

Remarks regarding the start of the signing of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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September 21, 2017

In the process of moving towards the implementation of the first legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, *the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, I have been informed that more than fifty states immediately signed the treaty on September 20, the day of the signing ceremony, at the UN Headquarters in New York City. We welcome this significant step toward a future without nuclear weapons.

Yet, amid rising global tensions over the DPRK, some people argue that resolving such issues requires measures based on nuclear deterrence. Many states in the world now feel the risk of nuclear proliferation a more urgent one.

Taking this opportunity, Mayors for Peace would like to emphasize again that this treaty is a fruition of the efforts of A-bomb survivors, the United Nations, international peace organizations, Mayors for Peace and civil society groups, who have, with high aspirations and strong determination, turned toward a legal prohibition of nuclear weapons as a step to their total elimination. Furthermore, we would like to make a strong appeal that it is necessary to accelerate the ongoing international movement—by many states around the world—to now realize a world free of nuclear weapons.

The City of Hiroshima along with the City of Nagasaki sent the “Special Resolution Requesting the Early Bringing into Effect of the Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons,” which was adopted at the General Conference of Mayors for Peace, to UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN High Representative for Disarmament Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, permanent missions to the UN Headquarters in New York and the UN Office at Geneva, and member cities of Mayors for Peace, to call on their cooperation to help achieve the treaty’s entry into force as early as possible. We will continue to call on the UN and national governments in collaboration with our member cities and civil society partners to get all states, including nuclear states and their allies, to join the treaty without further delay.