

Final communiqué

On the occasion of the World Exposition EXPO 2000 the Member Cities of the Executive Conference of the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity met in Hannover in the Federal Republic of Germany on September 1st and 2nd, 2000. They discussed the present state of their efforts to bring about the realization of their demand for a peaceful world free of all nuclear weapons and prepared further steps towards the implementation of this objective.

The participants expressed their great satisfaction that the number of Member Cities has increased to 498 cities from 102 countries, as a result of which the World Conference has developed into an effective international network of cities committed to peace. Now that public awareness of the campaign for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons has been successfully enhanced in this way, it is important that it should be permanently maintained and strengthened. On this basis, the Executive Conference adopted the following five resolutions:

1. The change in the international situation after the end of the Cold War has led to a change in the interests of the Member Cities, as a broadly based survey conducted among the cities involved in the network has shown. In view of these changes, and in order to make the 21st century a "century of peace without nuclear weapons", we should adopt a new Action Plan by the time of the 5th General Conference.
2. New focuses of activity should be initiated through which the Action Plan would support the commitment of the Member Cities and strengthen cooperation and solidarity between them. Among these new activities there will for example be ones that aim to nurture a general culture of peace. This includes in particular the dissemination of the legacy of the atom bomb survivors (hibakusha). The network of cities for peace should also be involved in the process of reconciliation in regions of the world that have been the victims of war and violence. For this purpose it is necessary to support and enhance the mutual exchange of information between the cities for peace by means of new technologies, in particular the Internet.
3. The first General Conference of the 21st century, the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, shall be held in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 2001. We shall attempt to optimise the proceedings of the General Conference by asking all Member Cities to present their ideas in advance of the event.
4. The "Resolution to Promote the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" adopted by the Executive Conference will be sent to the governments of the nuclear weapon states. This calls upon the nuclear weapon states to lay down a timetable for the fulfilment of their "unequivocal undertaking" to eliminate their nuclear arsenals which they gave in the final document of the participating countries at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" (NPT). The Executive Conference appeals to Member Cities in the nuclear weapon states to put pressure on their governments to this end and, for example, to protest directly to their governments in the case of any future nuclear tests.
5. This Final Communiqué shall be sent to all Member Cities.