



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

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The 2008 Preparatory Committee Meeting for the NPT Review Conference

The 2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting (PrepCom) for the NPT Review Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland from late April to early May 2008. Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, president of Mayors for Peace, led a Mayoral Delegation in which representatives from 21 member cities (in 10 countries) participated. During the PrepCom, the delegation asked national government representatives to make good-faith efforts toward a nuclear-weapon-free-world. During the NGO session, they announced the "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol," adoption of which would indicate a genuine, good-faith commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.

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Major Activities

■ The 2020 Vision Campaign Association Board Meeting (April 28)



The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association was held on April 28 to deliberate and decide future steps and related

issues. The Association was established November 2007 in Ypres, Belgium for faster and broader international development of the 2020 Vision Campaign.

■ A conference on "The European Union and the Nuclear Weapons Convention" (April 28)

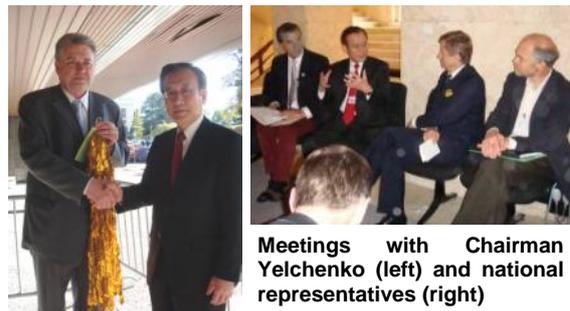


Mayors for Peace and Abolition 2000 Europe co-organized a conference

on "The European Union and the Nuclear Weapons Convention." Mayor Akiba called for intensive, cooperative action toward total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. Senator Patrik Vankrunkelsven, former mayor and current councilor of Laakdal, Belgium, (a Mayors for Peace vice president city) outlined the present situation of nuclear weapons in Europe.

■ Meetings with the chairman of the NPT PrepCom and national representatives (April 28 to 29)

On April 28, the Mayoral Delegation held meetings with several national representatives to the NPT PrepCom, including the ambassadors from South Africa and the Netherlands. They described the objectives of Mayors for Peace, including the 2020 Vision, and requested greater support and cooperation for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. On April 29, the Mayoral Delegation made the same requests and presented a thousand paper cranes to H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Yelchenko, Ukrainian Representative to the UN and Chairman of the 2008 PrepCom.



Meetings with Chairman Yelchenko (left) and national representatives (right)

■ Meeting of Member Cities in Europe and the Mediterranean (April 29)

Mayors for Peace organized a meeting entitled "City and civil society good-faith initiatives in Europe and the Mediterranean Area in preparation for the U.N. Decade for Disarmament, 2010 to 2020". Representatives assembled mainly from member cities in Europe and the Mediterranean, but included Mayor Mugny of Geneva, host of the PrepCom.



At the meeting of Member Cities in Europe and the Mediterranean

Following opening remarks by Mayor Mugny, Mayor Akiba described the tragedies of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to emphasize the terrible suffering inflicted on innocent civilians by nuclear attacks on cities. He also described the atrocities in Ypres, Gernika (Spain), and Chongqing (China), where so many citizens were victimized by war. The mayor highlighted the important duty of mayors to keep cities from becoming targets for weapons of mass destruction. Only nuclear abolition can protect the security and safety of our citizens.

The meeting was chaired by Mayor Luc Dehaene of Ypres. Mayor Monticelli of Pineto (Italy), Mayor Del Cont-Bernard of Aviano (Italy) and Mayor Leidig of Schwäbisch Gmünd (Germany) presented their own municipal efforts and discussed ways of building a nuclear-weapon-free-world.

■ NGO Presentations (April 29)



On behalf of Mayors for Peace, Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, Mayor Dehaene of Ypres and Senator Vankrunkelsven, former Mayor and current City Councilor of Laakdal

delivered speeches at the NGO session.

Mayor Akiba requested that states parties recognize and act on their obligations for good-faith disarmament negotiations as stated in the NPT and the 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). He expressed his strong concern that if no substantive progress is made by 2010, nuclear weapons are poised to spread swiftly throughout the world. Urging vigorous efforts to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020, he described the Mayors for Peace campaign now gaining momentum at the city level, with support from United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). Meanwhile, efforts at the national level are still not producing adequate results.

Mayor Dehaene introduced the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, stressing that we will be able to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020 if we make that commitment now.

