

The Nagasaki Appeal

For the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Lasting World Peace

We, the representatives of 7,417 cities from 162 countries and regions around the world, have met at the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki and engaged in active discussions on the theme “Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons – What We Can Do Toward 2020.”

In August 1945, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The fierce heat rays, blast and radiation instantly leveled buildings and turned the cities into burnt-out ruins, cruelly killing more than 210,000 residents, including women, children and the elderly. The *hibakusha*, many of whom only narrowly survived, have witnessed many terrible situations where people were deprived of human dignity. They have survived for 72 years with physical and emotional wounds that can never be healed. While suffering from cancer and other diseases caused by radiation, the *hibakusha* have continued to appeal to the world for the abolition of these inhumane weapons, driven by their strong and almost life-shortening determination that no one else should ever again suffer as they have.

Yet, there still remain nearly 15,000 nuclear weapons on our planet, and massive budgets have been allocated to programs aimed at modernizing them. In addition, the threat of nuclear weapon use is increasing in various parts of the world, such as Northeast Asia, Europe, South Asia and the Middle East. Furthermore, the unintended or accidental use of nuclear weapons and the risk of nuclear terrorist attacks cannot be ignored.

Based on the 2020 Vision (Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons), Mayors for Peace has been engaged in diverse activities in partnership with civil society, NGOs and others, aimed at the urgently needed realization of a world without nuclear weapons. These activities include signature-collecting for petitions that call for the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention and appeals for its implementation at international conferences.

This summer, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted. We sincerely welcome the enactment of this treaty, the first international law that explicitly bans nuclear weapons. This historic advancement toward nuclear disarmament won the approval of the majority of UN member states, and demonstrates to the international community that the slogan “Nagasaki must be the last atomic-bombed city,” as the *hibakusha* have continued to pronounce at every opportunity, is a common desire that represents the will of all humankind. Also, the member cities of Mayors for Peace have realized that, even though a desire for peace expressed by one city may constitute a small voice, such voices together can be a driving force in the world if we cooperate and never give up on our goals. We have also been convinced that

we are on the right path with our activities.

With this pride in our hearts, Mayors for Peace is determined to push forward the following actions.

Aiming at the early implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Mayors for Peace will make efforts to make this treaty more effective by further strengthening collaboration among the *hibakusha*, civil society and treaty-leading nations that have served as a driving force in the adoption of the treaty, and all member cities will strongly urge their national governments to adopt it. In particular, we will strongly urge the governments of nuclear-armed states and those under the nuclear umbrella to do so.

Mayors for Peace represents more than one billion residents of the member cities, and has worked for the elimination of nuclear weapons and the promotion of peace. Yet beyond nuclear weapons, regional challenges such as chemical weapons, armed conflicts, refugee crises, famine, poverty, discrimination, violence, environmental destruction and, more recently, terrorist attacks have emerged. To these ends, we support concrete actions to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including those pertaining peace, cities, and education. In addition, we will further increase the number of member cities and actively work on strengthening and deepening regional networks in order to promote humanitarian activities, especially addressing regional challenges to ensure safety and welfare in civil society.

Mayors for Peace will work towards creating a culture of peace in order to fundamentally address the various problems standing in the way of peace. On that account, we recognize the significance of peace education to pass on war experiences, with a child and youth perspective, to future generations. The member cities of Mayors for Peace are committed to design and promote actions to advance peace education. By participating in the Mayors for Peace network, cities can put into practice the culture of peace in implementing local policies.

Peace is a desire shared by all humankind. We must pursue peace based on human security, in which all individuals respect and trust each other as world citizens by overcoming the divisions of nationality, race and religion, to consider safety as a common concern of all people. This is the path to realizing a world without nuclear weapons. Mayors for Peace will concentrate its efforts on pursuing this long and difficult path, with a strong determination to attain these goals, in close cooperation with all like-minded individuals, groups and nations.

Mayors for Peace strongly calls on the United Nations and all governments to take the following actions:

1. Observe the NPT regime and support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

- Steadily and sincerely promote nuclear disarmament in accordance with the NPT regime so that nuclear weapons will never be used again, listen to the strong voices of civil society, the voices of those who have set the course for the successful adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and sign and ratify the treaty leading to its early entry into force.
- Reaffirm that this treaty is a significant step forward in the pursuit of a future comprehensive nuclear weapons convention achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

2. Make efforts to address global issues that deprive human beings of dignity.

- Make sincere and prompt efforts to address global issues that deprive human beings of dignity, such as nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, conflicts, refugee crises, famine, poverty, discrimination, violence, environmental destruction and terrorism.

3. Make efforts to create a culture of peace and offer opportunities to more people to learn, be aware of, and realize the harsh reality of atomic bombings and wars.

- Call on representatives from governments and international agencies to visit the atomic-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so that the inhumanity of nuclear weapons can be imprinted firmly in their hearts after learning of the reality of the bombings. As a result of such visits, they will better appreciate the need to abolish such weapons as soon as possible. Provide full support to activities promoting the preservation of war experiences, atomic bomb exhibitions and peace research and education programs to be held in the cities, so that the citizens of those cities can widely share the horrors of war and civil conflicts in various parts of world.

Addressing the above, at the 9th General Conference, Mayors for Peace adopted the Action Plan for the period of 2017 to 2020. We hereby pledge to make every endeavor to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date and aim for lasting peace in the world.

August 10, 2017
Nagasaki, Japan
The 9th General Conference
for Mayors for Peace