The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Opening Ceremony

Keynote Speech

August 8 (Tue), 2017  9:45-11:00
Nakabe Hall, Nagasaki University Bunkyo Campus

Hand bell Performance:
Tachibana Junior High School Hand bell Club COSMOS

Messages and Addresses:
Kazumi Matsui
President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan
(Delivered by the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace)

Tomihisa Taue
Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan

Hodo Nakamura
Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan

Elayne Whyte Gómez
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN Office at Geneva
(Video Message)

Keynote Speech: “The Imperatives for Disarmament in the 21st Century”
Izumi Nakamitsu
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
MC
Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for waiting. Hand bell Club COSMOS from Tachibana Junior High School of Nagasaki is going to play the hand bell.

Hand bell Performance:
Tachibana Junior High School Hand bell Club COSMOS
Hello, we are from Tachibana Junior High School Hand bell Club. Our school is located on the east side of Nagasaki City. Our school is surrounded by nature. For example, we can see the Bay of Tachibana and Mt. Fugen from our school. There are a total of 506 students, and we spend our school life enjoying various club activities. Our hand bell club has 14 members and we practice hard every day.

We appreciate the chance to perform at this conference today. Today, we will perform Pachelbel’s Canon, Shokichi Kina’s Hana—subete no hito no kokoro ni hanawo, and Masaharu Fukuyama’s Kusunoki. Masaharu Fukuyama is a musician from Nagasaki. Kusunoki is a type of tree that is grown in Nagasaki’s Sanno Shrine. Sanno Shrine is located 800 meters from the hypocenter. On August 9, 1945, when the atomic bomb was dropped, the kusunoki tree lost a part of its trunk. However, over time, the tree sprouted again. The tree’s recovery encouraged those who were injured by the atomic bomb. Today, it is a beloved symbol of recovery and peace in Nagasaki. We will put our heart and soul in this performance. We hope that our affection for peace will reach to your heart.

(Performance)

MC
Thank you very much. Tachibana Junior High School, Nagasaki City, Hand bell Club COSMOS. Once again, would you please join me in giving the big hands to them? Thank you very much.

Before the opening, I hope you enjoyed the hand bell performed by Hand bell Club COSMOS of Nagasaki City Tachibana Junior High School.
**Video Messages:**

**MC**
Here, we would like to show you the video of the mayors who were not able to attend the conference.

(Video)

**Opening Video:**

**MC**
Now we would like to show a video film to look at the history of Mayors for Peace activities and achievements.

(Opening Video)

**MC**
I hope you enjoyed the history and the achievements of Mayors for Peace over the years. Now, President, Vice Presidents and Executive Cities who are present here, would you please come to the stage? Guests who were invited and President, Vice Presidents and Executive Cities of Mayors for Peace, who are present today, would you come to the stage and sit down?

**Opening Ceremony**

**MC**
Now we would like to open the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace. I will be serving as your MC. My name is Nishi. I would like to ask for your kind support. At the opening of the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, on behalf of the organizers, the President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Hiroshima City, Kazumi Matsui should address you. But because of the typhoon, Mayor Matsui cannot leave Hiroshima City in order to lead countermeasures against disaster so he is not able to attend the opening ceremony. So Mr. Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace is going to read President Matsui’s message. Mr. Komizo, please.
Message from Mr. Kazumi Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan (Delivered by the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace)

At the opening of the 9th General Conference, I would like to address you as President of Mayors for Peace. I would like to offer my deepest welcome and appreciation to Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Governor Hodo Nakamura of Nagasaki Prefecture, and so many participants from all over the world. It is a great honor and pleasure for me to open the conference in such a splendid manner.

The key theme of the general conference is “Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons – What We Can Do Toward 2020.” 2020 is a milestone year for our vision to achieve nuclear-weapon-free world, the year when the next NPT Review Conference will be held, and also the 75th anniversary of A-bombings. The theme represents our wish to discuss with you what mayors can and should do together with citizens toward the important year of 2020.

There are two important points we need to consider as we deliberate what we should do. The first is the conclusion of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on July 7. The treaty, long awaited by hibakusha and many advocates of the citizens, was adopted on the final day of negotiations held at UN Headquarters in New York, supported by 122 countries. This represents new progress toward the total elimination of all nuclear weapons. Yet, the nuclear-armed states and their allies under the nuclear umbrella did not participate in the negotiation. So the second point is that we should now focus efforts on persuading nuclear-dependent states to accept the will of civil society, which is our path toward a world free of nuclear weapons. We need to encourage these states to change the directions early so that they are going to join the new treaty. It is very imperative for the civil society to unite voices in order to move out of the status quo of the dependence of nuclear deterrence.

