

### **Mayor's Greeting**

I am Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of the City of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace. I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to Ms. Beatrice Fihn and everyone involved in the ICAN Campaigners Meeting for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Above all else, I am here in Geneva representing the A-bombed city of Hiroshima to share with everyone the earnest wishes of the *hibakusha* for peace, which stem from their deep humanitarian conviction that “no one else shall ever suffer as we have.”

I believe that all of us here agree that it is vital to establish a legal framework to prohibit nuclear weapons in order to achieve global nuclear disarmament. At the same time, we must make parallel efforts to break free from a security system based on “nuclear deterrence,” which depends on mutual distrust and threat, and build a more stable foundation for peace rooted in an awareness that we all belong to one human family.

The second session of the Open-ended Working Group starting tomorrow will be of great significance as to how much progress can be made in the discussions on legal measures of nuclear weapons. It is unfortunate that we once again see the absence of nuclear-weapon states in this session. However, we must make sure that this session will contribute to overcoming differences between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states and encouraging both parties to work together to achieve concrete and practical progress towards the common goal of nuclear abolition.

In this connection, let me share with you an episode: During the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting last month, I witnessed that, through the visit of Hiroshima, policymakers visibly deepened their commitment to exercise leadership in nuclear disarmament. One of them was Mr. John Kerry, Secretary of State of the U.S., which is, as you know, a nuclear power. He clearly stated that there is a “depth of obligation that every person in a position of responsibility carries to create and pursue a world free from nuclear weapons.” World leaders must make a firm, collective determination to eliminate nuclear weapons now and, on that basis, they should negotiate and agree on a clear direction towards the elimination of nuclear weapons globally. This is what we believe and thus we in the civil society must whole-heartedly support such commitments and make sure that leaders take effective steps to turn these commitments into a concrete change of policy. We are convinced that doing so will serve the interest of our citizens and all humanity.

9:30- May 1, 2016 (Sun.)  
ICAN Campaigners' Meeting  
Greeting of Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima  
President of Mayors for Peace

Diverse organizations and groups are carrying out a variety of activities towards nuclear weapons abolition, locally, nationally and globally. The key point is that we shall complement each other with respect, orchestrate our diverse activities, and consolidate these efforts to achieve our common goal of a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. Let us all join forces and do all that we can from our respective positions for nuclear abolition and lasting world peace.

I hope that there will be constructive deliberations at tomorrow's Working Group. Let's work to ensure that the final outcome of these deliberations will be a shared understanding of effective legal measures to advance to a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.