

Bikini Atoll's Resilience: Paving the Path to Global Peace with DPCW

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Honorable delegates, distinguished guests,

I stand before you today at the DPCW Conference: Roundtable on Conflict Resolution and Spreading a Culture of Peace, humbled and inspired by the shared commitment to building a world of harmony and understanding. Firstly I would like to express my appreciation to Chairman Man Hee Lee for hosting this global important summit. And all the volunteers who work so hard for peace and also really deliver all distinguished guests who here gather for one topic 'peace.'

As we gather here in Korea, I am reminded of the urgency to address critical global issues that threaten peace, such as nuclear justice, climate change, and human rights. Today, I would like to draw your attention to the plight of the Marshallese people, who have endured immense suffering from nuclear testing and now face the loss of their sovereignty due to climate change through the title of "Bikini Atoll's Resilience: Paving the Path to Global Peace with DPCW".

Nestled in the Pacific, the Marshall Islands are a breathtaking oasis of tranquility and beauty, boasting pristine beaches, vibrant marine life, and diverse landscapes rich in cultural heritage—a truly serene and unforgettable escape.

However, it also holds a tragic history as the location of nuclear testing after World War II. After developing nuclear weapons after World War II, the United States used them on Japan and then chose the Marshall Islands as a test site. Incredibly, between 1946 and 1958, the United States conducted a total of 67 nuclear tests on these pristine islands, leaving a complex legacy.

The nuclear testing conducted in their homeland has left a lasting scar on their lives and the environment. Even today, the consequences persist, preventing many from returning to their homes and disrupting the delicate balance of their society.

The Marshallese people have borne the weight of history's grave mistakes. We can't turn a blind eye to the pain and justice that influenced up on them.

In the Marshall Islands, the critical challenge of nuclear justice exists alongside an existential peril of climate change, which is threatening their land and culture.

Climate change is not just an environmental issue; it is a question of human rights. The global community must come together to fight its impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Upholding human rights is pivotal for lasting peace, and we must promote a culture of inclusivity and dignity for all. Equity and justice are essential, ensuring that those least responsible for the crisis don't suffer the most.

International cooperation is crucial for both nuclear justice and climate resilience, holding those accountable for nuclear testing, and supporting affected communities in their recovery. Our duty to heal from the aftermath of nuclear testing and protect against rising sea levels is a solemn commitment to leave a healthier and safer world for future generations.

My constituency, Bikini Island, is one of the areas most heavily affected by nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands. The inhabitants were required to move to Kili Island due to nuclear exposure. However, Kili Island is one of the islands on the front line of sea level rise. The photos you saw earlier are of flooding on Kili Island, where water levels now rise so high that the island is flooded every year. Some experts on climate change predict that within a few decades, Kili will be entirely submerged. The inhabitants of Bikini Island have been deprived of a peaceful life and their human rights. I would like to take this opportunity to call for international attention to Bikini Island.

And during my various activities in response to these crises, I had the opportunity to encounter HWPL and the DPCW. Amidst the challenges faced by the Marshall Islands and the world, the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) offers a comprehensive solution. This visionary framework, rooted in principles of justice, human rights, and equality, not only resolves conflicts but also addresses climate change and fosters global peace.

Article 2 of the DPCW regulates arms production and encourages governments to reduce and trade arms responsibly.

Article 5 upholds the sovereignty of states and their right to self-determination.

Article 6 promotes peaceful dispute resolution, while Article 10 advocates for a culture of peace through international cooperation, citizen engagement, and state support.

With international backing and the commitment of leaders and civil society, the DPCW provides a powerful framework to tackle pressing issues and build a peaceful legacy for future generations.

Today, we have a distinct chance to reaffirm our commitment to the DPCW and its principles. Let us use platforms such as HWPL and this peace summit to strengthen international cooperation, collaboration, and dialogue. Through open and sincere discussions, we can bridge divides, overcome differences, and find common ground for the betterment of humanity.

As we engage in this vital dialogue for conflict resolution and the advancement of peace, let us emphasize the significance of diplomacy, cooperation, and partnerships. It is essential that we transcend borders, ideologies, and prejudices, engage in substantive conversations, and establish meaningful alliances. Together, we can turn peace from an abstract notion into a concrete reality.

As we bring this assembly to a close, let us keep in mind that peace is not something we passively wish for, but something we actively work to achieve. It calls for resolute commitment, consistent action, and a shared dedication to humanity. By adopting the principles of the DPCW, promoting nuclear justice, addressing climate change, and upholding human rights, we can pave the way for a better, more peaceful world.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Today, let us be that change. Let us be the advocates, the leaders, and the voices that propel us toward a future free from conflict, where every nation, every community, and every person can thrive in peace.

In conclusion, let us stand in solidarity with the Marshallese people and all those affected by nuclear testing, climate change, and human rights violations. Let us commit ourselves to the pursuit of nuclear justice, the fight against climate change, and the protection of human rights. By doing so, we can foster a culture of peace that surpasses borders and unites us all.

May our collective efforts bring us closer to the world we envision—a world of lasting peace, justice, and harmony.

Thank you.