During the conference, we will have in-depth discussions on what we can do to realize early acceptance of the new treaty by all countries including nuclear-weapon states, and to find solution to threats to peace in each region. We will formulate our concrete
actions till 2020 in our Mayors for Peace Action Plan, and we will also adopt the Nagasaki Appeal.

I sincerely hope that we will have fruitful discussions over three days and enjoy our limited time together, for that, with this conference, we can renew our shared pledges. With this I would like to conclude my opening remarks.

Welcome Address:

MC

Now, representing Nagasaki City, which is the host of this 9th General Conference, Mayor of Nagasaki, Tomihisa Taue gives us a welcome address.

Mr. Tomihisa Taue, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki City, currently serving as Vice President of Mayors for Peace. First and foremost, on behalf of 420,000 citizens, I would like to express our heartfelt welcome to all of the participants who have come all the way to this 9th General Conference and I would like to extend my special thanks to Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Mr. Hodo Nakamura, Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture, for joining us in the midst of their busy schedule. Ms. Nakamitsu, as we all know, is today’s keynote speaker.

Every four years, the general conference is held alternately in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There are two important reasons to this. One of them is to get in touch with the starting point of our earnest desire for realizing a world without nuclear weapons. The very first step for having a firm conviction that we have to make such a world is to learn what really happened on that day in the atomic bombed cities, how it deprived humanity, and to learn that reality. We believe that it is a very good way for us to have such a general conference either in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, and by getting in touch with this origin and starting point of our feeling, we can reconfirm our desire to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

And in this conference, we have an opportunity to listen to one hibakusha, Ms. Sachiko
Matsuo. I'm sure that this is going to be one of the very precious moments that we are able to listen to them directly. Today, the average age of hibakusha is over 81 years old, and we have seen the passing of those precious hibakusha over the years. So I really call upon you to listen to her talk attentively.

The second reason why we are having this general conference alternately in Hiroshima and Nagasaki is that it’s the starting point for networking. Many participants from around the world come from cities that suffered from wars and battles and civil conflicts. The Mayors and citizens of those states and cities would like to realize a peaceful world, but their voices are very difficult to be heard when they act individually. However, by having a network of all of those local authorities and citizens, their voices are going to be stronger and they will be heard more in the world, and that will become a powerful force to change the world. That is the spirit of one leader had, and with that conviction, this organization began 35 years ago. Over the years, Mayors for Peace has recruited many new members, and here we are today.

On July 7, at the United Nations, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted and I believe that all the sources and starting point of this Treaty came from the aspiration of hibakusha. Their strong desires were joined in by other like-minded people and together, have grown from a small stream to a big river, and it has reached in the form of a new norm, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In order for us to really grow this to a big stream, that is to realize a world free of nuclear weapons, there are so many things we still need to do. However, I truly believe that Mayors for Peace has done a tremendous work in helping these achievements of realizing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Mayors for Peace has acted for petition drive and signature collections for realizing such a treaty, and we would like to continue working with you until we achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

Yesterday, with my colleagues sitting on the stage, we met at the Executive Conference for Mayors for Peace. All the attendees in the Executive Conference considered and voiced their opinions what we have to do and what we can do at this moment in time. I felt so proud of being a member of this great organization, Mayors for Peace, consisted of such a great team of representatives of local authorities from around the world. I
hope we will be able to continue to work with them hand in hand towards a world without nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace has taken various challenges in the past. In this General Conference, we have a new program called the “Role of Youth”. Young people are going to be divided into six groups, and they are going discuss with the mayors and representatives of local authorities about what the youth can do for peace. I’m looking forward to this particular session to see what fruit they are going to bring about. Of course we have sessions on the role of cities and the role of NGOs and hibakusha in this year’s general conference.

I hope that this general conference will become a place where we build up our energy that will drive us toward the future through this journey, and, at the same time, I sincerely hope that this will be another occasion where we will strengthen or even expand our network. I once again would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of those like-minded leaders to be here in Nagasaki, and I would like to call upon all my friends and colleagues that we will work together to realize a peaceful world. Thank you very much.

