

▼ Statement by Mayor of Hiroshima (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statement/openletter/data/MfP_Statement_20170707_E.pdf

■ The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

The dates of the 9th General Conference are approaching. Let us have a successful conference and **start generating** greater momentum toward the abolition of nuclear weapons starting **in** the A-bombed city of Nagasaki **building on** this momentous year. We are looking forward to welcoming those who have registered to participate in the conference.

<<The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace>>

Dates: August 7-10, 2017

Venue: Nakabe Hall at Nagasaki University, etc.

Keynote Theme: Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons - What We Can Do Toward 2020 -

Keynote Speaker (August 8): Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

▼ The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Nagasaki (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/report/meeting/9th_meeting.html

■ U.S. Conference of Mayors Unanimously Adopts Bold New Resolution Calling for Nuclear Disarmament

[Miami Beach, FL, USA; June 26, 2017]

On June 26, at the close of its 85th Annual Meeting, the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted a strong new resolution, “Calling on President Trump to Lower Nuclear Tensions, Prioritize Diplomacy, and Redirect Nuclear Weapons Spending to meet Human Needs and Address Environmental Challenges.” The resolution was sponsored by Mayors for Peace Lead U.S. Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa and 19 co-sponsors.

The USCM is the non-partisan organization of American cities with populations of 30,000 or more. This is the twelfth consecutive year that the organization has adopted resolutions in support of nuclear disarmament and Mayors for Peace.

The USCM also unanimously adopted two other resolutions calling for cutting military spending and redirecting funds to meet human needs and protect the environment.

<Report provided by Jackie Cabasso, Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator>

▼ Full text of the resolution with the complete list of sponsors (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/news/170713_news.html

▼ Official version on the USCM website (scroll down):

http://legacy.usmayors.org/resolutions/85th_Conference/proposedcommittee.asp?committee=International%20Affairs

▼ The two complimentary resolutions: “Opposition to Military Spending” and “Calling for Hearings on Real City Budgets Needed and the Taxes our Cities Send to the Federal Military Budget” on the USCM website (scroll down):

http://legacy.usmayors.org/resolutions/85th_Conference/proposedcommittee.asp?committee=Metro%20Economies

■ Mayors for Peace Membership in Germany Exceeds 500

As of July 1, 2017, the number of German member cities reached 501. This record was achieved by the continued efforts of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace. The Chapter secretariat staff have been consistently communicating with non-member cities in Germany and asking them to join our organization. Germany is now home to the third largest number of member cities of Mayors for Peace in the world after Japan and Iran.

▼ Report on Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/170720_German_500.html

■ Flag Day of German Members of Mayors for Peace

[July 8, 2017]

“Stop Nuclear Weapons!” This common goal joins the members of Mayors for Peace in a worldwide alliance. On July 8, by hoisting the Mayors for Peace nuclear disarmament flag, a total of 240 German Mayors appealed to the nations of the world to work toward the elimination of nuclear weapons and realization of a peaceful world.

This year, the activities of the Flag Day began on July 7, which coincided with the last day of the negotiations on the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons in New York.

The 6th annual Flag Day is a reminder of a legal opinion handed down by the International Court of Justice on July 8, 1996, which concluded that even the threat of using nuclear weapons is an offence against international law. The Flag day events have been coordinated by the City of Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace with the support of a number of German non-governmental organizations.

Lord Mayor Schostok (Hannover) states: “More and more cities participate in the Flag Day of Mayors for Peace. Cities are increasingly concerned about the slow disarmament efforts of important nations. Just now we need many voices calling on the ban of nuclear weapons and promote global nuclear abolition.”

▼ Report in German on the Mayors for Peace Germany website:

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Flaggentag>

■ Announcement from the Mayors for Peace Secretariat - Documentary films on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima distributed online in August -

Hiroshima Television Corporation, a TV station in Hiroshima, is marking its 55th anniversary this year and broadcasting six of its documentary films on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima this summer. The English version of the documentaries, including “Ishibumi (cenotaph)” and “U.S. POWS and the A-bomb”, will be available online free of charge **starting August 5 for a limited time**. The Hiroshima Television Cooperation will place this announcement on the August 5 issue of the New York Times.

