

Comment by the President of Mayors for Peace in response to the outcome of the 10th NPT Review Conference

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Despite all the efforts by States Parties during the negotiation in attempting to unequivocally state the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, to note the facts related to the development of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and to include the adoption of no-first use doctrines in the Final Document, as well as to further discuss multilateral agreements on negative security assurances, this NPT Review Conference has come to an end, failing to reach an agreement to adopt the Final Document. This result, that the Conference could not agree to an outcome document, is not only the opposite of ensuring progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures, as called for at the Conference by the Mayor of Nagasaki representing Mayors for Peace, but it also rejects the *hibakusha*'s wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons and leaves me truly dismayed.

At this Conference, a Joint Humanitarian Statement was released with the endorsement of 145 States, including Japan, reaffirming the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and acknowledging that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee they are never used again. Yet, how it resulted in another breakdown of negotiations, as was the case in the last Conference, is a betrayal of humanity's determination for the realization of a peaceful, nuclear-weapon-free world. It implies the abandonment of the pursuit of the ambitious ideal of maintaining peace without using armed force. This is exactly what could lead the world to a dangerous crisis.

As a countermeasure, Mayors for Peace, in collaboration with the mayors of its 8,200 member cities in 166 countries and regions around the world, will further implement its initiatives to ensure citizens' safety and security, to promote a "culture of peace" that rejects all forms of violence, and to create an environment which encourages policymakers to pursue foreign policies through dialogue without relying on nuclear deterrence.