**Introduction of Distinguished Guests:**

**MC**

Thank you very much. Now I would like to introduce to you the distinguished guests.

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations. She is going to deliver a keynote speech.

Mr. Hodo Nakamura, Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture.

Mr. Yoshiaki Takaki, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan.

Mr. Tsutomu Tomioka, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan.

Ms. Tomoko Abe, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan.

The Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the members of Nagasaki City Assembly, and also the great leaders of the foreign diplomatic core in Japan are here with us today. Thank you very much for your kind attendance.
**Introduction of Executive Cities:**

**MC**

Now, I would like to introduce to you the Vice Presidents and Executives of Mayors for Peace. When your name is called, please stand up, bow and sit down.

Mr. Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki.

Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Representing Mayor of Hiroshima, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace.

Ms. Jasminka Bajlo, Counselor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia.

Mr. Nkenfack, Mayor of Fongo-Tongo, Cameroon.

Mr. Josep Mayoral, Mayor of Granollers, Spain.

Mr. Khder Kareem, Mayor of Halabja, Iraq.

Mr. Thomas Hermann, Deputy Mayor of Hannover, Germany.

Mr. Michel Cibot, Honorary City Manager of Malakoff, France.

Mr. Eddy Newman, Lord Mayor of Manchester, UK.

Ms. Maria Fernanda Olvera Cabrera, Director of the Institute of Youths, Mexico City, Mexico.

Mr. Jaime Fresnedi, Mayor of Muntinlupa, Philippines.

Mr. Jef Verschoore, Deputy Mayor of Ypres, Belgium.

Mr. Vallop Suwandeel, Chairman of Advisors to the Governor of Bangkok, Thailand.

Mr. Adrian Glamorgan, Mayors for Peace Working Group, Fremantle, Australia.

Mr. Russell Copeman, Member of Executive Committee of Montreal, Canada.

**Congratulatory Address:**

**MC**

Now, may I call upon Mr. Hodo Nakamura, Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture, to say a few words of greetings, please?

**Mr. Hodo Nakamura, Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for your kind introduction. My name is Hodo Nakamura, Governor of Nagasaki Prefecture. I welcome you all to the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which starts today for four days with the presence of Ms. Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative
for Disarmament Affairs. I would like to express my appreciation for all of you who are gathered here from home and abroad in distance. Also, I pay the deepest esteem to all the members of Mayors for Peace who dedicate themselves in the path of the nuclear weapon abolition and creating the lasting world peace and solidifying the coalition amongst the cities.

August 9, tomorrow, marks 72 years after the A-bomb was dropped in Nagasaki. A single atomic bomb blasted up in the sky of Nagasaki City, deprived us of 74,000 precious lives of people, destroyed and burned the city into ashes. Once turned into ruins, however, the city resuscitated itself into the green city wishing for peace with the dedication and efforts of the citizens. But, sorrow of the bereaved families will never be consoled even after 72 years. For hibakusha, they are still suffering from indelible scars and aftereffect of radiation. Those living in Nagasaki have the responsibility to pass on these important experiences to the future and disseminate the spirit of peace, wishing Nagasaki to be the last A-bombed site. We hope that we will be able to communicate the horrors of A-bombs and humanitarian consequences of the nuclear weapons to realize the abolition of the nuclear weapons as well as lasting world peace.

Last month, after all the dedication and efforts of hibakusha, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted at the United Nations. However, it was not able to get the concurrence by the nuclear-weapon states. The pace of the international society is not fully consolidated yet. In such circumstances, we are gathered here in Nagasaki in Mayors for Peace meeting to discuss thoroughly for the realization of the nuclear-free world as soon as possible. I believe this is quite significant and opportune for us to do so. In a future, we are determined to put our hands together to send the message of peace, and we would like to invite as many people as possible to Nagasaki so that they will be able to see with their eyes and feel with their skins the reality of A-bombing. Transcending the logics and rhetoric, we hope we will be able to have the participation of as many people as possible in our discussion for the creation of world peace. I would like to ask for your assistance and cooperation to this effect.

Lastly, I would like to wish you many fruitful outcome of this conference, and hoping for your prosperity in the future and good health for all of you. I would like to conclude
my remarks. Thank you very much for your invitation.

