

Statement by Mayor Kazumi Matsui on Behalf of Mayors for Peace

*United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons,
Leading Towards their Total Elimination*
United Nations, 7 July 2017

Today, 7 July 2017, United Nations negotiators successfully concluded their negotiations on a historic legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons. Developed and developing countries, east and west, north and south, and nuclear-armed or free of nuclear weapons—all states should welcome this agreement, which represents new progress toward the total elimination of all nuclear weapons.

This treaty is consistent with existing legal obligations and political commitments made by all states to pursue global nuclear disarmament in good faith. By de-legitimizing the possession, acquisition and use of such weapons, this treaty will also advance the cause of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In so doing, the treaty helps to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime at a time when such assistance is most needed to confront persisting and new nuclear weapon threats to international peace and security.

As President of Mayors for Peace, whose membership is now approaching 7,400 city mayors from 162 countries, and as Mayor of the city that was the first to be destroyed by a nuclear weapon, I congratulate all negotiators, their home governments, the UN secretariat staff, and dedicated participants from civil society for their inspired, courageous, and ultimate successful initiative to establish this long sought legal prohibition on the deadliest of all weapons of mass destruction.

Now that the new treaty has been adopted, our next challenge is clear: We need to encourage all countries to join this treaty, including the nuclear-weapon states and their allies. Mayors for Peace will work together with our diverse partners in the world to encourage world leaders to take decisive leadership towards nuclear abolition. Reliance on nuclear weapons is not only useless for solving current challenges of international security, but will also endanger the survival of the entire human species. The entire world community, therefore, needs to cooperate and work together to ensure that the new treaty will become a fully effective legal instrument to achieve nuclear abolition. Let us begin this work today.