



Mayors for Peace

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Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

May 20th, 2016

The Honorable Mr. Eduardo Paes
Mayor of Rio de Janeiro

Mr. Thomas Bach
President of the International Olympic Committee

Dear Mayor Paes and President Bach:

First I want to congratulate my colleague, Mayor Eduardo Paes, on hosting the Olympic Games 2016, the biggest sports event in the world. As President of Mayors for Peace, with 7,042 member cities around the world (including Rio de Janeiro), we wish you and your teams success in this huge undertaking of welcoming and protecting the athletes and their supporters from around the world.

As you know, the Olympic Games were originally designed from the perspective of building peace. Real and lasting peace continues to be one of the most profound aspirations of humanity. Unfortunately the world continues to live in challenging times, as seen in the recent attacks on Beirut, Brussels, Istanbul, Paris and other cities that are recovering from terrorist attacks.

We believe that you have in your hands a great opportunity to revive the memory of the Olympic Games as an event for peace.

The Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro will coincide with the Hiroshima commemoration, when millions of citizens around the world will remember the dropping of the first atomic bomb. The atomic bomb exploded at 8:15 AM, 6 August in Hiroshima, which was 8:15 PM, 5 August in Rio de Janeiro local time. The coincidence that the commemoration of this event will occur during the Opening Ceremony presents a unique opportunity to reaffirm humanity's profound desire for peace.

As President of Mayors for Peace, I wish to propose for you to invite all participants at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games to observe a minute of silence to remember all victims of armed conflicts and terror, and to revive the Olympic Truce calling for an end of violence to establish a sustainable peace. We hope that we can work together to mark a minute of silence and join our voices to call for an end to violence.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

MATSUI Kazumi
Mayor of Hiroshima
President of Mayors for Peace