**Video Message:**

**MC**
Thank you very much, Governor Nakamura. Now, the Chair of the Ban Treaty, Ms. Elayne Whyte of Costa Rica has sent us a message.

**Elayne Whyte Gómez, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN Office at Geneva (Video Message)**

Distinguished Mayor of Nagasaki, Mr. Tomihisa Taue, mayors attending the 9th Conference of Mayors for Peace in Nagasaki, your friends, participants. This year’s 9th Conference takes place in a new historic moment. Only four weeks after the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on July 7. It is a great historical milestone that by majority of the members of international community, we were able to move on in a ban on nuclear weapons, seven decades after they were first used in 1945. It is also a great achievement for all individuals, their families and organizations. They have worked so tirelessly to see nuclear weapons prohibited in international law.

We know that the adoption of this treaty is the first step in the right direction toward nuclear disarmament and the world free of nuclear weapons. But we also know that we still have a long road to travel together toward nuclear disarmament and the elimination of nuclear arsenals. We are starting a new phase with the adoption of this treaty. In two actions our strategic, in this moment, is signing and later ratification of this treaty.

I would like to encourage you to engage with national governments to advocate for the signing of the treaty. The signing ceremony is going to take place on September 20 in New York, in the context of the High-Level Segment of the General Assembly. And later on, to concentrate your efforts for a fast ratification process so that we can have as soon as possible the 50 ratifications that are necessary for these norms to enter into force.

As you plan, you work ahead. I want to call to your attention, Article 12 of the treaty,
which contains the provisions of the commitment to undertake actions toward the universalization of the treaty. I would like to encourage you and to invite you to take this commitment as yours.

And to devote your future efforts, to the promotion of the principles, norms, and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons are the center piece of the work that you undertake toward nuclear disarmament.

We owe to the victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons, but also to the future generations. To work hard to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, for that, we count on you and your continued efforts toward nuclear disarmament and peace. I thank you very much.

MC
Thank you very much, Ms. Elayne Whyte. In organizing the 9th General Conference, we received many messages, but due to time constraints, we are not able to read them out, so please go to the message board in the foyer of this hall to read those messages.

Now we would like to move on to the keynote speech. Distinguished members on the stage, would you please step down and go back to your seats in the floor? Ladies and gentlemen, you are kindly requested to stay seated till we set the stage for the keynote speech. Thank you.

**Keynote Speech: “The Imperatives for Disarmament in 21st Century”**

MC
Now we would like to proceed to the keynote lecture. The keynote speaker is Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Until May, when she assumed the current position, since 2014, Ms. Nakamitsu served as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Crisis Response Unit Leader. She has many years of service both inside and outside of the UN system, recently as Special Adviser Ad Interim on Follow up for the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants between 2016 to 2017, and also as Director in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Asia
and the Middle East Division between 2012 to 2014, and Director of Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training between 2008 and 2012. She is going to talk about “The Imperatives for Disarmament in the 21st Century.” Now, Ms. Nakamitsu, please.

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

Mr. Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki, Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for this opportunity to address you during this very important conference, the 9th General Conference of this important organization. Before I start, I want to thank the student performers this morning of the hand bells, the “peace bells,” who gave us the beautiful music to start this important conference. I was really impressed by the combination of very complex and different movements, which really put together to produce such beautiful music in full harmony. I was thinking that probably our movements toward the elimination of nuclear weapons will be something similar. A combination of different methods and different efforts put together will become such an important force of peace. So I wanted to give a special thanks to the student performers.

I also wish to pay tribute to this organization that is making such an important efforts towards realizing a world without nuclear weapons. Civic leaders are, by definition, are core vanguard of civil society. I have witnessed in the places where I worked or visited in the past - Sarajevo, Kabul, Kandahar, Mosul or Juba alike - it is cities and their populations that bear the brunt of the suffering caused by armed conflict. I commend your efforts to elevate the voices of cities and their citizens around the world, who are in fact among the main stakeholders in the cause of disarmament as well.

The elimination of nuclear weapons has been and will continue to be one of the primary objectives of the United Nations in the field of disarmament. However, like the Covenant of the Mayors for Peace, the United Nations places this primary objective within the broader context of the ultimate objective of the disarmament process.

By addressing the issue of nuclear weapons in a broader context, it is not my intention to imply that we must first solve the problem of general disarmament before we can
hope to finally eliminate nuclear weapons. Rather, my objective today is to speak about the current imperatives for disarmament in light of the international situation we face today and also in light of the challenges and threats we expect to face in the future.