Senator Vankrunkelsven outlined the content of the Protocol and explained the world cities initiative that will press national governments to support formally presenting the Protocol to the UN General Assembly.

■ Meeting with the International Red Cross (April 29)



Mr. Cruccolini, city council president, Florence, Italy

Mayors for Peace co-organized a roundtable meeting with the International Red Cross titled “Why should nuclear weapons be abolished?” Mr. Eros Cruccolini, city council president of Florence, Italy (a Mayors for Peace vice president city),

introduced the prescient initiatives of Mr. Giorgio La Pira, former mayor of Florence, who promoted solidarity among cities for peace shortly after WWII. In 1954 at the International Headquarters of the Red Cross, Geneva, challenging the devastating consequences of the nuclear arms race, Mayor La Pira spoke on the value of cities and saying: ‘Have States the right to destroy towns...? The reply, in our opinion, is No!’ His was a historic declaration that “*Cities Are Not Targets!*”

■ Meeting with Middle Powers Initiative (MPI) (April 30)

In the UN Assembly Hall, Mayors for Peace co-organized a meeting titled “2010-2020: from Survival to Success”. Our partner was the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI), a group of NGOs primarily working with “middle power” governments to eliminate nuclear weapons. Mayor Akiba, representing Mayors for Peace, spoke on the importance of raising public awareness regarding nuclear disarmament and the need for a mechanism by which the public can influence the international community. He asserted that the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, with its clear commitment to a nuclear-weapons-free world, is precisely such a mechanism.



The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol - Please support the resolution in the UN General Assembly -

At the NPT PrepCom in April 2008, Mayors for Peace announced the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, which stipulates a process leading toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. The Protocol embodies a commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. Based on NPT obligations, it calls for negotiations in good faith and stipulates an immediate halt to all efforts to acquire, develop or deploy nuclear weapons.

We are asking our member cities to call on their national governments to support the Protocol and will work hand in hand with relevant authorities and NGOs to obtain passage of a resolution in the UN General Assembly in October 2009 commending the Protocol

for adoption by the NPT Review Conference in 2010.

Our concrete actions to raise public awareness around the world include two petition drives: one is the "Cities Appeal", to be signed by mayors or heads of municipalities as a means of publicly endorsing the Protocol. The other drive is an initiative to collect millions of signatures from ordinary citizens supporting the Protocol and the idea that "Cities Are Not Targets!" This drive has already collected the signatures of more than 240,000 people in Japan and overseas since its start in February 2007. Citizens and cities should work together to promote these petition drives and intensify public demand for a nuclear-weapon-free world. Please give us your full support and cooperation.

Protocol complementary to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world by the year 2020.

Desiring to establish an over-arching means of addressing nuclear disarmament in all its aspects so as to facilitate the fulfillment by States Parties of their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and with a view to all states fulfilling the nuclear disarmament obligation found by the International Court of Justice in their 1996 advisory opinion on the legality of the use or threat of nuclear weapons;

Considering that continued exploitation of the discriminatory nature of the Treaty, wherein nuclear-weapon States Parties are exempted from the prohibition on the acquisition of nuclear weapons, is incompatible with the pursuit in good faith of nuclear disarmament in all its aspects;

Considering further that full equality under international law must be re-established by the elimination of all nuclear arsenals as agreed in the 1995 Extension Conference decision on "Principles and Objectives";

Article I

1. The nuclear-weapon States Parties to this Protocol shall cease forthwith:
 - (a) all activities related to the acquisition of nuclear weapon which non-nuclear-weapon States Parties are prohibited from pursuing under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
 - (b) all activities which incorporate nuclear weapons into their military doctrines and practices; and shall place all nuclear weapons and weapon-usable fissile materials in safe and secure storage at the earliest possible date.
2. All other States Parties to this Protocol possessing weapons-usable fissile material shall take those steps required of the nuclear-weapon States in paragraph 1 which apply to their circumstances.

