

25th Anniversary Membership Drive Mayors for Peace and the 2020 Vision Campaign

On the 24th of June, 1982, Mayor Araki of Hiroshima and Mayor Motoshima of Nagasaki called for a “World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity” at the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament in New York. We intend to commemorate that event by holding a membership drive beginning on the 25th of January 2007, and culminating on the 25th anniversary, June 24. The drive has two objectives:

- 1) Increase membership up to or over 2020 members (from about 1500 in 2006)
- 2) Inform all members and potential new members about the Cities Are Not Targets project and the Good Faith Challenge, the organization’s main line of work in the second phase of the 2020 Vision Campaign.

The drive will be conducted on a nation by nation basis. In each case, local members and supporters will be asked to approach other mayors in their areas and ask them to join Mayors for Peace. The 2020 Vision Campaign Secretariat stands ready to assist.

Member mayors, either individually or jointly, are asked to participate in the drive in the following ways:

- Ask new cities to join Mayors for Peace, making use of a letter from the President, the Mayor of Hiroshima.
- Learn more about the Campaign and become active in ways appropriate to their cities.

Civil society supporters are asked to:

- Encourage their mayors to be active in the membership drive.
- Help mayors to follow-up on their invitations to join Mayors for Peace.
- Learn more about the Campaign and become active in ways appropriate to their organizations.

We hope that mayors and supporters will consider holding a national drive to recruit new members. Please keep the 2020 Vision Campaign Secretariat informed of progress during the drive, and let us know if we can help.

Cities Are Not Targets

Mayors to the defense of cities!

Cities, the heart of modern civilization and home to half of humanity, are under threat:

- Cities are not safe in a world where there are weapons of mass destruction.
- Cities are not safe in a world in which the rules of war are inadequate and disrespected.

To be doubly sure that a Hiroshima or a Nagasaki never reoccurs:

- nuclear weapons must be banned;
- cities must be protected from the scourge of war.

Mayors for Peace calls for the convening of two international conferences by 2010 on:

- a framework agreement to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020;
- enhanced rules of war to uphold the inviolability of cities in warfare

While these efforts are underway, as gestures of good faith:

- all nuclear-armed states should renounce the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
- all land, sea, and air forces should pledge unconditionally not to bombard cities.

To these ends, Mayors for Peace seeks the support of:

-- the Union of Cities and Local Governments to bring this matter to the United Nations for urgent action. National and regional mayoral associations will be asked in 2007 to adopt Cities Are Not Targets resolutions with a view to advancing the issue at the World Conference of the UCLG in October 2007.

-- the great majority of the world's governments demanding that the United Nations convene these two international conferences. Nuclear-weapon-free zone member states will be asked to provide united leadership at the September 2008 UN General Assembly to ensure adoption of resolutions to these ends.

-- civil society organizations and parliamentarians in the nuclear armed-states and their allies to challenge their national leaders to show good faith toward the convening of the international conferences. In the United States, every effort must be made to ensure that this matter is debated in the 2008 federal elections.

Resources permitting, Mayors for Peace will send international mayoral delegations to investigate the plight of any city that has been subjected to bombardment.

Mayors for Peace is unalterably opposed to terrorist attacks on civilians. The only guarantee that no city will be the victim of nuclear terrorism is the total elimination of all weapons-grade fissile materials.

Year by Year (2020 Vision Campaign plans for 2007-09)

2020 Vision Campaign, 2007

A membership drive from 24 January to 24 June will be used to educate members about the campaign plans. An annual calendar of Culture of Peace days and events will be developed as well.

In accordance with the Cities Are Not Targets objectives, political work will proceed in parallel in two geopolitical arenas:

In the nuclear-armed states and their allies, we will work to gain the support of national and regional mayoral associations for the Cities Are Not Targets project with the objective of getting the UCLG on board at its World Conference, Jeju, 28-31 October 2007. (Around the time of our Executive Cities Committee meeting.)

In the NWFZ states and other states not relying on nuclear weapons, we will promote the formation of a new diplomatic group that would announce its interest in having the UN convene the conferences on a framework convention on nuclear weapons and rules of war by 2010.

We will develop close working ties with civil society groups working in these two related fields, such as IPPNW, MPI, and ICRC, also supporting their good faith campaigns as appropriate.

2020 Vision Campaign, 2008

A special emphasis will be placed on work in the United States, while also going forward internationally:

Because 2008 is the year of the presidential election, a major publicity campaign will be launched in the United States to draw attention of the public to the two conferences and inform them of the current Administration's response as well as the positions of all candidates for federal office. City Halls will host debates among the candidates on the security of cities.

