

HIROSHIMA APPEAL

We, representatives from 92 cities and local authorities and 4 organizations from 20 countries, met at the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings held in Hiroshima City and discussed in great detail the keynote theme: Toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020: roles and initiatives for cities.

Following after the May 2005 NPT Review Conference which failed to achieve concrete results, we actively discussed other strategies through which to pursue the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

At the 5th General Conference, held four years ago, we confirmed our commitment to strive to make the 21st century a 'Century of Humanity,' in which all life is respected. Unfortunately, major political developments, including continued terrorist attacks, have changed the global situation dramatically, and the world continues to walk the path of retaliation and war.

The human family now faces the risk of nuclear proliferation and a third use of nuclear weapons due to doctrines of the U.S., Russia, U.K., France, China, India, and Pakistan, North Korea's declaration that it possesses nuclear weapons, the possibility that other States may be developing nuclear weapons, and the possibility that terrorists might obtain and use nuclear weapons.

Threats to civilians are not limited to nuclear weapons. In this world, an incredibly large number of people are exposed in their daily lives to such threats as hunger, poverty, infectious diseases, discrimination, violence, conflicts and environmental destruction.

Though national leaders worldwide are well aware of these challenges, their attention is focused on pursuing national and economic interests rather than on implementing effective measures to deal with these challenges. It is always citizens who are the victims of wars, violence and environmental destruction. We mayors are responsible for the protection of the human rights and security of our citizens. To deal with these challenges, the Mayors for Peace have confirmed once again our resolve to cooperate in strengthening our solidarity and make the 21st century a 'Century of Humanity'. We reaffirm Vision 2020, the emergency campaign for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We, the participants in this General Conference of Mayors for Peace:

1. Call upon all governments to immediately start negotiations toward the conclusion of an international treaty banning nuclear weapons leading to total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.
2. Demand that countries possessing nuclear weapons promptly cease their operational deployment.
3. Invite government leaders, in particular those of countries possessing nuclear weapons, to visit the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and see with their own eyes what nuclear weapons have in store for humankind.
4. Demand that governments actively deal with the entire range of global challenges, including hunger, poverty, discrimination, violence and environmental destruction.

5. Demand that governments throughout the world promote efforts by the whole of international society to deal with environmental problems including full implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.
6. Demand reductions in military expenditures and the use of funds generated by those reductions to address problems in such areas as peace, hunger, refugees, and the environment, while actively promoting the conversion of industrial capacity from military to civilian use.

To advance total abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace commencing with this “Year of Inheritance, Awakening, and Commitment,” we will cooperate and strengthen solidarity across nation, ethnicity, ideology, belief and religion, giving particular emphasis to the following:

- I. In collaboration with all governments and with NGOs, promote activities that lead to an international treaty banning nuclear weapons by the time of the NPT Review Conference due to be held in 2010, leading to the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.
- II. Create a network of Mayors for Peace member cities in each country and engage actively in various initiatives for the total abolition of nuclear weapons.
- III. Launch a great diversity of campaigns for nuclear weapons abolition in numerous cities throughout the world working with nations, NGOs and the vast majority of the world’s people.
- IV. Urge the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security of the United Nations General Assembly to establish a special committee to deliberate and plan for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
- V. Propose that schools, colleges and universities across the world organize ‘Hiroshima and Nagasaki Courses’ to communicate the message of the hibakusha to people across the world as a common legacy for humankind.
- VI. Promote peace education at all levels to develop a culture of peace.

We resolve the above and vow to work in close cooperation with the public to achieve the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

August 6, 2005
The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings