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General Exchange of Views
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On behalf of Mayors for Peace, I welcome the opportunity to address this particular gathering of those who continue to work tirelessly to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons.

In four decades of Mayors for Peace, we have grown to over 8,300 member cities through our efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons. However, the world has now entered a critical phase in the midst of the protracted and unending Russian invasion of Ukraine where nuclear threats have been repeatedly made. Moreover, distrust is escalating between nuclear-armed states and non-nuclear-weapon states which could potentially lead to a situation that completely undermines the fervent plea of the *hibakusha* that “no one else should suffer as we have.”

Amid such circumstances, mayors of global cities, who are responsible for ensuring the safety and security of their citizens, are genuinely concerned that the obligation under Article VI of the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) to pursue negotiations in good faith for nuclear disarmament is not being fulfilled. Further assuring the effective implementation of the TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons), which we have worked so hard to achieve, could not be more important than now.

Mayors for Peace hereby strongly calls upon national governments to advance initiatives to ensure that both the NPT and the TPNW fully function while maintaining their compatibility and complementarity to realize the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. To underpin such efforts, we are resolutely committed to raising peace consciousness among citizens and further promoting the culture of peace—a culture that renounces all forms of violence. We sincerely appeal to all delegations to share the same ambitious goal of realizing a nuclear-weapon-free world with global citizens, and, together through concrete actions, take steady steps to achieve it.