

Measures for strengthening Mayors for Peace's management system

1. Purport

Since its foundation in 1982, Mayors for Peace has grown to an organization of 5,712 member cities from 157 countries and regions. The membership has almost doubled from 2,963 as of the time of the 7th General Conference, four years ago. However, there are growing gaps in activities between active members and others, and we face the challenge of how to involve many more cities in our activities. We would like to make our worldwide network stronger and more practical, enabling us to pursue continuous and effective initiatives into the future. For this purpose, it is essential to raise a sense of participation among all member cities to facilitate dynamic activities around the globe, as well as to secure a stable financial base.

In this context, at the executive conference held in Granollers, Spain in November 2011, it was agreed upon that there exists a necessity to commence discussions on how to strengthen Mayors for Peace's management system in order to put some proposals on the agenda for the 8th General Conference. Discussion meetings were held to this end by executive and other cities in Hanover, Germany in January 2012, in Vienna, Austria in May 2012, in Frogne, Norway in July 2012, and in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2013. As a result, the following two measures have been designed.

2. Promoting regionalization and galvanizing regional activities

1) Selection of lead cities and their roles

In order to encourage proactive and independent activities appropriate to each region, we will promote the creation of regional groups. For this end, we will select a number of lead cities, which serve as chapters for the Hiroshima Secretariat and take the lead in their regional activities. The lead cities are also expected to establish an appropriate system as chapters. Following discussions with candidate cities, the President will select lead cities, which will then identify countries and areas that will join their regional group. Also, when non-executive cities have been selected as lead cities, the cities will be appointed to become executive cities.

2) Implementation timing

Fiscal year 2015

3. Introducing membership fees

1) Basic scheme for membership fees

In order to build a system through which all member cities cooperate to support the organization while maintaining membership, each city will bear an annual membership fee of 2,000 yen. Furthermore, we will welcome any voluntary payment of more than 2,000 yen. Cities will not lose their membership automatically if they do not pay the fee.

Each city will send the fee through a lead city or directly to the Hiroshima Secretariat. However, if the Hiroshima Secretariat has agreed that there are circumstances to be considered, such as the necessity of using the funds for the chapter's activities or excessive remittance charges to the Hiroshima Secretariat, cities can be exempt from sending the fee to Hiroshima. Also, when deemed appropriate by the Hiroshima Secretariat after consultation with a lead city, cities paying their share to another local governmental organization promoting initiatives for nuclear weapons abolition in the same region can be exempt from sending the fee to the Hiroshima Secretariat.

The fee sent to the Hiroshima Secretariat will be primarily allocated for the implementation of new projects and the further development of existing projects as listed in the Action Plan. When surplus is expected, it may be appropriated to the usual running expenses of Mayors for Peace. The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will continue to bear a certain amount of running expenses. Moreover, when deemed necessary, each region will carry out a fundraising campaign in order to expand Mayors for Peace initiatives and secure a stable financial base.

2) Implementation timing

Fiscal year 2015