Distribution starts at: 13:00 on August 5, 2017 (UTC +9)

*The end of distribution is different depending on the films.

▼ Hiroshima Television Corporation website :

<http://www.htv.jp/hiroshima>

*Will be launched at 11:00 on July 24, 2017 (UTC +9)

■ Regional Chapter Activities

<Report from Catalan Chapter, Spain>

* The Spanish Congress’ approval of a resolution to support the prohibition of nuclear weapons

On June 20, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Spanish Congress approved a non-legislative proposal that supports a ban on nuclear weapons and calls on the Spanish government and other states to participate in the negotiations to prohibit nuclear weapons in order to advance towards peace, security and disarmament. While the Spanish government as a state is not participating in the negotiations, the Spanish Congress has been putting pressure on them to do this. The motion was approved with 21 affirmative votes and 14 abstentions.

On June 8, another resolution in support of the prohibition of nuclear weapons had been adopted at the Catalan Parliament. Fundi Pau, a Barcelona-based peace NGO, which is a member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), contributed to the adoption of these two resolutions in the Catalan Parliament and the Spanish Congress.

The Catalan Chapter of Mayors for Peace, led by the City of Granollers, fully supports these important initiatives in Spain.

▼ The Spanish Congress' resolution to support the prohibition of nuclear weapons (in Spanish):

<http://www.parlament.cat/document/bopc/221577.pdf#page=11>

▼ NGO Fundi Pau's website introducing their campaign to demand the prohibition (in Catalan):

<http://fundipau.org/proces-a-les-nacions-unides/>

■ Member City Activities

Normandy Region, France

Kick-off meeting of « Normandy for Peace »

<Report by AFCDPR, Mayors for Peace French chapter>

On March 23 and 24, the Normandy Region, a Mayors for Peace member since 2015, hosted the kick-off meeting of its project « Normandy for Peace » in Caen. "Normandy for Peace" aims at organizing a yearly conference, starting June 2018 at the time of the Normandy landings commemorations, and at financing projects that will contribute to peace at the local and global level. It is also willing to offer a space to discuss peaceful resolution of conflicts for all actors involved in peace related issues, from states to civil society.

More information about the project « Normandy for Peace » is available in French below:

▼ Kick-off meeting:

<http://evenements.normandie.fr/normandie-pour-la-paix>

▼ Normandy for Peace project:

<https://www.normandie.fr/normandie-pour-la-paix>

Volgograd, Russia

Cities of Memory Symposium

<Report by AFCDPR, Mayors for Peace French chapter>

Initiated by the Urban Community of Dunkirk (Communauté urbaine de Dunkerque) in 2016, the Cities of Memory Symposium is a platform gathering cities destroyed during the First and the Second World Wars, including several Mayors for Peace member cities such as Ypres, Hiroshima, Volgograd, Dunkirk and Malakoff, state-owned and private thematic museums, scholars and experts to discuss cities' historical heritage, to preserve historical memory and to ensure that future generations learn about the scourge of war.

Its second edition took place in Volgograd (Russia) from May 8 to 11. Participants were invited to exchange their views on topics such as "Reconstruction, urban planning and land improvement"; "Cultural heritage, memory tourism and territorial appeal"; "Memory and lessons of World War 2: through the eyes of youth", and "People's diplomacy in the modern world: international cooperation experience and perspectives".

The Third edition of the Symposium will be hosted in 2018 by the city of Rostock.

▼ More information on the Second Symposium of "Cities of Memory" in Volgograd on Dunkirk website (in French):

<https://www.communaute-urbaine-dunkerque.fr/actualite/toutes-les-actualites/vue-detaillee/news/dunkerque-conforte-sa-stat>

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Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Handover Ceremony of “Stone for Peace”

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On June 21, a “Stone for Peace,” a piece of granite stone exposed to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, was donated to the City of Sarajevo, a Lead City of Mayors for Peace. The stone, engraved with an image of the goddess Kannon and the words ‘From Hiroshima’ used to be one of 200 tramway paving stones. A Hiroshima-based citizens’ group called the Stone for Peace Association of Hiroshima has been donating the stones to the world’s heads of states to share Hiroshima’s desire for peace.

