

Statement by Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui
Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
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I wish to begin by expressing my deep appreciation for the longstanding efforts made by the *hibakusha* to raise the public's awareness of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons through their testimonies of unbearable sorrow. Their fervent appeal for nuclear abolition remains the most important motivation to counter this threat.

Our deliberations today are occurring amid heightened international tensions as well as several efforts to revive nuclear disarmament and strengthen nuclear non-proliferation—including a peaceful solution of the DPRK nuclear-weapons problem. It is important for these NPT deliberations to fulfill the wishes of people throughout the world for real progress in these specific fields.

Progress in disarmament, however, remains hindered by the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and weapon modernization efforts. Their justifications are not credible and serve only to aggravate mutual distrust between states and create new risks of nuclear weapons use, posing a danger to global security. Together, we must therefore seek a better long-term solution, one that truly advances the common interests of all nations. And comprehensive, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization should be pursued to achieve this great goal.

In particular, the States Parties must reaffirm the treaty's obligation to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith and implement concrete disarmament measures without further delay. I also encourage the Committee to be guided by respect for diversity and to nurture the vision of a common future rooted in a sense of belonging to one human family. Through persistent and conscientious dialogues, we can turn the confrontational security environment into a cooperative security architecture.

For its part, Mayors for Peace is working to achieve two key objectives: "Realization of a world without nuclear weapons" and "Realization of safe and resilient cities." Thousands of our members are working worldwide for these causes.

We believe that world peace cannot be achieved without protecting the safety and peaceful lives of ordinary people. That is why we are working first and foremost to abolish nuclear weapons—to protect people from mass destruction. In this endeavor, we consider it essential to promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a significant milestone towards our common goal.

At the same time, we are also working hard to cultivate mutual trust and to equip cities with higher resilience to make them capable to address various issues of their own, such as sustainable development, the refugee crisis, or countering terrorism.

Through these efforts, working closely with diverse civil society partners, Mayors for Peace will encourage and support world leaders to take their own initiatives locally and jointly with a broad global perspective towards a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Anticipating the historic NPT Review Conference in 2020, we must promote concrete measures for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, to achieve lasting world peace. We must do this together and we must never rest until they are achieved.