



CITY OF NAGASAKI

Mayoral Message

On behalf of the citizens of Nagasaki, I would like to extend a message to the “Balkan Forum on Nuclear Disarmament.”

I would like to express my sincerest respect to the Pathways To Peace, the host of this event, for holding this timely forum and for continuing initiatives to create a “Culture of Peace” over more than four decades.

At 11:02 a.m. on August 9, 1945, Nagasaki was devastated in an instant by a single atomic bomb. More than 150,000 people were killed or wounded. The *hibakusha*, those who narrowly survived the atomic bombings, are still suffering from mental and physical scars that will never heal. Despite this, they continue to give us their first-hand testimonies and advocate for a world free of nuclear weapons to ensure that no one else in the world would ever go through the same suffering.

Looking at the world today, the international state of affairs concerning nuclear weapons becomes ever more chaotic with the ever increasing risk that nuclear weapons will be used what with Russia’s prolonged invasion of Ukraine.

In order to put an end to the current situation and once again foster a momentum towards a world without nuclear weapons, each and every one of us participating in civil society must work together and make our voices heard louder now more than ever before.

I believe that it is the duty of civil society to guide public opinion so that governments are able to have a positive discussions for the realization of a future without nuclear weapons. However, civil society does not have the capability to create practical measures alone which is why we need to work together with professionals, the United Nations, and governments around the world.

The city of Nagasaki is resolved to continue to strive towards the abolition of nuclear weapons and eternal world peace. As an important partner with whom we share a common goal, I sincerely hope that we can work together to expand the network of peace.

In closing, I pray for the continued good health and success of the hosts of the event and those attending.

August 25, 2023
SUZUKI Shiro
Mayor of Nagasaki