

Speech by Kazumi Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Hiroshima

On October 24, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons reached 50 ratifications, ensuring its entry into force in 90 days. The inscription on the chest of this cenotaph reads “we shall not repeat the evil,” a pledge made on behalf of all humanity that reflects the *hibakusha*’s message. Standing in front of the cenotaph, we now observe one big step has been taken to fulfill the pledge.

Yet with the existence of over 13,000 nuclear weapons, the world is at the brink of repeating the devastation inflicted by the atomic bombings.

Students engaged in “the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons! Signature Campaign” and “the Youth Peace Volunteer program” are here with me today to express their determination for action in the future. May their actions demonstrate to the people of the world that being free from nuclear weapons is the way this world should be. May such thinking become a global standard, that will lead people to take action based on such peace-seeking-spirit in their daily lives. This is my sincere desire.

I humbly ask you, the victims of the atomic bombings, to embrace these young people’s enthusiasm, and continue to watch over them.

Now, 10 people will deliver speeches in Japanese and English on behalf of youth engaged in peace activities here in Hiroshima. Please listen to them.