

**Message from Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima
on the Occasion of the Second Regional Meeting of Mayors for Peace
in Latin America and the Caribbean
“Capital de Paz, Capital Social”**

**Mexico City
September 20, 2016**

It is an honor and a pleasure to send this message on the occasion of the Second Regional Meeting of Mayors for Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: “Capital de Paz, Capital Social” hosted by Mexico City.

Let me begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera of Mexico City and all the people involved in the efforts to hold this conference. I believe it is a great contribution to the promotion of regional activities that a Lead City takes the initiative of holding a regional conference to develop their region’s own activities in accordance with their local context and to exchange useful information among member cities. In this sense, organizing this summit in Latin America and the Caribbean following last year’s is truly meaningful and I extend my deepest respect for your continued endeavors.

It was in Latin America and the Caribbean that the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty was concluded for the first time in the world. For this region with an advanced awareness of peace, it is very significant to have discussions from wider aspects for the realization of a peaceful world free from conflicts. I am firmly convinced that this conference will be a fruitful one by bringing together the wisdom of everyone participating in it. I sincerely hope this conference will strengthen ties among member cities and promote the expansion of the network of Mayors for Peace, as well as help a culture of peace take root and spread in this region.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on all the participants to work in unity with a passion to build peace not only in Latin America and the Caribbean but across the world, and to continue to strive with us to eliminate nuclear weapons and to realize everlasting world peace.

In closing, I extend my best wishes for the success of this summit and continued good health and the happiness of all in attendance.