This broader perspective is embedded in the Charter of the United Nations and has underpinned the past seventy-plus years of efforts. Article 11 of the Charter explicitly gives the General Assembly the authority to consider the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of arms.

Ever since the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly, these twin objectives—disarmament and the regulation of arms—have respectively represented the goals of eliminating weapons of mass destruction on the one hand, and the regulation of conventional arms on the other hand.

Furthermore, the plan of action adopted at the first special session of the General Assembly in 1978 devoted to disarmament issues recognized the elimination of nuclear weapons as the highest priority for disarmament negotiations.

The track record in implementing this plan of action that was adopted in 1978 was positive for about two decades after 1978. During that time, the United Nations achieved conventions on certain conventional weapons and on the elimination of biological and chemical weapons. It also established mechanisms to increase transparency in arms transfers and in military expenditures. Successive rounds of bilateral and unilateral strategic arms reductions substantially reduced the global stockpiles of nuclear weapons from their Cold War high of about 70,000. Today, they are about 15,000.

Yet, there is a widespread perception that in recent decades, progress toward nuclear disarmament has stalled. The pace of nuclear arms reductions has slowed. Nuclear weapon systems remain on high alert, available for launch within minutes. Nuclear-armed countries are modernizing and upgrading their arsenals. Several of those
states are also continuing to build up the overall size and diversity of their warheads and also delivery systems.

There are many self-described so-called realists in the world today of the annual global military expenditure of about $1.7 trillion who call disarmament a utopian dream, which can only be realized in ideal circumstances of complete world peace. But this cynical worldview turns our present situation on its head. To paraphrase Dag Hammarskjöld, the goal of disarmament is not to bring us to heaven, but rather it is to spare humanity from ever again suffering from horrors like those experienced by the Hibakushas in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

To overcome these challenges, we need to consider the basic motivations for disarmament and to understand its role and potential in maintenance of international peace and security today.

Let me today focus on three key issues: 1) the imperatives for disarmament, and why we need to make progress in today’s international security environment, 2) new challenges we are facing or we expect to face, and 3) possible ways forward.

One of the most important imperatives for disarmament is and has been international security. The United Nations was created, as you know, to maintain international peace and security, and as such, security is central to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The UN Charter prohibits the use of force against the political independence or territorial integrity of states. The UN Charter also established a framework for collective security, where states would only be allowed to use force in self-defense and in the collective action authorized by the United Nations Security Council.

In this connection, the logic of disarmament is to promote the security for all, individually and collectively. For decades, the security imperative has been the driving force behind measures for nuclear disarmament.
The nuclear-armed states bear the largest responsibility for making progress on nuclear disarmament. This has been politically and legally accepted by the entire international community, both by nuclear-weapon states and others, since the dawn of the nuclear era, and is central to the so-called "grand bargain" reflected in the NPT treaty.

But it is equally important to emphasize that these nuclear-armed states would also be the primary beneficiaries of disarmament. Steps to reduce arsenals, lower alert levels and mitigate risks of incidents can build confidence. Measures to curtail the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons can prevent an expensive new arms race. The elimination of various arms intended for first strikes can promote stability in times of crisis. Disarmament measures can also play a positive role in responding to breaches of the peace and in preventing armed conflict from subsequently re-emerging.

Taken together, these measures can create the conditions for ending regional disputes, for resolving conflicts and also facilitating the elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide.

Due to constant advances in military capabilities and in the nature of armed conflict, inaction on nuclear disarmament cannot be equated with maintaining or maintenance of the status quo that we have today. We believe that inaction on disarmament will lead to a world that is more insecure and less stable. Because we have situations such as the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or tensions in the Middle East, we need serious disarmament discussions and serious steps for disarmament. We must make every effort to find political solutions to disputes, to prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons and to find ways to reduce and eliminate what already exists.

It should also be emphasized that the nuclear-weapon states do not bear the responsibility for achieving disarmament alone. In fact, the preamble of the new Prohibition Treaty rightfully recognizes that the risks posed by nuclear weapons
concern the security of all humanity, and that all states share the responsibility to prevent their use.

The universal acceptance of this goal led the International Court of Justice to determine that the disarmament obligation transcends any treaty and is a requirement under customary international law.

