



# Mayors for Peace Newsletter

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## Seventh Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace

The 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace was held November 21 and 22, 2007, in Florence, Italy. Participants deliberated future activities and how to organize the 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting scheduled for 2009.

### Participant Cities (9 cities)

President	Hiroshima (Japan)
Vice Presidents (seven cities)	Nagasaki (Japan) Akron (USA) Florence (Italy) Hannover (Germany) Laakdal (Belgium) Malakoff (France) Manchester (UK)
Executive	Ypres (Belgium)



At the Executive Conference

### Main Decisions at the 7th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace

The Executive Conference discussed and decided 1) action plans for the 2020 Vision Campaign 2) soliciting donations for development of the 2020 Vision Campaign 3) founding the 2020 Vision Campaign Association, and 4) plans for the 7th General Meeting in 2009. They also adopted the Resolution on the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Final Communiqué. The main decisions are described below.

#### 1) Action plans for the 2020 Vision Campaign

Mayors for Peace will launch Phase III of the 2020 Vision Campaign in May 2008. The United Nations has declared 2010 to 2020 a Decade of Disarmament. Mayors for Peace considers that period a decisive decade regarding the nuclear threat and will work intensively to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. (See table of main events.)

May 2008, Geneva	- Attend Preparatory Committee meeting for NPT Review Conference - Unveil Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol - Hold European and Mediterranean Mayors for Peace Conference
October 2008	- Submit resolution related to Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) at UN General Assembly
May 2009, New York	- Attend Preparatory Committee meeting for NPT Review Conference - Hold U.S. Mayors for Peace Conference
August 2009	- Hold 7 <sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace General Conference in Nagasaki
October 2009	- Submit resolution regarding Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol at UN General Assembly
May 2010	- Attend NPT Review Conference (New York)

## 2) Fundraising Underway for the 2020 Vision Campaign

Mayors for Peace is calling for donations to support our activities. We are approaching member cities, foundations, like-minded corporations, and individuals around the world. The funds are needed to promote the 2020 Vision Campaign internationally through the media and to attend more international peace conferences and strengthening ties with NGOs. In Belgium, 40 cities have passed resolutions pledging donations for the next three years. Using the Belgian example, we will work to promote fundraising campaigns in other countries.

## 3) Establishing the 2020 Vision Campaign Association

To expand the 2020 Vision Campaign quickly and more internationally, Mayors for Peace established an organization, the 2020 Vision Campaign Association, to handle day to day activities. The secretariat of this Association will be located in the Executive City, Ypres, Belgium, and will collect and manage donations. It will also design and implement various campaign activities.

## 4) Holding the 7th General Conference in 2009

Mayors for Peace holds our General Conference every 4 years. The next meeting will be August 2009 in Nagasaki. At that Conference, we will determine our approach to the 2010 NPT Review Conference and expansion of the 2020 Vision Campaign. We also intend to



Mayors Attending the Executive Conference

strengthen our bonds with other NGOs to generate greater momentum for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

### \* Soliciting donations for the 2020 Vision Campaign

Mayors for Peace is calling on member cities, foundations, like-minded corporations, and individuals to contribute funds for the global growth of the 2020 Vision Campaign. Please send your donation to:

Bank Account: Vredesfonds Stad Ieper  
Bank name: DEXIA  
Account Number: 088-2371003-27  
IBAN nr.: BE48-0882-3710-0327  
BIC(SWIFT code): GKCCBEBB

Please visit our website to see the resolution and communiqué adopted at the 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace.

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

## Mayors for Peace Mediterranean City Summit in Italy

Following the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference, the City of Florence convened a Mayors for Peace Mediterranean City Summit on November 23, 2007. About 150 mayors and city councilors participated from Italy, Iran, Iraq and elsewhere. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki delivered speeches about nuclear weapons and peace followed by the mayors of cities in the US, Iraq and Italy, as well as

representatives of NGOs. Mayor Leonardo Domenici of Florence declared the collective intention to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020, calling for Italy to free itself of all nuclear weapons and promote the CANT project and other Mayors for Peace efforts through close collaboration among countries around the Mediterranean. His statement was greeted by unanimous and enthusiastic applause.

## Major Achievements in 2007

In addition to the Executive Conference, last year's main achievements include: 1) attending the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference, 2) receiving the Nuclear-Free Future Award, and 3) attending the UCLG World Congress, which supported the 2020 Vision and CANT. We have won widespread support for the 2020 Vision Campaign and are greatly strengthening solidarity with member cities.

### Delegation to the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT

Mayors for Peace organized a Mayoral Delegation of eight member cities, including Hiroshima (Japan), Laakdal (Belgium), Stuttgart (Germany), Freiburg (Germany), Nuremberg (Germany), Ellwangen (Germany), Girne (Northern Cyprus), and Duzce (Turkey) to attend the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference held at the Austria Center in Vienna from April 30 to May 2, 2007. They met with representatives of permanent missions of various countries to demand greater effort for nuclear abolition.

At the opening ceremony a UN representative read a message from the Secretary-General. Committee Chairperson Yukiya Amano, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna, then proposed a moment of silent prayer in memory of the late Nagasaki Mayor Icho Itoh who was felled by an assassin's bullet in 2007. The national delegates and all participants stood to pray for Mayor Itoh.

