

Executive Summary

Thesis title: Japanese Anti-Nuclear Weapons Movement: Leveraging Transnational Networks and Political Opportunity Structures

日本の反核運動—トランスナショナル・ネットワークと政治的機会構造への影響

Mamadou Falilou SARR

001200920144

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Master's Program in International Public Policy

This study examined the political effectiveness of the Japanese anti-nuclear weapons movement. It explored two main dimensions. The first is the political environment both at the domestic and transnational level and how the Japanese anti-nuclear weapons movement and its transnational counterparts handle the obstacles and opportunities within these contexts. The second is the patterns of networking between the Japanese and the transnational anti-nuclear weapons movements and how they impact on their political effectiveness.

The findings of this study are twofold. Empirically, this study unveiled different forms of transnational networking impacting differently on the political achievements of the anti-nuclear weapons movement. In a specific dimension, the network drivers, mainly identity and perceived role, and to a lesser extent, the organizations' resources, impact not only on the patterns of networking, but on the achievements of the overall anti-nuclear weapons activists. In addition to the difficulties of coordination put into light, the observations of the different networks underscored disconnected contributions within the anti-nuclear weapons movement. As a result, the movement struggles to successfully handle both domestic and transnational political environment factors impacting on their activities. Even though the anti-nuclear weapons movement has been striving to create a synergizing strategy in order to bring states to negotiate on a binding agreement, a Nuclear Weapons Convention, specialization among the organizations brought about by identity and perceived role has been too scattered to yield responsive political outcomes.

Theoretically, it brought about new insights in the analysis of political effectiveness of civil society. First, in order to better instrumentalize the political opportunity structure theory, it is important to include the regional and transnational political environments within which the target country is operating. Second, the use of scales to

measure the outcomes of the anti-nuclear weapons movement has been instrumental to understanding their actual political effectiveness, in the light of the reactions from political decision makers, both domestically and transnationally.