

**Statement by SUZUKI Shiro**  
**Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Nagasaki**  
**General Exchange of Views**  
**Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**  
**New York, USA**  
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Chairman, distinguished delegates, and civil group leaders, I am SUZUKI Shiro, Mayor of Nagasaki. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for allowing me to deliver a statement at this meeting.

Amid the Ukraine crisis and intensifying military conflict in the Middle East, it is a matter of grave concern that the use of nuclear weapons has been implied as a concrete and realistic option.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which completely bans nuclear weapons, is based on a human-centered security approach. In these chaotic times, it is becoming ever important for the whole world to go back to the very beginning to reflect on what happened to human beings beneath the mushroom clouds 78 years ago, and address the fundamental question of what would happen to the Earth and to humankind if a nuclear war were to begin now.

I sincerely hope that this meeting will serve as an opportunity for more countries to earnestly face this question. Moreover, based on the bottom-up approach that was demonstrated in the process leading up to the entry into force of the TPNW, I hope that the States Parties, NGOs, civil society, and all people aspiring for the abolition of nuclear weapons will work together to form a worldwide alliance for the abolition of nuclear weapons and once again create a momentum that will change the world.

I have a strong conviction that learning what effect the use of nuclear weapons had on human beings is not only the starting point towards a world without nuclear weapons but also the driving force to change the world. I hereby pledge to carry on the legacy of the *hibakusha* and their wish for no one in the world to go through the same suffering, to ensure that Nagasaki remains the last wartime atomic-bombing site.

Thank you.