

Remarks by Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. I would like to thank and pay tribute to the Mexican Government for hosting this important conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. I would also like to extend our profound gratitude to “*hibakusha*”, on behalf of the Mayors for Peace, for their testimonies. In particular, we thank deeply for their earnest appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons and their persistent efforts to spread the wish for peace to the people of the world. We are deeply impressed of the testimonies and have renewed our profound appreciation that their dedication stems from their deep humanitarian conviction that “no one should ever again suffer as we have.” It’s not a message of revenge, but a very important humanitarian message. I believe that this precious message should be solemnly shared by all of us who live in today’s world.

Mayors for Peace was established in 1982 with the initiative of mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Current membership has expanded to 5895 cities with the total population of approximately 1 billion citizens in 158 countries and regions. As a group of mayors with a strong sense of responsibility to guarantee the safety and welfare of citizens, we have inscribed deep in our heart the spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for peace and are aiming for nuclear abolition by 2020.

Now, I would like to share with you one of the comprehensive studies carried out a few years ago by the City of Hiroshima on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear attack. The conclusion reached was that “It is not possible to protect civilians from a nuclear weapons attack. To protect civilians, there is no measure other than to prevent a nuclear weapons attack from occurring, whether it be deliberate or accidental.” A summary of this report is available at the entrance of this hall.

Mayors for Peace welcomes that the world community is finally focusing on the harshly inhumane reality of nuclear weapons, and discussion is proceeding also at the governmental level. While Mayors for Peace campaigns for a nuclear weapons convention, we also acknowledge various approaches and measures for nuclear disarmament and their abolition complement each other. Mayors for Peace also works for a longer-term goal of cultivating the sense of global community as one human family that provides a sound basis for accommodating differences as welcome diversity which enriches human life. This sense of global community can support a new type of reliable international security away from the threat based “nuclear deterrence” and will ultimately be the basis for lasting world peace.

We shall spare no efforts to work together with you towards the realization of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.