



広島大学

**Joint statement of the participants
at the Hiroshima International Conference on Peace and Sustainability 2022
against military invasion in Ukraine**



The Hiroshima International Conference on Peace and Sustainability 2022 (HICPS2022) is organized by Network of Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS) at Hiroshima University to bring together researchers and practitioners from various disciplines and sectors to advance global understanding of the important relationship between peace and sustainability. Being held at Hiroshima, the site of the first use of atomic weapons against humanity, the conference reminds the world that peace and sustainability are both critical pursuits for the continued survival of humankind.

The willing participants of the Hiroshima International Conference on Peace and Sustainability strongly protest the military aggression in Ukraine, which began just prior to the conference and has been carried out during the conference. We call for an immediate ceasefire and for the pursuit of diplomatic and intergovernmental dialogue to resolve security issues in the region. We call for the protection of civilian lives and infrastructure and we urge the international community to support aid and humanitarian relief efforts.

We all recognize that armed conflict is one of the greatest threats to the sustainability of the planet and humanity. According to UNHCR yesterday, 1 million refugees have fled Ukraine in just a week. Moscow announced nearly 500 of its soldiers were killed and 1,600 injured. In the statement of Ukraine's emergency service, more than 2,000 Ukrainian civilians were killed and hundreds of structures including transport facilities, hospitals, kindergartens, homes and even university were destroyed. Explosion of oil tanks generates a large amount of toxic gas that contaminates the surrounding environment. The destruction of buildings and infrastructure undoubtedly result in generation of large amounts of waste and a significant deterioration of the living environment and sanitation. Moreover, regardless of generation, gender, or ethnicity, the emotional and psychological damage caused by war is immeasurably large, and never disappears, and is recorded in that society for generations to come.

It is a lesson we have learned from many past historical failures that the solution of problems must be achieved in a rational and peaceful manner through dialogue. Now is the time to remember again and implement these lessons, while drawing on the collective wisdom and ability of humankind.

NERPS, as an academic community and network, will continue to cooperate with the participants in HICPS2022 to explore new knowledge necessary for peaceful solutions and will lead the way in action and implementation.

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