

Comment by the President of Mayors for Peace in response to the outcome of the 11th NPT Review Conference

MATSUI Kazumi
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor of Hiroshima

June 1, 2026

It is deeply regrettable that, at the 2026 NPT Review Conference convened amid the deepening divisions within the international community, States Parties were unable to bridge their differences—particularly with regard to concrete measures for nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the Treaty—and that the Conference concluded without the adoption of a final document.

Despite vigorous discussions held under the strong leadership of the President of the Conference, Ambassador Do Hung Viet, it was not possible for States Parties, for the third consecutive time, to demonstrate a unified commitment to steadily advancing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It was discouraging to see attempts to regress from the achievements of previous Review Conferences with regard to concrete commitments to implement Article VI. This development not only deepens concerns over an accelerating nuclear arms race and expanding armed conflicts, but also blatantly ignores the earnest wishes of the hibakusha, who have long appealed for the abolition of nuclear weapons. It reflects a troubling disregard for critical lessons learned from our own history.

As we look ahead to the first Review Conference of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) scheduled for November this year, the emergence of such a critical situation has only amplified the voices of citizens around the world who yearn for peace. In response, Mayors for Peace is determined to unite the strength of its 8,600 member cities across 166 countries and regions with a view to fostering an environment that encourages world leaders to shift their policies toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. To this end, we will endeavor to build a civil society that stands in solidarity for the coexistence of all humanity by embedding a “culture of peace” into everyday life.

Furthermore, by strengthening international exchanges among younger generations and enhancing efforts to pass down the experiences of the atomic bombings to future generations, we will continue to advance, step by step, toward the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.