



## Mayors for Peace

### Secretariat

c/o Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, 1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 JAPAN  
E-mail: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp Website: www.mayorsforpeace.org

### Message from the President of Mayors for Peace

It is both my honor and pleasure to send this message on the occasion of the expansion of Mayors for Peace activities in Albania.

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb used in human history was dropped on Hiroshima. It instantly reduced our city to a scorched plain, claiming countless lives and shattering normal life. The lives of the *hibakusha* are still impaired by the adverse effects of radiation on their minds and bodies.

The global situation is tense. Russia's protracted invasion of Ukraine and the worsening situation in the Middle East continue to deepen distrust and fear among nations. If nations continue to expand nuclear and other armaments to maintain superiority over others, and the public assumption that we rely on military force gains ground, the realization of a peaceful world will grow only farther out of reach.

In times like these, it is important for civil society to unite as one with hope and determination to take collective action urging policymakers to shift their policies. Last fiscal year, more than 1.98 million people from around the world visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. This record number is evidence of unprecedented interest in the atomic-bombed city and a rise in peace consciousness. The foundation of Hiroshima's will for peace is the ardent *hibakusha* plea that no one should ever suffer as they have.

To dispel the suspicion and doubt that create conflicts, what we can do now is share, connect to, and discuss the experiences and values of others through exchange activities such as music, art, sports, and more, to foster a circle of trust and spread the sense of safety we feel in our daily lives.

Mayors for Peace, together with its over 8,400 member cities around the world, continues to raise peace consciousness in civil society and create a world filled with the culture of peace, thus urging policymakers relying on nuclear deterrence to shift their diplomatic policies toward peaceful solutions through dialogue.

Thanks to the dedicated cooperation of Pathways to Peace, a UN registered NGO, and Mr. Rinor Jani, the representative of that organization in Albania, I am glad to learn that many municipalities have joined Mayors for Peace in recent years, and now we have 22 Albanian municipalities, including the capital, Tirana. I cordially thank you for this increasing membership and solidarity. I believe the Mayors for Peace network in Albania will be expanded and strengthened by member cities' cooperation, and thus, the circle of peace will spread in Albania.

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the atomic bombing. Taking this opportunity, I would like to ask all of you to act in solidarity with us to eliminate nuclear weapons and light the way toward lasting world peace.

In closing, I am excited for your continued cooperation in our future endeavors.

January 21, 2025

Sincerely yours,

MATSUI Kazumi  
President of Mayors for Peace  
Mayor of Hiroshima