At the Preparatory Committee on May 2, an NGO session allowed NGOs to speak before the national delegates. As an international

NGO representative, Mayor Akiba, president of Mayors for Peace, gave a speech in which he quoted the late Mayor Itoh, who often said, "Nuclear weapons and humanity cannot co-exist indefinitely." Mayor Akiba emphasized the necessity of abolishing nuclear weapons and demanded that the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, stalemated for more than 10 years, make substantive progress toward a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, a minimal step toward disarmament. He further proposed that the nuclear powers freeze development of nuclear weapons for 5 years in preparation for genuine nuclear greeted with enthusiastic applause from NGO representatives and most others in attendance.



Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference  
NGO Session

### The Nuclear-Free Future Award

Mayors for Peace and its president Hiroshima Mayor Tadatashi Akiba were given the Nuclear-Free Future Award by the Franz-Moll Foundation (Munich, Germany). This non-profit organization established in 1997 recognizes organizations and individuals that are working toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and liberation from atomic energy. Mayor Akiba attended the award ceremony held in Salzburg, Austria, on October 18, 2007.

The Nuclear-Free Future Award was established in 1998 to honor individuals and groups making notable contributions in the categories of 1) solutions 2) education, and 3) resistance. Mayors for Peace received the award for solutions.

The award ceremony was carried out under the auspices of the Salzburg State Government of Austria and held in the Royal Residenz Hall. About 400 people attended, including Minister of Environment Pröll of

the Republic of Austria, Deputy Governor Haulauer from Salzburg, and Chairperson Franz Moll, who created the Nuclear-Free Future Award. Following an introduction of Mayor Akiba and Mayors for Peace by Hilda Lini of the Republic of Vanuatu, a recipient of the same award in the resistance category in 2005, President Claus Biegerd of the Award Steering Committee gave Mayor Akiba a certificate and the prize of \$10,000. The committee described Mayors for Peace as making a tremendous contribution to the formation of an international consensus toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and eternal world peace through its global peace promotion activities and the 2020 Vision.



Mayor of Hiroshima receiving the  
(Franz-Moll) Award

## President Akiba attends UCLG World Congress

The global municipal association, United Cities and Local Government, with more than 2,500 local municipalities, held its world congress from October 28 to 31, 2007 in Jeju, South Korea. The congress theme, Changing Cities Are Driving Our World, attracted over 2,000 people from 135 countries around the world. Mayor Akiba, representing Mayors for Peace, delivered his speech at a plenary session.

The Jeju Declaration adopted on October 31, the final day of the conference, expressed clear support for our Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) project.

Our inclusion in the overall resolution from UCLG, which has 127 country members of 192 UN member states, is a great boost for Mayors for Peace. We now speak for more than half the world's population.

### Mayors for Peace Workshop

At the UCLG World Congress, Mayors for Peace sponsored a workshop on October 29 that drew participation from 10 member cities and 30 non-member cities and NGOs. At this workshop we presented Mayors for Peace activities,

## Membership exceeds 2020

**We now have 2,028 member cities in 127 countries and regions.**

-- as of January 28, 2008

This raises membership of Mayors for Peace over 2020, which was an interim target of the 2020 Vision Campaign. We now have 2,028 cities in 127 countries and regions.

This achievement will add momentum to our call for the further growth of membership and the strengthening the inter-city solidarity for nuclear abolition. We trust we can count on your continued support.

Asia 217 cities in 29 countries and regions  
Oceania 83 cities in 9 countries and regions  
Africa 106 cities in 28 countries  
Europe 1404 cities in 41 countries  
North/Central America 195 cities in 11 countries  
South America 23 cities in 9 countries

Total 2028 cities in 127 countries and regions

including the 2020 Vision Campaign. We then asked participants to join Mayors for Peace and support our Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) project, demanding assurances from nuclear-weapon states that cities are not and will not be targeted for nuclear attack. Fifteen mayors attending the workshop signed registration forms there and then to join Mayors for Peace.

## Ypres, Belgium, appointed Executive City

Mayor Akiba appointed the City of Ypres to be an Executive City of Mayors for Peace on November 7, 2007. We now have 12 executive cities, one president, 10 vice presidents and one executive.

### In memory of Nagasaki's Mayor Itoh



Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Nagasaki Mayor Iccho Itoh was felled by an assassin's bullet and died on April 18, 2007.

Mayor Itoh became mayor of Nagasaki in 1995 and served as Vice President of Mayors for Peace for 12 years. He was a leader among mayors and helped to expand the circle of peace and friendship. He was especially strong in his demand for the eradication of nuclear weapons, devoting himself to that cause and the pursuit of genuine world peace. Mayor Itoh's many powerful actions based on his strong commitment to "absolutely abolish nuclear weapons" are burnt into the hearts of thousands of people around the world.

Mayors for Peace has inherited his legacy and will redouble our efforts to achieve a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons. We take this opportunity to express our deepest respect for Mayor Itoh's tremendous achievements and pray for the peaceful repose of his soul.

### Mayors for Peace Secretariat

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