

# 63<sup>RD</sup> PUGWASH CONFERENCE, HIROSHIMA, 1-5 NOVEMBER 2025

## President Welcome Remarks at Hiroshima Conference

Excellencies, distinguished guests, friends, and fellow members of the Pugwash family,

It is with profound respect and gratitude that I welcome you all to the 63rd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in Hiroshima — a city that stands as one of the most powerful symbols in human history: of unimaginable suffering, but also of resilience, courage, and the enduring hope for peace.

We gather here not merely to reflect on the past, but to renew our shared moral commitment to ensure that the tragedy that befell this city in August 1945 is **never repeated — anywhere, ever again.**

I wish first to express our deepest appreciation to the Mayor and citizens of Hiroshima, to our hosts at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, to our colleagues in Pugwash Japan and to all local partners and volunteers who have made this gathering possible.

It was the moral shock of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that led the world's leading scientists to issue the **Russell–Einstein Manifesto** in 1955. Their message was clear and timeless:

***“Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.”***

Two years later, the first Pugwash Conference took place in a small fishing village in Nova Scotia, Canada. Scientists from East and West, from nations divided by ideology, met not as representatives of governments, but **as human beings** — to seek ways to prevent nuclear war and to reduce the role of science in destruction.

Today, as we open this 63rd Pugwash Conference, the challenges before us are different in form, but not in essence.

Nuclear weapons remain, and their modernization continues. The risk of misuse is rising. The world once again feels the tension of confrontation among great powers.

At the same time, humanity faces **new threats** — climate change, environmental degradation, pandemics, and deepening inequalities.

These challenges are interconnected. They remind us that global security cannot be achieved through weapons, but only through **cooperation, compassion, and shared responsibility.**

That is why gatherings like this are vital. They remind the world that dialogue is still possible — that scientists, policymakers, and citizens can still speak to one another across borders and across political divides.

Hiroshima is not only a place of remembrance; it is a **living call to conscience.** From its ashes arose a global movement for disarmament, reconciliation, and human dignity.

In this conference, let us challenge ourselves — as scientists, policymakers, and citizens — to think **boldly**, to act **ethically**, and to speak truth **courageously.**

Let us use our discussions to find new pathways to disarmament, new frameworks for dialogue, and new bridges between nations, regions and generations.

And above all, let us remember that **the pursuit of peace is not a single event — it is a continuous moral duty.**

As we begin our deliberations here in Hiroshima, may we be guided by the memory of those who perished, inspired by the courage of those who survived, and strengthened by the conviction that peace is not only necessary — **it is possible.**

Together, may we continue the work that begun by those who came before us — to ensure that science serves humanity, and that the light of reason and compassion prevails over the darkness of distrust and destruction.

Thank you.