

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

### **WELCOME BY PUGWASH SECRETARY GENERAL KAREN HALLBERG**

**Excellencies, honorable hibakusha, distinguished members of the Pugwash conferences, colleagues:**

It is an honor to join in welcoming you to this 63rd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs.

We are gathering in this iconic city of Hiroshima, a city of remembrance and renewal, to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first of two atomic bomb attacks.

The Pugwash movement was born in 1957, inspired by the Russell–Einstein Manifesto’s call for scientists to gather in a conference to discuss the consequences of technological developments, in particular, the development of nuclear weapons. From that first meeting in the small village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia, it grew into a global network of dialogue — bringing together scientists, policymakers, and diplomats from opposing sides of the Cold War to seek cooperative paths toward peace and disarmament. Over the decades, Pugwash has remained faithful to this spirit of reasoned dialogue and moral responsibility in confronting the dangers of war and the misuse of science.

As we gather in this city of remembrance and renewal for our 63<sup>rd</sup> conference, we are reminded that every Pugwash meeting is more than an academic exchange — it is a reaffirmation of our shared responsibility as scientists and citizens of the world.

Over the coming days, we will reflect not only on the existential dangers posed by nuclear weapons, but also on the broader ethical challenges of our time — from the governance of new technologies to the defense of truth, dialogue, and human dignity. These discussions call upon us to use science not as a tool of division or power, but as a bridge between peoples and a force for peace.

I would like to thank the following sponsors, which allowed for the realization of this conference:

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Let this conference be a space of dialogue, of openness, curiosity, and courage — where new ideas can emerge, friendships can grow, and the spirit of the Russell–Einstein Manifesto continues to guide our conscience. Together, may we draw strength from Hiroshima’s example — turning remembrance into responsibility, and responsibility into action.

Welcome to Hiroshima, and welcome to Pugwash.