



Secretary General Komizo also attended the Parliamentary Roundtable during the Vienna Conference on December 9 hosted by the Austrian Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), and delivered a speech. He introduced the activities of Mayors for Peace and its 2020 Vision, our goal to achieve total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. He also mentioned that complete nuclear disarmament must be pursuant to a binding legal obligation, preferably a nuclear weapons convention. He concluded his remarks by saying:

“As the world’s cities and parliaments increasingly unite in common cause, the world itself will move forward toward a more peaceful, humane, and prosperous future. History is on our side. Let us all work together towards creating a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons.”

On December 11, he met with Mayor Hermann of Hannover, Vice-President city of Mayors for Peace, and asked the City of Hannover to take a lead city role. Mr. Komizo also presented Hannover with ginkgo seeds generated from an A-bombed tree as well as a set of a one thousand paper cranes originally dedicated to the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima.

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### ■ “Peace News from Hiroshima”

- Contributed by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center

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We have entered the 70th year since the atomic bombings. 2015 marks an important milestone for the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The aging survivors are concerned about the memories of the atomic bombings fading from awareness, and there is a growing gap between Japan and the United States in terms of attitude toward these attacks. These are among the many challenges Hiroshima and Nagasaki now face. In this light, we must take this opportunity to look back on the past 70 years and give serious thought to the atomic bombings and to peace. The messages from members of Mayors for Peace, shared on our website, are filled with this determined wish. Please visit these links at the Hiroshima Peace Media Center for further information:

#### ▼ Related stories:

- “Prime minister discusses statement to mark 70th year since war’s end at New Year’s press conference”  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=39747>
- “Hiroshima and Nagasaki to hold joint A-bomb exhibit in U.S. capital, first time in 20 years”  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=39750>
- “Hiroshima asks: Toward the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing: 90 percent of survivors worry that A-bombing experience will be forgotten”  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=39752>
- “U.S. laboratory gives newspaper access to Z machine”  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=39424>
- “Messages from members of Mayors for Peace to be shared in newspaper, on website”  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=39332>  
<http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=39334>

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### ■ Member City Activities

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\*Linz, Austria

2014 Peace Declaration of Linz, Austria

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On November 20, 2014, the Linz City Council unanimously passed the 2014 Declaration of Peace. 2014 witnessed four separate historical anniversaries: the 100<sup>th</sup> year since the outbreak of World War I, the 75<sup>th</sup> year since the launching of World War II, the 80<sup>th</sup> year since the Austrian civil war, and the 25<sup>th</sup> year since the fall of the Berlin Wall which ended the Cold War. These events were commemorated in the 2014 Declaration of Peace, and the declaration concluded as follows:

“Those who fail to confront their own past lack a foundation for the future. May the 2014 Commemorative Year that is now coming to a close provide an impetus for every single one of us to be cognizant of the responsibility that we bear as government officials in our city: That there is no place in our political culture for hate, brutality and vicious

stereotyping; that violence and radicalism begin in the language we use; and that we, as avowed democrats, despite our divergent political views, hereby resolve to interact with one another in a manner guided by acceptance and mutual respect!”

▼ Full text of the Declaration of Peace by the City of Linz 2014 (Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/2014Linz\\_Peace\\_Declaration.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/2014Linz_Peace_Declaration.pdf)

\*Barcelona, Spain

The “Hiroshima-Nagasaki. 70 Years from the Atomic Bombing” exhibition opened in Barcelona.

(The exhibition will be on display until February 8, 2015.)

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On January 16, the exhibition was opened by Mayor Xavier Trias of Barcelona and Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers, together with Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa of Japan in Spain and Kenji Shiga, Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

El Born Centre Cultural is showing the exhibition, which was produced by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and the City of Granollers, a Vice-President city of Mayors for Peace.

Ms. Yoshiko Kajimoto, an A-bomb survivor from Hiroshima, will visit Barcelona and Granollers at the beginning of February to deliver her testimony in schools and at public events taking place during the exhibition.

