

Statement by Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue

Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference
Geneva, Switzerland
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Chairman,
Distinguished delegates and leaders of civil groups,

My name is Tomihisa Taue, the Mayor of Nagasaki. It is an honor to address you today as the representative of the atomic-bombed city of Nagasaki, and as the Vice-President of Mayors for Peace.

The direction which shows the future of nuclear weapons is veering widely back and forth between the good and bad reports. Because of this, we need to reconfirm what effect nuclear weapons have on humans. I would like to introduce the words of Mr. Sumiteru Taniguchi, a leader of Nagasaki's peace activities and a *hibakusha*, atomic bomb survivor, who passed away last year. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, he showed this picture and said with all his strength, exposing his pain and suffering "I am not a guinea pig nor am I an exhibit. But those of you who saw this picture today, please don't turn your eyes away from me. Please look at me again. Bearing the cursed scars of the atomic bomb all over our bodies, we the *hibakusha* continue to live in pain. Nuclear weapons are weapons of extinction and cannot coexist with humans."

The leaders of the world need to visit the atomic bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and learn the reality of the atomic bombings. I am certain that no one in the world wants themselves or their families to go through the same suffering as the *hibakusha*. Remember that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are promises the member states of the NPT made with the world. Return to those principles and please pursue a security policy that does not rely on nuclear deterrence.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was created with the *hibakusha's* appeals as a driving force, with the support of civil society, and with over 120 countries working together towards it. It is also a treaty that is meant to become one of the "two wheels of a cart" along with the NPT, which is the foundation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

To the countries who agreed to the treaty, I ask that you move forward with procedures to sign and ratify it.

To the countries against the treaty, I ask that, as soon as possible, you once more carefully consider if there is truly no possibility of joining the treaty.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki are convinced that this treaty needs to become an international norm.

"Make Nagasaki the last place to experience an atomic bomb."

We firmly believe that Nagasaki will remain a place of hope to deliver this message for all time. We will continue to request for every country to create the wisdom needed to make peace through dialogue.