

Mayors for Peace News Flash (July 2013) No.43

Dear member cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Please find below recent news related to our activities.

If your city has any news it wishes to share with others, please feel free to contact us!

Mayors for Peace member cities as of July 1, 2013

5,664 cities in 157 countries/regions with 20 new members

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■Mayors for Peace 8th General Conference

The date to hold the 8th General Conference from August 3 to 6, 2013 is approaching. Let’s have a successful general conference in A-bombed city Hiroshima and raise international momentum toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. We are looking forward to welcoming those who have registered to participate in the General Conference in Hiroshima.

<<The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace>>

Term: August 3-6, 2013

Venue: International Conference Center Hiroshima, Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima

Keynote Theme: Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons – Conveying the “Spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” to the World –

Keynote Speaker (August 3): Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

Theme of the keynote speech: A World without Nuclear Weapons: From Dream to Reality

[The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in ‘Cities Today’]

Cities Today, a leading magazine on sustainable developments of cities, published an article of the 8th General Conference. You can also see the article from the link below.

▼ Article in ‘Cities Today’ (Page 6, Cities Today digital publication):

http://pfdmedia.com/read-online/ct_9_eng_mar_2013_Test02/index.html

■U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopts resolution “Calling for U.S. Leadership in Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Redirection of Military Spending to Domestic Needs”

[Las Vegas, U.S., June 24]

Mayors for Peace congratulates the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) for its unanimous adoption of a bold resolution “Calling for U.S. Leadership in Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Redirection of Military Spending to Domestic Needs.” The resolution, passed by the Conference on June 24 at its 81st Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, calls for constructive U.S. engagement in new international disarmament forums and reorientation of U.S. national priorities by reducing military spending and redirecting those funds to meet the needs of cities.

The resolution was adopted on the heels of President Obama's June 19 Berlin speech in which he declared, “so long as nuclear weapons exist, we are not truly safe,” and announced his intention to seek further bilateral nuclear weapons reductions with Russia. The resolution was introduced by Akron Mayor Donald Plusquellic, a former USCM President and Vice President of Mayors for Peace, and had 29 additional sponsors. It highlights several important new multilateral disarmament initiatives not mentioned by Obama in Berlin, and calls on the President and the U.S. government to demonstrate good faith by constructive participation in those initiatives:

- The first ever High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, to be held on September 26, 2013 at UN headquarters in New York;
- A UN working group open to all member states “to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons;” and
- A follow-on conference to the February 2013 Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, to be hosted by Mexico in early 2014.

▼ Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/bdc3cb13453fb87eb09975c01708c8ca/-01e9f15d4f.html>

■ Call for holding an event to mark the International Day of Peace 2013

As we sent to every member city on July 3, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace, has been asking the member cities to hold an event to mark the International Day of Peace 2013 in responding to the Message from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

On September 21 last year, many member cities joined the celebration of the day by observing a minute of silence, through which we were able to strengthen our solidarity and renew the determination to realize a world without nuclear weapons. So this year as well, we hope that you will do whatever you can to ensure that your city responds positively to his call. We would very much appreciate it if you would inform us of your city's participation in the celebration to make this year's International Peace Day truly a special day of peace.

▼ Letter from the President of Mayors for Peace :

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/130703_en/International_Day_of_Peace2013.pdf

▼ the message from the UN Secretary-General to launch the 100-Day Countdown to the UN International Day of Peace :

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/130703_en/SG_Ban_Ki-moon_100Day_message.pdf

■ 2020 Vision Campaign issued a New Action Alert: promote highest-level participation in UN Nuclear Disarmament Summit

In mid-June, the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign issued an Action Alert (link below) that provides city members with the tools (draft letters and resolutions) needed to encourage Heads of Government to attend the High-Level Session of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament – the first of its kind in the Nuclear Age. At the end of June, an UPDATE (link below) of the alert was issued based on the outstanding resolution adopted by the United States Conference of Mayors at its annual meeting (see article above). The alert and update take into account how governments voted on the 2012 UN resolution establishing the Open-Ended Working Group, and urges governments to use its final August sessions to fulfill its mandate to “develop proposals for taking forward multilateral negotiations on the achievement and maintenance of the world free of nuclear weapons,” thereby providing a sound foundation for the September Summit.