▼ Full story (Mayors for Peace website):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Barcelona/opening\\_exhibition.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2015/Barcelona/opening_exhibition.html)

▼ Related information (The City of Barcelona website, in Catalan):

<http://premsa.bcn.cat/2015/01/16/lexposicio-sobre-els-70-anys-de-la-bomba-atmica-dhiroshima-i-nagasaki-arriba-a-barcelona-i-granollers>

▼ Related information (The City of Granollers website, in Catalan):

<http://www.granollers.cat/noticies/ajuntament/hiroshima-i-nagasaki>

\*Granollers, Spain

Seedlings from Hiroshima in Granollers

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On December 1st, Mayor Josep Mayoral as Vice-President of Mayors for Peace signed a protocol of agreement with Viver de Bell-lloc, a private nursery garden, to take care of seedlings from Hiroshima until they can be planted in public spaces, in the framework of the city’s social program.

This is a joint program of Mayors for Peace and the city of Granollers using trees as a symbol of peace and hope to publicize the damage caused by the atomic bomb and raise public support for peace. Once these seedlings of A-bombed trees are ready to be planted in public parks or gardens, they will be delivered to other member cities, as well.

▼ Full story (Mayors for Peace website):

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/2014/Granollers/seedlings.html>

▼ Related news (The City of Granollers website, in Catalan)

<http://www.granollers.cat/noticies/ajuntament/vivers-de-bell-lloc-cultivar%C3%A0-plan%C3%A7ons-d%E2%80%99arbres-supervivents-del-bombardeig>

\*Azumino, Japan

Azumino Peace City Declaration

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The mayor of Azumino reported the city’s efforts for peace at the 4<sup>th</sup> Japanese Member City Meeting of Mayors for Peace held last November. The City of Azumino declared itself a peace city on December 19, 2012. In order to craft the declaration they began collecting messages in August 2012 from citizens regarding their desire for peace, then called for public comments on the draft declaration before finalizing it. Aside from the declaration, the first Azumino City Meeting for Peace and a Memorial Ceremony for War Victims was held on November 26, 2011, and a bus tour to attend the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony occurred on August 5 and 6, 2012.

The full text of Azumino Peace City Declaration and efforts in preparation for the declaration are available on the City of Azumino website.

▼ Related information (The City of Azumino website, in Japanese)

[http://www.city.azumino.nagano.jp/gyosei/plan/heiwa\\_sengen/index.html](http://www.city.azumino.nagano.jp/gyosei/plan/heiwa_sengen/index.html)

\*Kunitachi, Japan

Launch of the project to train successors to convey A-bomb memories

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The City of Kunitachi has launched the project to train successors to convey A-bomb memories, and recruited trainees from December 20, 2014 to January 14, 2015. The first round of training will be for the duration of one year, beginning in January 2015. The training program includes carefully listening to the testimonies of two A-bomb survivors living in Kunitachi who were exposed to the A-bombing in Hiroshima or Nagasaki when they were in the third grade of junior high school. These two survivors have been relaying their experience of the bombs for many years. Speech training by a professional instructor is also planned, and will be instructed by a former director of the news caster department of a major TV company.

More details of the training program are available on the City of Kunitachi website.

▼ Related information (The City of Kunitachi website, in Japanese)

<http://www.city.kunitachi.tokyo.jp/shisei/heiwa/008609.html>

\*Yonezawa, Japan

"Gathering for Peace" a lecture by the Mayor of Matsumoto

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The City of Yonezawa holds the Uesugi Snow Lantern Festival in February every year to thank those who built the foundation for present peace and development in the area, and dedicates the lights of lanterns to the souls of those forerunners and to wishes for peace. This year also marks the 70<sup>th</sup> year of the end of World War II. To provide the opportunity for more people to think about peace on this historic occasion, the City of Yonezawa will hold a lecture meeting on February 14, 2015, in conjunction with the Festival. The lecturer will be Mr. Akira Sugeno, Mayor of Matsumoto. He will speak about his thoughts for peace and share his experiences when he participated in medical aid activities after the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Accident, under the theme, "Making efforts *now* to create a chain-reaction for peace."

▼ Related information (The City of Yonezawa website, in Japanese)

<http://www.city.yonezawa.yamagata.jp/4169.htm>

Please visit the "Member City Activities" page on our website for event ideas to implement in your city.

