



## **Mayors for Peace**

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### **Secretariat**

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### **Mayors for Peace Appeal to the President and all participating governments’ representatives to the 2015 NPT Review Conference**

On behalf of Mayors for Peace, with its 6675 member cities in 160 countries and regions, we make the following appeal to the President and all the representatives of the States Parties to the NPT who are participating in the treaty’s Review Conference being held in New York:

We are dismayed of the total omission, in document Rev.1, of the last sentence of paragraph 18 of the document NPT/conf.2015/MC.I/SB.1/CRP.1(Subsidiary Body 1: Draft substantive elements), which was posted on the website of the Reaching Critical Will, to the effect that “In view of the 70th anniversary of the use of nuclear weapons, the Conference notes the proposal for world leaders, disarmament experts and youth to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to witness first-hand the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and to hear the testimonies of the survivors (*hibakusha*).”.

We sincerely appeal to the President and all the representatives of the States Parties to the NPT who are participating in 2015 Review Conference to make sure that this deleted sentence will be included in the final document to be adopted in the Review Conference.

At its General Conference in August 2013 in Hiroshima, Mayors for Peace called, *inter alia*, on “the United Nations and all governments to make sure that policy makers and officials from governments and international agencies responsible for nuclear disarmament visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order to deepen their understanding of the indescribable human tragedy of the atomic bombings, and disseminate the earnest wish of the atomic bomb survivors for the abolition of nuclear weapons.”

In a side event held on the first day (27 April) of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, Mayors for Peace together with other civil society partners adopted the “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal in New York.” That Appeal specifically included a sentence calling on “world leaders to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to witness first-hand the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and to hear the testimonies of the survivors (*hibakusha*).” The document was duly circulated to the Government representatives and participating NGOs in accordance with the announced procedure by H.E. Ambassador Taous Feroukhi, President of the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

Our persistent calls for visits to atomic bombed cities and for hearing of survivors’ testimonies have been made in full recognition of the heavy responsibility of city mayors to protect the safety and welfare of their citizens. We are deeply concerned that there still exist

more than 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world and there are real risks of their actual use either by accident or miscalculation, if not by intention. Furthermore, if nuclear weapons fell in the hands of terrorist organizations they may use them without restraint. Such risks must be eliminated as soon as possible and, 70 years after the actual use of nuclear weapons, it is high time that all the leaders of the world join hands to implement the NPT Article VI obligation to negotiate in good faith nuclear disarmament.

Visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki have much to offer in assisting these leaders to fulfill that obligation. It is through such visits that leaders can inscribe into their hearts the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Personal visits can also strengthen their unshakable determination to work together to abolish nuclear weapons. It is crucially important for them to visit these atomic bombed cities and to hear the testimonies of *hibakusha* of their first-hand experience in confronting the humanitarian catastrophe of nuclear warfare. It is only through such visits that leaders can learn the full meaning of the earnest appeal of the *hibakusha* that “no one else shall ever again suffer as we have”. And let us be crystal clear—we have no intention whatsoever to justify any countries’ wartime records in presenting this earnest appeal.

In closing, we wish wholeheartedly for the success of the 2015 NPT Review Conference. We hope that its Final Document will include the above-mentioned sentence and concrete commitment to pursue negotiation in good faith of nuclear disarmament to close the legal gap towards total elimination of nuclear weapons.

May 15, 2015

#### Mayors for Peace

President	Kazumi Matsui	Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan
Vice president	Tomihisa Taue	Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan
Vice president	Stefan Schostok	Lord Mayor of Hannover, Germany
Vice president	Andrey V. Kosolapov	Mayor of Volgograd, Russia
Vice president	Catherine Margate	Mayor of Malakoff, France
Vice president	Jaime R. Fresnedi	Mayor of Muntinlupa, Philippines
Vice president	Susan Cooley	Lord Mayor of Manchester, U.K.
Vice president	Donald L. Plusquellic	Mayor of Akron, U.S.
Vice president	Jan Durnez	Mayor of Ypres, Belgium
Vice president	Ivan Knez	Mayor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia
Vice president	Josep Mayoral i Antigas	Mayor of Granollers, Spain
Vice president	Khder Kareem	Mayor of Halabja, Iraq
Vice president	Yvan Mayeur	Mayor of Brussels, Belgium
Vice president	Nkenfack	Mayor of Fongo-Tongo, Cameroon
Vice president	Miguel Ángel Mancera	Mayor of Mexico City, Mexico
Vice president	Thore Vestby	Mayor of Frogn, Norway
Lead city mayor	Sukhumbhand Paribatra	Governor of Bangkok, Thailand
Lead city mayor	Brad Pettitt	Mayor of Fremantle, Australia

Lead city mayor	Aibek Karimov	Mayor of Semey, Kazakhstan
Lead city mayor	Ivo Komsic	Mayor of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Lead city mayor	Tony Chammani	Mayor of Kochi, India
Lead city mayor	Denis Coderre	Mayor of Montreal, Canada
Lead city mayor	Celia Wade-Brown	Mayor of Wellington, New Zealand
Lead city mayor	Paulo Alexandre Barbosa	Mayor of Santos, Brazil