

## Resolution on the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

In any war, it is cities and the people living in them that suffer most. As Hiroshima and Nagasaki attest, this suffering becomes total destruction when nuclear weapons are involved. To protect their citizens' lives, it is incumbent on all mayors to make every effort to prevent war and eliminate nuclear weapons. Cities Are Not Targets.

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace was established by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1982 to promote solidarity and cooperation among cities in arousing the collective international will to create a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons. At the end of the Cold War in 1989, such a world appeared to be on the horizon, but tragically, due to lack of political will and good faith, today we face a growing nuclear crisis.

Despite commitments made at the 1995 and 2000 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conferences, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) has yet to be brought into force. Large numbers of U.S. and Russian warheads, an estimated 2,300 altogether, remain ready for nearly instantaneous launch. The nuclear-weapon states have not reduced the roles of nuclear weapons in their security doctrines as promised in 2000 and required by the International Court of Justice in its 1996 opinion. On the contrary, several have stated policies that expand the situations in which use of the weapons might be threatened or carried out. Some nuclear-weapon states continue to actively oppose and block nuclear disarmament negotiations in all of the key international forums, including the Conference on Disarmament, the UN General Assembly, and the NPT review process. No multilateral, plurilateral, or significant bilateral negotiations on any aspect of nuclear disarmament are currently underway.

The Mayors for Peace Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, launched in 2003, helped to inspire and inject new momentum into the global movement to abolish nuclear weapons, and laid the groundwork for the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons by 2020. During the first four years of the 2020 Vision Campaign, membership in Mayors for Peace grew from less than 600 to more than 1,828 cities in 122 countries and regions, and is increasing rapidly. This growth is evidence of an emerging international consensus that it is nuclear weapons, not cities, that should be destroyed. More than ever, the vast majority of people, cities, and nations wish to live in a world that resolves its conflicts without violence.

In this context, Mayors for Peace deplors the fact that countries are now spending more than one trillion US dollars each year on war and other military spending while increasingly depriving local governments of the funds required to provide basic services and meet the basic human and ecological needs of our citizens. We call on all cities to refuse to allow their citizens to suffer as a result of uncaring, wasteful and misguided national policies.

In October 2007, the World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments, the largest municipal association in the world representing more than half of humanity, formally declared its support for the Mayors for Peace campaign to abolish nuclear weapons and endorsed our “Cities Are Not Targets” project. This endorsement affirms the Mayors for Peace assertion that we speak for the majority of human beings on our planet. We welcome the declaration by the United Nations of a “Disarmament Decade” starting in 2010. In fact, we believe that 2010 to 2020 will be the decisive decade with respect to the nuclear threat and that mayors must play a vital leadership role in pressing for the right decision. We are proud, for example that mayors are leading the efforts in Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands, Italy and Turkey to end the deployment of nuclear weapons in their backyards and to prevent the establishment of so-called “missile defense” bases.

The Executive Committee of Mayors for Peace, meeting in Florence, Italy on November 21 and 22, 2007, approved a new campaign structure designed to plan, implement and fund an expanded 2020 Vision Campaign. Because this campaign is rapidly outgrowing the ability of Hiroshima and Nagasaki alone to fund it, we will reach out to member cities, foundations, socially responsible corporations and individuals around the world for financial assistance.

With this additional support, Mayors for Peace will expand our campaign staff, our ongoing organizational activities at the local and national levels, and our presence in international forums. We will enhance cooperation with like-minded NGOs, corporation, and educational institutions across a broad spectrum of society, including scientists, doctors, lawyers and students. All such collaborations and activities will be designed to contribute to a massive global consciousness-raising campaign regarding the nuclear danger, activating and intensifying broad-based public demand that national governments increase dialogue, work in good faith to build trust, and strengthen the NPT regime.

As we have since the beginning of our Emergency Campaign, Mayors for Peace will:

- 1) Demand that nuclear-weapon states and de facto nuclear-weapon states, including non-parties to the NPT, immediately de-alert all nuclear weapons, cease all nuclear-weapons development programs and bring the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty into force.
- 2) Call upon the United Nations to convene two conferences: one to establish a framework agreement on the elimination of nuclear weapons; the other to strengthen international humanitarian law to protect cities from the scourge of war.
- 3) Demand that States parties establish, prior to or at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, a framework agreement to accomplish Article VI of the NPT and map the road to a nuclear-weapon-free world, with a commitment to achieving that goal by 2020.

Our citizens wish to be liberated from the nuclear threat. It is only democratic and right that the will of the vast majority be reflected in international policy. We hereby declare our renewed determination to act on behalf of our citizens to eliminate nuclear weapons and create a safe, sustainable world without war.

November 22, 2007

7<sup>th</sup> Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace