

## **Commitment to Peace**

The Hiroshima that greets our eyes today is a beautiful city with abundant greenery, filled with flowers, and graced by clear, sparkling rivers.

On this day fifty-four years ago, a giant mushroom cloud blotted out the blue sky. Raging fires burned the trees and flowers to ash. Precious lives and happiness were stolen away. People died in agony, begging for water. Children cried, screaming for their fathers and mothers. An entire city was transformed to charred rubble.

From the depths of sorrow, driven by hopes and dreams of recovery, clinging to a powerful desire for peace, the people arose and rebuilt this beautiful city.

We have learned much from the prayerful stories told by our grandfathers and grandmothers, and from our visits to the Peace Memorial Museum. We have thought deeply about what we must do if people are to live in peace and harmony.

Our world today is filled with conflict. Our environment is being destroyed. Too many children know the pain of starvation. Too many are injured or lose their young lives. Right around us are people who turn to violence, or hurt our feelings with their bullying.

What can we do? As children born and raised in this city, we believe it is our responsibility to learn more about peace. We must learn to talk with and understand each other, to treat our friends with consistent kindness, and, even in small ways, find the courage to do the right thing. Then, never forgetting the horror of war and nuclear weapons, we must convey to friends throughout the world the vital importance of peace.

Our shining, blue-green planet. When we achieve true peace on Earth, we will know the pride of living on the most beautiful planet in the universe. We hereby pledge to learn from the spirit of the people of Hiroshima, to pass on their story, and work with our many friends around the world to create a society in which each one of us can live a bright and rewarding life.

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