

**Statement by MATSUI Kazumi**  
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NGO presentations  
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Thank you, Ambassador Viinanen. I welcome this opportunity to speak on behalf of Mayors for Peace and to commend the efforts made by all of those involved in organizing this session.

The war in Ukraine shows no signs of coming to an end, and Russia has repeatedly threatened the use of nuclear weapons. In times such as these, many leaders, and even members of the public, have expressed understanding for the expansion of nuclear deterrence. The situation continues to contradict the earnest and longstanding appeals for peace made from the atomic-bombed cities.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit held in May, the G7 leaders, including those from nuclear-weapon States, signed the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum guestbook after visiting the Museum and speaking with a *hibakusha*. While the contents of the entries in the guestbook differ, all of them reflect their direct encounter with the realities of the atomic bombing. I was so moved by these messages that demonstrate a deep understanding of the will of Hiroshima—the sincere prayer for lasting world peace and the conviction that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

At the Summit, the *G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament* was issued. I believe the Vision carries profound gravity, as it reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a world without nuclear weapons. The flawed theory of nuclear deterrence, which is now in a state of collapse, must be abandoned. We must now start taking tangible action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. To that end, Mayors for Peace, for which I serve as President, will work with our over 8,200 member cities in 166 countries and regions all around the world to promote the culture of peace—a culture that renounces all forms of violence. In doing so, we aim to foster peace awareness on a global scale, thus creating an environment which encourages policymakers to pursue foreign policies through dialogue.

All of us gathered here today share the same ultimate goal of realizing a world without nuclear weapons, and humanity bears a collective responsibility to achieve this goal. Let us reiterate the agreed commitment to nuclear disarmament that this imperative multilateral treaty was established upon. We call on national representatives to reaffirm their obligation under Article VI of the NPT to pursue negotiations in good faith for nuclear disarmament. It is our sincere hope that we will witness a significant and unwavering step forward in advancing concrete nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures during this session.