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Opening and Introductory Remarks

Kazue Mori
Secretary General of the JALANA

Good afternoon and good evening everyone.

Thank you for the introduction.

I'm Kazue Mori, Secretary General of the Japan Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, also known as JALANA. I'd like to thank everyone for attending this webinar.

On January 22, 2021, The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, known as the TPNW, entered into force. The TPNW was a long-time wish for the victims of the atomic bombs and nuclear testing, including A-Bomb survivors, who are known in Japanese as *hibakusha*.

In Article 6, the TPNW sets forth obligations to assist victims of the testing and use of nuclear weapons, and to perform environmental remediation of areas affected by testing and use. In Article 7, it also requires states parties in a position to do so, to help affected states parties with victim assistance and environmental remediation. These provisions are important because they concretely recognize and address the unacceptable suffering and devastation that have resulted from the use and testing of nuclear arms, and which could result again if current trends in global affairs are not reversed.

In the first session in this webinar, we'll learn from the experience of lawyers who have supported victims of the atomic bombs and nuclear testing, including *hibakusha*, in Japan and South Korea.

We'll also learn about the "Bikini Occupational Accidents Lawsuit."

In the second session of this webinar, speakers will tell us about the future of victim assistance and environmental remediation based on Articles 6 and 7 of the TPNW, about the human rights approach for nuclear disarmament, and about a proposal for environmental remediation.

I have no doubt that we will learn much from this webinar. Thank you for your attention, and let's get started.