The new diplomatic group will formally introduce the conference proposals to all relevant forums with a view to getting the UNGA to adopt it in October 2008, by a vote if necessary. Work will be done among the other nuclear-armed states and allies to gain support for the conference resolutions.

The Culture of Peace calendar will continue, as will the cooperation with civil society groups.

2020 Vision Campaign, 2009 (through August)

All efforts will converge upon the two preparatory processes for the conferences. Beginning with its transition team (late 2008), the new US Administration will be pressed to engage constructively in the preparatory processes for the conferences. The NWF group will be encouraged to place far-reaching proposals forward at the preparatory meetings.

Future campaign plans will be considered by the Seventh General Conference of Mayors for Peace, Nagasaki, August 2009.



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

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Dear Fellow Mayor,

I write to invite you to join Mayors for Peace, an international network of over 1500 cities in 120 countries. On 24 June 2007, Mayors for Peace will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary. Please consider joining before that date, while our 25th anniversary membership drive is underway. By the end of that drive, you can expect to **be among over 500 new members!**

Mayors for Peace is mobilizing cities worldwide to address two profound threats to our security: (1) weapons of mass destruction and (2) the bombing of cities. Our 2020 Vision Campaign – which declares, “Cities Are Not Targets!” – aims to ban both threats.

Cities can never be safe in a world bristling with weapons of mass destruction. As Mayor of Hiroshima, the survivors of the 1945 attack have given me – and anyone else willing to listen – a window into “Hell on Earth.” Together with them, the members of Mayors for Peace are determined that no other city should ever again suffer the fate of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The less devastating weapons of mass destruction, biological and chemical, have already been banned and are being systematically eliminated. We must focus our attention now on nuclear weapons, the ultimate weapon of terror. To keep them out of the hands of terrorists – state or non-state actors – they and the weapon-grade fissile materials essential to their manufacture must be totally eliminated.

A recent Rand study on ‘mega-ports’ shows that one strategically-targeted attack with a small, primitive nuclear weapon could unhinge our ‘high-strung’ global economy, quite possibly triggering a worldwide depression. No government is in a position to protect us from such a catastrophe. We are all vulnerable to the impact of a nuclear attack. We cannot afford such risks any longer. Especially when we do not have to! The facilities for rendering weapon-grade fissile materials unusable already exist and if devoted to this task could degrade all relevant materials before the year 2020. No weapon-grade materials, no nuclear weapons, no nuclear terrorism. In a world where simple solutions are the rare exception; we are blessed that such a definitive solution exists for addressing this threat.

In 2007, Mayors for Peace intends to have this matter considered at the World Conference of the Union of Cities and Local Government, 28-31 October 2007, in Jeju, South Korea. While Mayors for Peace is well respected at the United Nations, the UCLG, with its broad agenda, is officially recognized as representative of the world’s cities. With UCLG on board, it will not be just a ‘self-selected’ group of city advocates speaking; it will be the cities of the world speaking with one voice.

Also in 2007, Mayors for Peace will collaborate with the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI) to lay the basis for advancing these issues at the United Nations. A prerequisite for effective action is the backing of a large international diplomatic group. All the existing diplomatic groups are currently held back by one or more nuclear-armed state from playing a progressive role for nuclear disarmament. We are pinning our hopes on a new, broad group emerging from the ranks of the 113 states that are members of nuclear-weapon-free zones. When MPI brings a delegation to the capital to elicit a commitment from the government to take

leadership in this process, the capital city mayor can pitch in. Mayors throughout the 113 countries can play an important role encouraging their governments to rally to this new group and promote a nuclear-weapon-free world and rules of law that protect cities from the scourge of war.

In all of this work, the effectiveness of Mayors for Peace depends critically on its dynamism. When the 2020 Vision Campaign was launched three years ago, the organization's membership had climbed during its first twenty-one years to just over 500 cities. In the last three years, over a thousand new cities have joined our ranks. That impresses the government representatives we meet, but to continue impressing them – and pressing them – we must demonstrate a capacity to continue growing. We have set ourselves the target of 2020 members by the 25th anniversary of the organization in June 2007. **Simply by joining up with us now you can materially assist the 2020 Vision Campaign and its Cities Are Not Targets project.**

Too much is at stake for complacency. The simple fact of the matter is that our governments are stymied; they need our push to set a new, hopeful course for the future. Individually, mayors can do little to make a difference, but working together locally, nationally, regionally and internationally, mayors can have a major impact on any aspect of human security. Let Mayors for Peace be your vehicle for addressing the concerns of your citizens about the perilous state of world security. They will thank you for it.

It would be my great pleasure to personally welcome you into the ranks of Mayors for Peace. May your city enjoy sustained peace and prosperity.

Most sincerely,



Tadatoshi Akiba
Mayor of Hiroshima
President
Mayors for Peace