

Summary Notes The 11th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace

Since its establishment in 1982, Mayors for Peace has been calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace through close solidarity among member cities. Mayors for Peace now has 7,847 member cities in 163 countries and regions and our numbers keep growing. The 11th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace was held on November 11 and 12, 2019 in Hannover, Germany.

First, the participants made an assessment of the 2020 Vision and reviewed the progress of the current Action Plan. Then, three of the Executive Cities each made a report on one of their peace initiatives: Manchester, UK, on their peace education utilizing atomic-bombed trees; Muntinlupa, Philippines, on their International Day of Peace event to raise peace consciousness; and Hannover, Germany, on its membership recruitment efforts as a Lead City.

Based on the common understanding that Mayors for Peace must develop sustainable activities, the participants discussed the formulation of the new Vision and Action Plan, which are to be launched in 2021. The participants agreed upon the basic concepts of the new Vision: on the two objectives “Realize a world without nuclear weapons” and “Realize safe and resilient cities”, which we believe will lead to our ultimate goal, that of lasting world peace, and on another objective, “Promote a culture of peace”, which encourages people to actively engage in concrete actions that are conducive to the other two objectives. It was agreed that discussions would continue with the Executive Members and other concerned parties ahead of the adoption of the new Vision and Action Plan at the 10th General Conference in Hiroshima in August next year.

2020 is a pivotal anniversary for our organization, being the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the end of the second World War. We remain committed to the *hibakushas*’ desire for a world without nuclear weapons. We will redouble our efforts to achieve this aim.

Taking into account what has been achieved and to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of the next Vision and Action Plan, the Executive Conference decided to set the following three items as priorities for action until the end of 2020, the final year of the 2020 Vision.

1. Expand membership to support the agreed goals of Mayors for Peace, including the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
 - Lead Cities are encouraged to strengthen recruitment efforts within each chapter
 - Member cities are encouraged to invite their sister/friendship cities and their neighboring cities to join Mayors for Peace, including through cooperation with non-governmental organizations.
 - Member Cities are encouraged to call on guests from abroad and within the country to cooperate on membership expansion.
2. Conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations
 - Lead Cities are encouraged to promote peace education within each chapter and invite their chapter members to participate in the following Mayors for Peace projects:
 - 1) Sharing of examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit
 - 2) Mayors for Peace Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns"
3. Strengthen support for existing projects to receive youths in Hiroshima and Nagasaki such as “The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program”
 - Executive Cities are encouraged to send youth representative(s) to next year’s “HIROSHIMA and PEACE”, an intensive summer course in Hiroshima.

In addition, the Executive Conference approved a proposal by the City of Granollers and some other European Executive Cities to formally launch a transnational European Chapter of Mayors for Peace in January of next year. The European Chapter held its first meeting after the close of the Executive Conference.

The Secretariat reported to the Executive Conference about collective actions planned in conjunction with the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics and actions for the 2020 Review Conference.

We at Mayors for Peace hereby pledge to continue strengthening our efforts to create real momentum in civil society toward nuclear weapons abolition and a truly peaceful world without wars by steadily expanding our membership and closely working with each other.

The Executive Conference expressed sincere gratitude to the host city, Hannover, for its excellent organization and hospitality.

These notes are to be distributed to all member cities of Mayors for Peace.

November 12, 2019
The 11th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace