

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great privilege to speak to you today. I am a representative of Human Rights Now, an international NGO established in Tokyo, Japan in 2006. I am here today, on behalf of seven(7) NGOs with consultative status, to humbly request that you implement lessons learnt from the Fukushima nuclear accident, in the discussion on global health and environment, as part of the Post-2015 Agenda. Almost three years have passed since TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Disaster in March 2011, which resulted in a massive leakage of radioactive materials into the environment. Today, TEPCO still does not know how to stop the ongoing radioactive leaks from its facilities.

Although the consequences of the nuclear accident severely affect the surrounding community, the government's response has been extremely insufficient in protecting people from the negative impacts on their rights to health, reproductive health, safe drinking water and access to productive land and other economic social rights. Affected people are entitled to live in a safe and healthy environment, however, sufficient protective measures, medical checks and support for relocation are not provided in the contaminated areas. The policies, in its entirety, are formulated based on the underestimation of the gravity of the environmental contamination, without effective participation by the affected community.

The Fukushima disaster has a disproportionate impact on women and girls due to their greater vulnerability and gender inequality in affected communities. Affected women of the region are now left without viable choices. There is no effective mechanism for women and children to participate in the decision making process of all relevant policies, including energy policy, nuclear disaster response, health care and evacuation policy, which is contrary to the CSW resolution in 2012.

We ask the international community to protect women from immediate and long-term health effects and ensure their participation in the decision making process of post disaster policies.

Ladies and gentlemen, the MDGs and future development goals are least likely to be achieved for women and girls in countries affected by nuclear disasters. The Fukushima nuclear accident teaches us that nuclear energy is not sustainable, and that such a disaster cannot respect the environment or the right to health of the most vulnerable. Similar nuclear disasters could happen again so long as we have nuclear power plants, nuclear facilities and nuclear weapons.

The international community must take this lesson seriously and take steps towards a nuclear free world and seek alternative energy in the Post-2015 discussion.

Furthermore, we have learned that contamination from a nuclear disaster can affect beyond national borders, yet we do not have an international framework on the accountability of private companies, which are responsible for nuclear accidents. The international community also needs to continue to discuss the possible long-term health risks associated with low dose radiation exposure, and implement an effective international coordination and response system, to minimize the consequences of nuclear accidents. Please continue to pay attention to the voices of women and children affected by nuclear accidents in order to implement them in health and energy policy discussions.

Thank you for your attention.