

As Hiroshima observes 73rd anniversary of atomic bombing, UN notes 'stalled' progress on nuclear disarmament

The 6 August 1945 bombing of Hiroshima by the United States, killed tens of thousands of people, many of whom succumbed to their injuries in subsequent months. Those who survived the bombing there, and at Nagasaki a few days later, are referred to in Japan as *hibakusha*.

"It is a privilege to pay tribute to the citizens of Hiroshima and all those who perished in the blinding flash of nuclear destruction, and in the weeks, months and years that followed, and to stand in solidarity with the Hibakusha and their families," continued Ms. Nakamitsu, underscoring that what had occurred on that day in 1945 "cannot and must not ever happen again."

"The future of our children and of our children's children depends upon it," she stressed.

According to the UN disarmament chief, the legacy of Hiroshima is one of resilience: "The city we see today, this bustling metropolis, is testament to that fact," she elaborated. "You, the people of Hiroshima, are not only brave survivors of the atomic bomb, but courageous activists for peace and reconciliation."

Ms. Nakamitsu offered her sincere thanks to the people of Hiroshima for their decades of educating the world about "the threat nuclear weapons pose to our global, national and human security."