks, let me say in my capacity as a Dean of the African Diplomatic Corp, as Ambassador of the state of Eritrea to Japan and as senior citizen of this planet - who has personally witnessed wars - that there is no winner or loser in the next nuclear war if we stay in the present course. Together we live in peace or together we perish in a nuclear war. The rule of law but not the rule of nuclear power is the only option left for humanity to continue. Humankind must learn from history to make the world a better place to live for the generations to come. Those who are running away from the rule of law must be checked before the rule of the jungle and media moguls dominates our planet. It is time to call for peace not war. The rule of wisdom must prevail now.

Thank you