Article II

1. The States Parties to this Protocol shall pursue in good faith negotiations on achieving nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under the following two main sections:
Section One negotiations will standardize and legally codify the measures taken under Article I, paragraph 1, (a) and (b).
Section Two negotiations will address:
 - (c) the elimination of all nuclear weapons and related deployment systems, including delivery vehicles, launch platforms, and command and control systems.
 - (d) the elimination of all infrastructure associated with the acquisition of nuclear-weapon system, including production and testing facilities, and of all weapon-usable fissile material stocks.
2. The negotiations called for in paragraph 1 shall have as their objective a Nuclear Weapons Convention or a comparable Framework Agreement. Negotiations shall begin forthwith and be pursued without interruption by all States Parties until this objective is achieved. A Secretariat for the negotiations shall be established that remains in operation until negotiations are concluded.
3. Every good faith effort shall be made to ensure that all measures related to Section One are agreed and implemented before or by 2015 and that all measures related to Section Two are agreed and implemented before or by 2020.
4. All measures contained or foreseen in the Nuclear Weapons Convention or Framework Agreement shall be subject to strict and effective international control and shall provide for international institutions capable of ensuring that the nuclear-weapon free world which is achieved can be maintained indefinitely.

Article III

Nothing in this Protocol shall be interpreted as diminishing in anyway the nonproliferation obligations of any State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; including each State's obligation to cooperate in the establishment and operation of the international institutions of Article II, paragraph 4.

International Association of Peace Messenger Cities (IAPMC)

The Executive Board of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities (87 member cities in 52 countries) met on April 24 and 25 in Suwon, South Korea. Chairman Leeper of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation attended the meeting representing Mayors for Peace. He reported recent achievements and requested support for the 2020 Vision campaign. All participants were highly supportive, and efforts will be made to ensure that all IAPMC members to join Mayors for Peace.



Mr. Leeper speaking to the Board members

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

As of June 30, 2008

■ 2,317 member cities in 130 countries and regions

The number of Mayors for Peace member cities has risen to 2,317 cities in 130 countries and regions. The recruiting drive continues, and almost every day we receive one or two new applications to join Mayors for Peace in solidarity for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Area	Cities / Municipalities	Countries / Regions
Asia	402	29
Oceania	86	9
Africa	109	29
Europe	1,478	41
North/Central America	214	12
South America	28	10
Total	2,317	130

Membership opened to Japanese cities

Mayors for Peace opened its membership to Japanese cities this year to generate increased momentum for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Previously, membership in Japan was limited to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki because the National Council of Nuclear-Free Local Authorities (based in Nagasaki City) held responsibility for uniting domestic local authorities, while Mayors for Peace concentrated on solidarity with cities overseas.

However, we found that people around the world were wondering why Japan had only two members of Mayors for Peace. Furthermore, we want to join forces with as many like-minded cities as possible, and Japanese cities will greatly strengthen our collective demand for nuclear abolition. Thus, it was decided to allow Japanese cities to join. We continue to work closely with the National Council toward our common goal of abolishing nuclear weapons.

As of June 30, 143 Japanese cities had joined Mayors for Peace. We are deeply grateful for the willingness of all these Japanese cities to be members of both organizations. This is a measure of their devotion to peace and a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Our Peace Efforts (contributed article)

The Hiroshima Peace Media Center

<www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp>

The Hiroshima Peace Media Center is a new wing of the Chugoku Shimbun, founded in 1892 and now one of Japan's largest newspapers with a circulation of 720,000. Launched on January 1, 2008 to begin transmitting peace-related reporting via the internet in English and Japanese, the Hiroshima Peace Media Center strives to be a global leader in its advocacy of the abolition of nuclear weapons and the advancement of peace in the world.

The Hiroshima Peace Media Center website provides a range of multimedia content covering peace-related concerns. In conjunction with a steady stream of current news involving peace issues, the website also contains a well of reports published by the Chugoku Shimbun in the years since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. In this way, the reality of the past can inform the present and function as a persuasive warning for the future.

The Hiroshima Peace Media Center champions the aims and activities of Mayors for Peace and regularly issues reports on its important work in regard to realizing a world where nuclear weapons no longer threaten humankind and our earthly home. We look forward to further opportunities to join forces with Mayors for Peace and its thriving network of member cities in pursuit of the mission we share.

Towards this end, we would be very grateful for your support in adding a link to the Hiroshima Peace Media Center website on your own website (our logo is available for use under "Link Policy") as well as sharing the URL with interested organizations and individuals in your local communities and global alliances.

From the Secretariat

- These days, nearly all our communication and information exchange takes place via e-mail. Therefore, we are doing our best to update the e-mail addresses and other information for each city in our database. Please send us your latest contact information, and be sure to inform us if the name of your mayor, your contact person or your preferred e-mail address changes. Please help us stay in touch.
- The Mayors for Peace newsletter and website would like to present the peace activities of member cities. Please send us any information you may have regarding peace activities in your city.

● **Please donate to 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

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