While the objectives of disarmament continue to be most strongly associated with security, the humanitarian imperative is in fact the oldest driver for arms control and disarmament in the modern era.

Since the mid-19th century, the international community has sought to progressively develop the law of armed conflict in parallel with rules to prohibit or restrict specific weapons that cannot be used in conformity with humanitarian principles.

Since the end of the Second World War, the humanitarian imperative has also been linked very strongly to the objective of protecting civilians from the effects of armed conflict. It is also the frame from which civil society has had the greatest and largest leverage and influence in the process of making new laws and establishing such new norms as we just saw last month.

In this connection, more recent humanitarian disarmament initiatives have banned or restricted weapons that produce undetectable fragments, mines, booby-traps, blinding laser weapons, anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions and so on.

And, of course, the humanitarian movement has been, as I mentioned, the strongest driving force behind the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

I also want to touch on the development and environmental imperatives for disarmament a little bit.

In recent decades, disarmament has largely slipped off the development agenda, unfortunately. This is despite overwhelming evidence that the over-accumulation of
weapons fuels conflict, drives the illicit trade, enables violent extremism and facilitates gross violations of human rights and humanitarian principles. Therefore, the failure to put in place an effective system for the regulation of arms has had a devastating toll on socio-economic development, sustainable growth, gender equality and human well-being in general.

Environmental imperatives for disarmament have been largely dormant in recent years, but may have considerable potential for the future. Environmentalism has proven to be a potent but understated force for arms control. The United Nations recently completed an important study on the environmental impact of armed conflict. But, the problem of addressing concerns resulting from particular types or categories of weapon systems remains very much an open question for disarmament bodies.

Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015, is a universal and integrated framework which brings together development, peace and security and environmental objectives comprehensively. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that disarmament actions, which can make enormous contributions to establishing peaceful societies, are fully anchored within the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen, I spoke enough on "why disarmament today," but understanding the various roles for disarmament helps to inform our collective response to the challenges and threats that have emerged since the start of this century. These new challenges and threats, which are of course exacerbated by the existence of terrorist groups with regional and global influence, can be described as falling into one of two categories, probably.

The first challenge relates to the unacceptable harm to civilians resulting from arms-related abuses. This challenge takes many forms, ranging from the indiscriminate use of weapons, to the illicit trade in weapons and even the re-emergence of prohibited weapons whose use has been deemed not to be in line with the conscience of humanity.
We have seen in recent conflicts the devastating effects caused by the use of explosive weapons, for example, in populated areas. Data collected by non-governmental organizations has shown that when such weapons are used in populated areas, civilians account for 90 per cent of casualties. Many governments have recognized this problem. They have pledged to support the collection of data on the harm to civilians caused by such use of explosive weapons and on good practices and lessons learned to minimize the impacts. A group of states also remains committed to developing a political commitment for governments to refrain from such use.

Excessive accumulation and the illicit trade in arms and ammunition, especially small arms and light weapons, continue to pose a significant threat to the maintenance of peaceful and sustainable societies. This illicit trade impedes socio-economic development, facilitates transnational organized crime and exacerbates the lethality and duration of armed conflict. The full implementation of the United Nations program of action remains essential in combatting the illicit trade, including through the adoption of necessary national legislation. There is also a need for more action to facilitate international assistance for capacity-building, including to improve physical security and stockpile management at different countries.

Finally, we have all witnessed with shock and horror the re-emergence of chemical weapons in the context of the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. Despite the extraordinary efforts of the international community leading to the destruction of that country’s declared program, we continue to receive allegations of the use of chemical weapons with disturbing regularity. The United Nations remains determined to investigate all credible allegations and to identify the perpetrators of these acts. Those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable, and we consider this as critical agenda of preventing further erosion of the existing norms against chemical weapons, which goes much beyond Syria.

The second challenge relates to emerging military capabilities and means of warfare. These also include what the Secretary-General has termed “frontier issues.” Given the
rapid pace of technological innovation driving many of these developments, their full implications are not yet known. But it is already clear that many emerging military capabilities pose grave and overlapping risks, including to international stability and to upholding humanitarian and human rights principles. In some cases, they are also straining the ability of our normative and regulatory frameworks to keep peace and to mitigate any harmful impacts.

