

**Nagasaki Day Rally, 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs**  
**Greetings from Taue Tomihisa, Mayor of Nagasaki**

Hello everyone joining in the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs. I am Taue Tomihisa, Mayor of Nagasaki City.

On this 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing, we are obliged to cancel or postpone a number of commemorative events and projects due to the coronavirus pandemic. I would like to express my deep respect to you for your effort and commitment in sending out from Nagasaki appeals for the abolition of nuclear weapons, using new online methods despite the challenges we face.

Today, people around the world are commonly tackling the pandemic. Now that everyone is seriously trying to protect people's lives, it is significant for us, as those who are actually standing on the verge of crisis, to think and act on the problem of nuclear weapons, similarly a crisis facing the world.

Creating a world free of nuclear weapons is both our earnest desire and our mission.

Hibakusha who know the atrocity of nuclear weapons first-hand have shared painful stories of their experiences, saying, "Never again should anyone anywhere in the world go through such suffering" and they have appealed for the abolition of nuclear weapons. However, 75 years after those days, we see fewer and fewer of them who are able to tell their stories. An era when there will be no Hibakusha is fast approaching.

The danger caused by nuclear weapons is not something of the past where they were used, but is a problem we face now and in the future. It is 50 years since the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty entered into force as the first step toward a nuclear weapon-free world. But the prospect of the abolition of nuclear weapons is not yet in sight. Rather, the risk of nuclear weapons being used is increasing.

When Pope Francis visited Nagasaki in November 2019, he stood in Epicenter Park and sent out a clear and powerful message to the world, saying, "A world without nuclear weapons is possible and necessary" and "A world of peace, free from nuclear weapons...calls for involvement on the part of all".

Building on the words of Pope Francis, we in civil society must work together and continue to raise our voices to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons without any further delay.

On this August 9, the milestone 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, we of the City of Nagasaki pledge to continue working for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for peace until we achieve the total elimination of these weapons. Dear friends, let us march together as colleagues sharing the same goal.

Last but not least, I wish the Organizing Committee members and participants in this World Conference all the best for your continued success and good health. Thank you.