



## Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

*United Nations Consultative status with ECOSOC, UNESCO and UNCTAD  
Special relations with the ILO, FAO, UNICEF, and other organisations and  
agencies*

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To Ambassador ITO Koichi

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has been working for peace and freedom since it was established in 1915 and in Aotearoa New Zealand in 1916. We currently have over 40 sections around the world, in the Americas, South Asia, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. We oppose the release of radioactively contaminated water from TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station into the Pacific Ocean. After the 2011 earthquake and tsunami which caused the accident at the power station, the radioactively contaminated water was treated by a multi-nuclide removal system (ALPS) and stored in more than 1,000 tanks on the power plant site. The Japanese Government and TEPCO stated that this water would not be disposed of in any way without the understanding of the concerned parties and would be stored on land.

However, they have recently stated they will start releasing this ALPS treated water into the ocean this summer. This is despite having promised the Fukushima Prefectural Fisheries Federation, the National Federation of Fisheries, and the people of Fukushima Prefecture, in 2015, that they would not dispose of this ALPS treated water without the understanding of the concerned parties.

Releasing more radioactive materials is a wilful act of harm that will spread further radioactive contamination into the global environment. The treated water contains tritium, which cannot be removed. Tritium will be dumped into the ocean for several decades.

The recently released International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) summary report was a review of the ocean release plans, already decided by the Japanese government, not a "justification" assessment that took into account the future biological impacts and the interests of all people sharing the Pacific Ocean. There has been no assessment of future biological impacts. Nor has there been a review of less expensive and safer alternatives, so it cannot be said to be a comprehensive assessment.

The London Convention, which Japan ratified in 1980, strictly regulates the dumping of radioactive waste into the ocean, therefore the release of treated water is a violation of international law. Such an action would also damage the trust between Japan and its neighbours and the Pacific Islands countries. Once released, this cannot be undone. We call on the Japanese Government to change its plans to release this contaminated water into the Pacific Ocean.

Yours sincerely

Megan Hutching

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