

貴殿におかれては、核軍縮の実質的な進展のための賢人会議委員への就任に御快諾を頂き心から感謝申し上げます。

日本は、核軍縮・不拡散に関し、様々な取組を行ってきました。この中で感じたことは、核兵器廃絶のためには、核兵器国と非核兵器国の協力が不可欠という厳しい現実です。非核兵器国との協力は勿論重要ですが、核兵器を持っている国との協力無くしては、核兵器の数は減りません。しかし、残念ながら、「核兵器のない世界」の実現に向けた核兵器国と非核兵器国の対立は深刻化しています。

こうした問題意識から、岸田前外務大臣は、この両者の信頼関係を再構築し、核兵器国と非核兵器国が協力するための場を設け、核軍縮の実質的な進展を図るべく賢人会議を開催することを本年五月の二〇二〇年NPT運用検討会議第一回準備委員会会合で約束し、七月には、本件賢人会議の座長に御就任いただいた白石隆日本貿易振興機構アジア経済研究所長を始めとする日本人委員の皆様と意見交換を行いました。私も賢人会議が果たす役割は重要だと考えており、是非アンゲラ・ケイン殿には十一月に予定している第一回の賢人会議会合に出席していただきたいと考えています。

アンゲラ・ケイン殿を初めとする賢人会議委員の皆様におかれては、皆様の知見と英知を結集して右目標の実現に資する方策を提言として取りまとめただけならば幸いです。賢人の皆様に作成いただいた提言は来年四月に開催される二〇二〇年NPT運用検討会議第二回準備委員会に提出する考えです。

日本としては、本件賢人会議のような取組を通じて、核兵器国と非核兵器国が再び協力できる環境醸成に貢献し、両者の協力の下で「核兵器のない世界」の実現に向けて一歩ずつ進んでいけるよう、国際社会の取組の先頭に立って引き続き積極的に取り組んでいく考えです。

平成二十九年八月

日本国外務大臣

河野 太郎

核軍縮の実質的な進展のための賢人会議委員

アンゲラ・ケイン 殿



(Translation)

August, 2017

Dear Ms. Kane,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your acceptance of the appointment as a member of the “Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament (Substantive Advancement Group (SAG))”.

Japan has been engaged in various efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. What we felt in this context is the harsh reality that the cooperation between nuclear-weapon states (NWS) and non-nuclear-weapon states (N-NWS) is essential for the elimination of nuclear weapons. It is needless to say that the cooperation among N-NWS is important, but it is also certain that decreasing the number of nuclear weapons cannot be realized without the cooperation of NWS; nevertheless, unfortunately, the schism on approaches towards a world free of nuclear weapons between NWS and N-NWS is becoming more serious in these days.

Based on this perspective, at the First Session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2020 NPT Review Conference in May of this year, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Fumio Kishida pledged to hold meetings of SAG, to achieve substantive advancement of nuclear disarmament by rebuilding confidence and trust among NWS and N-NWS, as well as to establish a platform for the cooperation between NWS and N-NWS. In

addition to that, Former Minister Kishida held a meeting in July to exchange views on this issue with Mr. Takashi Shiraishi, President of The Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO, who assumed the chair of the SAG, along with other Japanese SAG members. I am also certain that the role of the SAG is very important, and it would be pleased if you could attend the first meeting of SAG which will be held in November of this year.

I would be pleased if you and your fellow SAG members would be able to formulate a recommendation by gathering your knowledge and wisdom, contributing to realizing the above-mentioned goal. I would like to submit your recommendation to the second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2020 NPT Review Conference, to be held in April next year.

Through SAG and other efforts, Japan continues its proactive contributions to lead the international community to foster an environment that once again enables constructive collaboration between NWS and N-NWS, and to make a step towards the realization of "a world free of nuclear weapons" through said cooperation between NWS and N-NWS.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

/s/

Taro Kono
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

The Honorable Angela Kane
Member of "Group of Eminent Persons
for Substantive Advancement
of Nuclear Disarmament"