Examples of problematic emerging capabilities include long-range conventional missiles, anti-missile and anti-satellite systems and also cyber weapons. These capabilities all involve risks to international and regional stability. In some situations, there is also concern over the potential of these new strategic weapons to contribute to new arms races, diminish stability and jeopardize existing arms control frameworks.

There are serious concerns about the ability of lethal autonomous weapon systems to effectively comply with international humanitarian law. This is especially concerning if these systems are developed for use in complex environments or in situations where their use may result in civilian casualties.

Looking farther into the future, advances in artificial intelligence, additive manufacturing and bio-synthetic engineering have also tremendous potential to improve human life, productivity and well-being. However, if poorly managed, their development may have grave consequences for the future of mankind.

Let me try to conclude. Efforts to control arms have been increasingly recognized as intersecting with achieving priorities in the fields of sustainable development, humanitarian principles, human rights, and peace and security. These broader objectives have throughout the last century motivated landmark achievements in the field of disarmament and arms control. We must now have the renewed, redoubled commitment, and also a new vision and concrete actions for disarmament in the 21st century. I believe that our ability to respond effectively to the current and emerging security
challenges of this century will require us to embrace each of these imperatives for disarmament.

As we start our considerations for such a new vision at the United Nations under the new Secretary-General, let me suggest today only three key issues.

First, I believe that we must reposition disarmament as a key and integral part of international peace and security agenda.

I think the situation in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a case in point. Ending the DPRK’s illicit and destabilizing activities and achieving the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will be inconceivable unless it is pursued within a broader context of regional peace and security. Likewise, no sustainable political solution is possible unless serious disarmament plans in DPRK can be negotiated and agreed upon. The on-going international actions on chemical weapons and other issues related to Syria are a similar example.

My second point relates to the importance of norm development in disarmament. This has been a constant theme dating back to the 19th century.

The prohibition treaty on nuclear weapons will now start to put nuclear weapons on the same level as chemical and biological weapons, which were deemed in 1925 as incompatible with the principles of humanity. The promotion of these norms, or these kinds of norms, was essential in laying the ground work for both preventing the proliferation of these weapons and also for their eventual complete elimination. I think the case of chemical and biological weapons also demonstrates how the pursuit and elaboration of humanitarian norms can bring real security benefits as well.

I would therefore like to emphasize that the effective implementation of various norms and instruments is equally important. We must have a renewed action particularly in the areas where we can make a concrete, visible progress to save lives, such as conventional weapons and use of certain weapons in populated areas.
My third and final point today is about the need to have a new cooperation among states, building new coalitions, as well as new partnerships between states and civil society for disarmament. This is relevant for all diverse disarmament areas. But today, let me refer specifically to nuclear disarmament in the context with the newly adopted Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty.

I appeal to governments to stop looking at the nuclear disarmament agenda in a dichotomy of the NPT versus the ban treaty, but rather from a perspective of the entire framework of treaties, which are all politically and mutually reinforcing of each other. Long before the ban treaty, the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime was already an intricate web of multilateral, plurilateral, regional, bilateral and sometimes even unilateral treaties, agreements, instruments, regimes and commitments and declarations. These are various legally binding, politically binding or purely voluntary instruments.

What’s important therefore is not that we agree on the merit of every existing or new possible measure, but rather that they all lead to the same end, namely the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

There are many possible paths leading to nuclear zero. It should not matter which path is taken, as long as it can be demonstrated that concrete progress is being made.

So we cannot rest having completed the first multilateral nuclear disarmament treaty, the ban treaty, in more than 20 years. We must now focus on the hard work ahead of us, of transforming our shared norms and objectives into practical actions for the elimination of nuclear arsenals and of encouraging states to re-engage in the dialogue necessary to bridge the political divide that we see today.

In order to achieve this, we need new cooperation, a new vision and new understanding of what benefits disarmament can bring to us.
As civic-focused advocates, I am sure you will agree on the power of building multi-stakeholder communities. And, as much as the future of humanity resides in cities, your work and your outreach will play a critical role in contributing to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, to the future actions in disarmament in general and to our ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament. Let us work together towards this important and noble objective. Thank you very much.

MC

Thank you very much. Now we would like to receive some questions. Those of you with question, please raise your hand. The representatives from the member cities, if you have any question, please raise your hand. Anybody with question, please raise your hand. Then, we would like to offer a big applause to Ms. Nakamitsu. Thank you very much for the very precious presentation. Thank you very much.