▼ Action Alert (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/action-alerts/representation-nuclear-disarmament-summit.html#c2330>

▼UPDATE (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/action-alerts/update-representation-nuclear-summit.html>

▼Report (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/bdc3cb13453fb87eb09975c01708c8ca/-01e9f15d4f.html>

▼UN resolution establishing the Open-Ended Working Group (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/b0403b3d0369a6cd6bac7b143f4becd5/the-unga-opens-fast-track-to-the-est.html>

▼Draft letter (2020 Vision Campaign website):

http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/fileadmin/user_upload/2020VC/Home/draft_letter_AA_Disarmament_Summit.docx

■President urges Heads of Government to attend the High-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

As President of the worldwide network of cities, Mayors for Peace, the Mayor of Hiroshima has written directly to the Heads of Government of 150 countries on July 3 urging their participation in upcoming world summit on nuclear disarmament. The High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on September 26 will be the first-ever global gathering devoted entirely to nuclear disarmament (see article above about the 2020VC Action Alert). The President's letter takes to a higher-level the message sent to the Geneva Ambassadors of these countries by the Chairman of the 2020 Vision Campaign in June.

▼Letter from the President of Mayors for Peace to Heads of Government

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/statement/request/130703_en.pdf

▼Letters from the Chairman of the 2020 Vision Campaign (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/action-alerts/representation-nuclear-disarmament-summit.html>

■UN Working Group on nuclear disarmament prepares to develop proposals “to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations” [Geneva, Switzerland, June 27]

Delegations participating in the Open Ended Working Group (OEGW) on nuclear disarmament began to circulate “working papers” in preparation to its last round of meetings in August, in which the group will have to develop concrete proposals “to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.” Mayors for Peace called on delegations to “seize the new middle ground” and to stress, among other proposals, “the relationship between the essential distinct steps, or ‘building blocks’, and the overall process that can bring them together in the establishment –in the legal sense– of a sustainable nuclear-weapon free world.” Mayors for Peace also called on States to “show the necessary leadership to take effective action on the basis of this outcome –in particular, in the context of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, scheduled to be held on 26 September 2013,” and highlighted the recent resolution adopted by the US Congress of Mayors, calling on President Obama to attend the High-level Meeting and on the US Government to participate in the meetings of the Open-ended working group.

▼Full article (2020 Vision Campaign website):

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/adf812239d4440d9af0e6b3afb11531f/un-working-group-on-nuclear-disarmament.html>

■Poster exhibit commemorates 5,000-city milestone

To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone, please hold a poster exhibit in your municipality.

By holding these exhibits in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens regarding the impact of nuclear war, including the fact that even a limited war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and the role city leaders strive to play. We have heard from more than 250 cities around the world, such as Vienna, Austria; London, UK; Volgograd, Russia; Kabul, Afghanistan, that they held the poster exhibition responding to our request. Please do hold an exhibition and bring this issue to the attention of people in your city.

The posters are available in Spanish, Catalan, English, French, Dutch, German, Russian and Japanese. You can download them from the Mayors for Peace website. We are also preparing an Arabic version. For detailed information, please refer to the instructions for downloading the posters in "The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki -The 5,000-Member Milestone Exhibition,-" a document forwarded to our member cities. We would appreciate it if you could let us know when you hold the poster exhibition and submit the report after the exhibition to the Secretariat. The report format is provided at the Mayors for Peace website below.

>>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches); 19 posters.

>>This poster exhibit was created based on a mandate from the 8th Executive Conference held in Granollers, Spain in November 2011 and Japanese Member Cities' Conference in January 2012.

▼ Related Information:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/campaign/projects/poster/index.html>

■ Please support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention.

A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the acquisition, development, possession, deployment and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.

At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011 and the first Japanese Member City Meeting in Nagasaki in January 2012, we agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive through which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

Thanks to a lot of supporters across the world, we received 764,566 signatures as of July 1, 2013.

Let's gather millions of signatures and make our voices heard. (The petition is available for printing or online at the links below.)

▼ Petition form (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly Updating/11_petitionform_en.pdf.

▼ Online petition:

<https://www.ssl-hiroins.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm>.

■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month

President Kazumi Matsui of Mayors for Peace welcomed the visitors as follows in June and asked them to support for the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate with the membership expansion.

June 17 Mr. Gustavo Pena Chamot, Consul General of the Republic of Peru in Nagoya

■ Mayors for Peace member cities – 5,664 cities in 157 countries/regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on July 1, we added 20 new member cities, bringing total membership to 5,664.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Embassy of Panama in Japan, Panama City joined as the first member from the country. It expanded our network in 157 countries and regions. Canberra (ACT) joined from Australia and now we have 113 capital cities as our members.

By the recruitment letter to all non-member cities/municipalities in Japan, 5 cities from the country joined.

We also welcomed new member cities from Iran, Sri Lanka, Turkey, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Canada and Costa Rica.

We welcome further initiatives to promote membership and can provide support from Hiroshima as needed. Please invite your fellow mayors to join.

▼ Related information (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/2013/newmembers1307_en.pdf

If you have any comments, questions, or would like to unsubscribe or change your contact information, please contact us at:

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