The Mayor of Sarajevo and President of the Stone for Peace Association of Hiroshima attended the hand-over ceremony held at the Botanical Garden of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the stone will be on display from now on.

▼ Full report and photos on the City of Sarajevo website:

<http://sarajevo.ba/grad-sarajevo-na-svecanosti-u-zemaljskom-muzeju-preuzeo-kamen-mira-iz-hirosime/?lang=en>

<<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 send us information including the date, venue, organizers and a description of the event. We look forward to receiving information from your city.

▼ Please send a report about your event to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat to:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

▼ List of peace events as based on those in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (As of July 10):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/images/news/new_list/2017_List_of_Activities_en.pdf

■ Mayors for Peace Information System

An online information system for Mayors for Peace has been launched in order to facilitate information sharing among member cities. This system enables searches for member cities’ information, the renewal of records by each member as well as payment of membership fees by credit card without any transfer charges. We hope that each member city will utilize this system for their activities related to Mayors for Peace.

Please check your city’s information on the system, such as the name and contact information of the mayor, contact person, etc. If this information needs revision, we ask that you log into the system and make corrections. We would greatly appreciate each city keeping its own information up-to-date.

If you have lost or forgotten your login information, please contact the administrator at the following email address.

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System:

<https://www.mfpinfosys.org/>

▼ Mayors for Peace Information System Operating Manual:

https://www.mfpinfosys.org/manual/secure/pdfs/lec7/lm/07manu_pdf_en.pdf

▼ Please email us at the following address if you have any inquiries about the Mayors for Peace Information System:

mfpssystem@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

■ Request for Payment of the 2017 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

At the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013, the introduction of an annual membership fee was

determined in order to strengthen the foundation of Mayors for Peace and the sense of solidarity amongst member cities. Following this decision, Mayors for Peace has instituted an annual membership fee of 2,000 Japanese Yen (about USD19/ EUR17 as of May 19, 2017) per city.

This year again, we would like to ask each city to contribute the same amount. If your city has not paid their membership fee in previous years, we ask your city to pay the total amount owed for each unpaid year since 2015. The funds raised by this fee will be utilized as a resource for the projects listed on the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017).

A request for payment of the 2017 membership fee was sent to each city by email on May 31. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

▼ Request for the 2017 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/membership_fee.html

■ Plea to Support Our Nuclear Weapons Convention Petition Drive

Mayors for Peace is promoting a global grassroots petition drive as a way in which all member cities can call for negotiations of a nuclear weapons convention. Promotion of this petition drive is included in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017) that was adopted at the 8th General Conference in August 2013.

Thanks to many supporters across the world, we have received 2,582,798 signatures as of July 1, 2017.

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/english/ecbn/data/11_petitionform_en.pdf

▼ Online petition:

https://www.ssl-z.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/signature_en/

With the adoption of the new treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons on July 7, Mayors for Peace will discuss revising the petition drive at the 9th General Conference in Nagasaki in August. The content of the revised campaign, including the new petition form, will be released after the Conference. We will continue to accept petitions submitted in the current form.

■ Visitor(s) to the President of Mayors for Peace Last Month

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

*June 22 - Hon. Mr. Stefano Dambroso, President of the Italy Japan Parliamentary Association

*June 30 - H.E. Mr. Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

■ Mayors for Peace Member Cities - 7,392 Cities in 162 Countries/Regions

Thanks to your invaluable support, on July 1, we added 37 new member cities, bringing the total membership to 7,392.

From Spain, we welcomed 12 new cities, thanks to the work of the City of Granollers, a Mayors for Peace Vice President and Lead City of the Catalan Chapter and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP). In February this year, FEMP sent a letter to all Spanish local governments encouraging them to join Mayors for Peace.

From Lithuania, we welcomed six new cities. These cities responded to the invitation by H. E. Mr. Egidijus Meilunas, Ambassador of Lithuania to Japan, who visited Hiroshima in April and sent Lithuanian cities an invitation to join Mayors for Peace.

We also welcomed a new member from Uganda thanks to Ms. Mariko Kikuchi, who is from Hiroshima and now engaged in international cooperation activities in Uganda.