▼ To see the "Member City Activities" webpage, click on the link below:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/activities/membercity/index.html>

<<PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY'S PEACE ACTIVITIES>>

Please help us tell others about what you are doing!

We can create a link to your city's website or the website of your peace event to help you advertise.

Please include comprehensive information including the date, venue, organizers and a description of the event.

We look forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ Please email us at the following address with the name/title of your event and the URL for it:

[mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp](mailto:mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

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### ■Mayors for Peace A-bomb poster exhibition

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To commemorate the 5,000-city milestone of the Mayors for Peace membership numbers, we called for all member cities to hold a poster exhibition.

By holding these exhibitions in as many cities as possible, we hope to directly inform millions of citizens of the impact of nuclear war. We would like exhibition attendees to understand that even a limited nuclear war would cause catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine, and to consider the role that city leaders should strive to play.

We have heard from more than 250 cities around the world, such as London in the UK, Volgograd in Russia and Kabul in Afghanistan, that they held poster exhibitions in response to our request.

In December 2014, Heemskerk, the Netherlands, held an exhibition from December 10 to 29 and Mayor Baltus opened the exhibition at the town hall.

We ask that your city also hold an exhibition to help bring the issue of nuclear weapons to everyone's attention.

The posters are available in English, Spanish, Catalan, French, Dutch, German, Japanese and Russian. Persian translation is now ongoing. Updated posters can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website. We would be most grateful if you would continue to lend your support by using the newest posters available for your municipality's

exhibition.

We would also appreciate notification of when you will hold a poster exhibition, and the submission of an event report afterwards to the Secretariat. The report format is provided at the Mayors for Peace website below.

>>Posters: A2 size (approximately 24 by 36 inches, or 61 by 91.5 cm); 18 posters.

▼ Related Information and download link to the posters:

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

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### ■ A plea to support the petition drive for a nuclear weapons convention

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The next step in abolishing all nuclear weapons by 2020 is to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention. A nuclear weapons convention will prohibit the development, production, testing, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and all related activities.

At our Executive Conference in Granollers, Spain in November 2011, Mayors for Peace members agreed to promote a global grassroots petition drive, a way in which all member cities can call for an immediate start to negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention. Promotion of this petition drive is also included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 1,203,031 signatures as of January 1, 2015. Let us gather millions more and make our voices heard.

(The petition is available to print or to sign online at the links below.)

▼ Petition form (PDF):

[http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01\\_monthly Updating/11\\_petitionform\\_en.pdf](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/pdf/01_monthly Updating/11_petitionform_en.pdf).

▼ Online petition:

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

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### ■ Visitors to the President of Mayors for Peace last month

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President Kazumi Matsui of Mayors for Peace welcomed the following visitors last month and asked them to support the activities of Mayors for Peace and cooperate towards expanding membership.

\*December 3 - H.E. Mr. Yves Rossier, State Secretary of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

\*December 5

- H.E. Ambassador Wilfried I. Emvula, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations

- H.E. Ambassador Youssoufou Joseph Bamba, Permanent Representative of Cote d'Ivoire to the United Nations

- H.E. Ambassador Ken Kanda, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations

- H.E. Ambassador Kelebene Albert Maope, Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the United Nations

- H.E. Ambassador Fode Seck, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations

\*December 8

- H.E. Mr. Allen S. Greenberg, Consul General of the United States, Osaka-Kobe

- Delegation from DePaul University, U.S.A.

\*December 15 - H.E. Mr Chin Siat Yoon, Ambassador of Singapore to Japan

\*December 16 - Ms. Claire Deronzier, Delegate General of the Quebec Government Office in Tokyo

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### ■ Mayors for Peace member cities - 6,490 cities in 160 countries/regions

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Through your invaluable support, on January 1, 2015, we added 56 new member cities, bringing total membership to 6,490.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the team at the Teheran Peace Museum, 42 cities from Iran joined this month and the total number of Iranian member cities reached 512.

5 cities joined from Japan, making the total number of Japanese member cities 1,535. These Japanese member cities account for 88.2 percent of all municipalities in Japan.

