Mayors for Peace

1. Outline

In August 1945, single atomic bombs dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki instantly reduced them to rubble, taking more than 210,000 precious lives. With more than 75 years since the bombings, many survivors (hibakusha) still suffer from the physical and emotional aftereffects of radiation. To spread throughout the world the hibakusha's ardent wish symbolized in the message that "no one should ever suffer as we have", and to ensure it is passed on to future generations, Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain steadfast in our assertion to the world that nuclear weapons are inhumane and continue to call for their abolition.

On June 24, 1982, at the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament held at the UN Headquarters in New York, then Mayor Takeshi Araki of Hiroshima called for cities throughout the world to transcend national borders and join in solidarity to work together to press for nuclear abolition. Subsequently, the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki established “The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity” (now, Mayors for Peace), composed of mayors around the world who formally expressed support for this call. In 1991, the organization was registered as a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

*On August 5, 2001, the organization changed its name from "The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity" to "Mayors for Peace".

2. Mission

The purposes of the “Mayors for Peace” are to contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace by arousing concern among citizens of the world for the total abolition of nuclear weapons through close solidarity among member cities as well as by striving to solve vital problems for the human race such as starvation and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation.

3. Structure

1) Member Cities (as of March 1, 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Countries &amp; Regions</th>
<th>Member Cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>736</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8,019 cities in 165 countries & regions

Regions: Taiwan / Palestine / Northern Cyprus (Asia), Northern Mariana Islands / French Polynesia (Oceania), Somaliland (Africa), Greenland (North America), Puerto Rico (Latin America and the Caribbean)
2) **Executive Cities**

The following 27 cities are executive cities.

**President City:** Hiroshima (Japan)

**Vice President Cities:**

- Nagasaki (Japan)
- Hannover (Germany)
- Volgograd (Russia)
- Malakoff (France)
- Muntinlupa (Philippines)
- Manchester (UK)
- Ypres (Belgium)
- Biograd na Moru (Croatia)
- Granollers (Spain)
- Halabja (Iraq)
- Fongo-Tongo (Cameroon)
- Mexico City (Mexico)
- Frogn (Norway)
- Des Moines (US)

**Executive Cities:**

- Bangkok (Thailand)
- Fremantle (Australia)
- Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Semev (Kazakhstan)
- Cochin (India)
- Montreal (Canada)
- Wellington (New Zealand)
- Santos (Brazil)
- Cartago (Costa Rica)
- Tehran (Iran)
- Grigny (France)
- Cervia (Italy)

*Underlined are Lead Cities in charge of their regional chapter.*

24 cities

3) **Secretariat**

**Address:** 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

4. **How to Join**

1) **Registration Process**

i. If your city/municipality would like to join us, please send a “Registration Form” to the Secretariat.

ii. The Secretariat registers its new member cities once a month (around the 20th).

iii. Date of affiliation is the 1st day of the month following the date registration procedures are completed by the Secretariat. “Certification of Membership” will be sent out to newly affiliated cities after the date of affiliation.

2) **Membership Fee**

2,000 yen/year *However, when deemed appropriate, Member Cities can be exempt from Fee payment. Member Cities will not lose their membership if they do not pay the Fee.*

3) **Member Cities’ Activities (Examples)**

i. Promote the petition drive calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible

ii. Hold peace-related events such as the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition and share reports

iii. Invite mayors of your sister cities and neighboring cities who are not yet members to join Mayors for Peace

iv. Attend the General Conference

*Please see “Peace-Related Activities Offered to Members of Mayors for Peace” for more activities that member cities will get the opportunity to participate in.
5. Conferences

1) General Conference
Mayors for Peace holds a General Conference once every four years in principle. Hosted alternately between Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the General Conference is an opportunity for member cities to decide and approve agenda items significant to the organization.

2) Executive Conference
Mayors for Peace holds an Executive Conference generally once every two years in one of the executive cities, where executives discuss future initiatives and plans for the next General Conference.

