

**MESSAGE TO GENSUIKYO  
FROM JAYANTHA DHANAPALA  
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The year 2000 may well mark a turning point in the history of nuclear disarmament. It marked a time when the world community gathered at the United Nations to re-dedicate itself to the solemn goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons along with other weapons of mass destruction.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan identified this goal in his Millennium Report earlier this year. The goal was re-affirmed by a gathering of over 1000 non-governmental organizations at the UN's "We the Peoples Millennium Forum." It was highlighted at the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders. It was stressed in a declaration of a worldwide Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments. And it was featured prominently in the historic Millennium Declaration, issued after the largest-ever gathering of heads of state and government.

Another important step forward came in May 2000, when the nuclear-weapon states parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons made an "unequivocal undertaking" to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Final Report of that conference also re-affirmed that "the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons."

The fate of these commitments rests heavily upon the support they enjoy among the people across the globe. Upon opening a new Disarmament Exhibit at the UN on 23 October, I saluted the extraordinary achievement of Japan Gensuikyo and numerous other citizen groups in gathering over 100 million signatures in support of the "Appeal from Hiroshima and Nagasaki for a Total Ban and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons."

The achievement of this goal would be the most precious gift that we could pass on to future generations. The last century saw the awful invention and use of the nuclear weapon. We must together ensure that this century will see its elimination.

I extend my best wishes to the members of Japan Gensuikyo in all your efforts in the months and years ahead on behalf of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Jayantha Dhanapala  
12 December 2000