



UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

On 15 October, [Peace Boat](#) returned to New York with the Floating Festival for Sustainability, a celebration of the Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of education, partnership, and youth engagement. The links between peace and sustainability, and oceans and climate, were highlighted by a diverse range of speakers and performers, including the Peace Boat Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors.

The [Peace Boat](#) docked in the New York Harbor on 15 October 2017.

Report Submitted by Constance Sobon Sensor, Sigma United Nations Liaison

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international [non-governmental organization](#) (NGO) that works to promote peace, human rights, and sustainable development. The organization reaches a wide international audience including people with little knowledge of geopolitics or activism. Peace Boat raises awareness of global issues, offering insight into how to mediate, resolve, and ultimately prevent conflict. It supports scientific discovery and skills and knowledge sharing and facilitates communication through language learning. Through its global voyages, Peace Boat creates alliances with like-minded organizations around the world, organizes joint actions on key global issues, and connects with some of the most underprivileged communities in the world. The Peace Boat movement gathers individuals and organizations committed to building peace and sustainability, building capacity, and consolidating diverse global efforts to drive positive social change. Peace Boat offers its participants a safe space and unique community environment for questioning, exploration, and self-development as well as encouraging a shift towards a more sustainable way of living. Finally, Peace Boat acts as a network of networks, sharing the ideas and concerns of thousands of people on an international platform through its function as an NGO in special consultative status with the [United Nations Economic and Social Council](#).

The presentation featured the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons \(ICANW\)](#), a coalition whose successful advocacy led to the United Nations [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) in July. The [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#) demonstrates how well diplomacy can work. It is an example of the power of multilateral approaches to nuclear weapons that, by necessity, involve a range of actors, including those who do not have nuclear weapons. Ban Ki-moon said, "There are no right hands for the wrong weapons." The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons offers a pathway towards eliminating this existential threat to humanity. Supported by more than two-thirds of all United Nations member states, the treaty is a response to ever-deepening concern of the international community that any use of nuclear weapons would inflict catastrophic, widespread, and long-lasting harm on people and on our living planet.

The Peace Boat [Hibokusha Project](#) brings survivors of the atomic bombs from Nagasaki and Hiroshima onboard to speak about their experiences and the devastation of nuclear weapons. The presentation featured a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bombing during WWII, who told her story. Members of a youth group spoke about global warming and nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands and other parts of the Pacific and the impact this had on their home countries. In addition, Cora Weiss of the [Hague Appeal for Peace](#) spoke. What she said made a lasting impression – “There are two things that are going to kill us; one will do it quickly, and the other will do it slowly”. She was referring to nuclear weapons and climate change. These are issues that also affect health and well-being and should be of concern for all nurses. The presentation ended with an old tradition of opening the sake barrel with wooden hammers to celebrate and toast the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) winner, ICANW.