6. 2020 Vision (An Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Vision has been terminated at the end of the year 2020.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The new Vision and new Action Plan are to be developed and adopted at the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is now planned to be held around August 2021.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The current Action Plan (2017-2020), based on the 2020 Vision, will temporarily remain effective until the General Conference is to be held, and initiatives and activities based on the current Action Plan continue to be implemented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) Outline
With the hope of realizing a world free of nuclear weapons while hibakusha are still alive, in October 2003, Mayors for Peace developed the 2020 Vision (Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons), which is a set of concrete action guidelines aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. Based on this vision, Mayors for Peace is globally promoting various initiatives aimed at the abolition of nuclear weapons, forging links with member cities, citizens, NGOs and other organizations around the world.

2) Initiatives
Aiming toward the target year of 2020, Mayors for Peace adopted the “Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)” at the 9th General Conference held in Nagasaki in August 2017, which set two main objectives that would lead us to our ultimate goal, that of lasting world peace: “Realization of a world without nuclear weapons” and “Realization of safe and resilient cities”. Based on this Action Plan, Mayors for Peace is promoting various initiatives.

[Main Initiatives]

i. Calling on the UN and national governments to act
ii. Expanding membership
iii. Promoting regional activities spearheaded by Lead Cities
iv. Sharing seeds/saplings from A-bombed trees
v. The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Programs
vi. The petition drive calling for all states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible
vii. Holding the Mayors for Peace A-bomb Poster Exhibition
viii. Promotion of peace education
Speech by the president at the 3rd Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference (May 2019, New York)

Meeting with Ms. Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs (June 2017, New York)

Meeting with national government representatives (April 2019, New York)

Presentation by a youth from a member city at the Mayors for Peace Youth Forum held in UNOG (April 2018, Geneva)

Planting ceremony of a second generation A-bombed Ginkgo seedling by a member city (April 2018, Guernika-Lumo)

Discussions at the Mayors for Peace Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for "HIROSHIMA and PEACE" by youths from member cities (August 2019, Hiroshima)

Petition Drive by the president and high school students in the street (July 2019, Hiroshima)

Presenting signatures to the affiliates of UN by high school students participating in the petition drive (April 2019, New York)

Holding the Mayors for Peace A-bomb Poster Exhibition by a member city (June 2015, Muntinlupa)
Peace-Related Activities Offered to Members of Mayors for Peace

Upon joining Mayors for Peace, your city will have the opportunity to participate in activities and programs which reflect the ultimate goal of the Mayors for Peace Action Plan: lasting world peace. We hope you will join us and that together, we will make significant strides towards realizing our goal.

Below please find a list of activities which we offer to our member cities:

1. **Seeds from A-bombed Trees**
   
   Mayors for Peace distributes seeds from trees that survived the atomic bombings to all member cities who wish to receive them. It is our hope that by taking care of these trees, which serve as symbols of peace, member cities can foster the ideals of peace amongst their citizens.

   **Seeds are provided free of charge.**

2. **Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program**
   
   Mayors for Peace provides financial and other support to selected youth from member cities who would like to participate in the “International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future” and “HIROSHIMA and PEACE” programs aimed at fostering a better understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and to inspire proactive contribution to nuclear abolition efforts in their home cities.

   **Financial support will partially cover expenses associated with the programs, such as travel, accommodation, daily allowances, and other various expenses based on Mayors for Peace guidelines.**

3. **Children’s Art Competitions**
   
   Based on the art prompt “Peaceful Towns”, Mayors for Peace has held an art competition for children ages 6 to 15 in member cities since 2018 with the aim of furthering the promotion of peace education in younger generations around the world.
4. A-bomb Poster Exhibitions
Mayors for Peace calls on member cities to hold exhibitions of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Posters and other related materials to foster a deepened understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and strengthen the resolve towards nuclear abolition among their citizens.

Posters are available in: Japanese, English, German, French, Russian, Dutch, Spanish, and Catalan
Posters are provided free of charge (files can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website).

5. Online Hibakusha Testimonies
By request, Mayors for Peace can help connect venues in member cities to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum so they can experience online hibakusha testimonies.
Available free of charge.

For more information, please contact:

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