

Joint Appeal on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

On behalf of Mayors for Peace

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The 2020 NPT Review Conference was supposed to begin today, in the year of the 50th anniversary of the treaty's entry into force and the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings. Discussions in all of these rare five-year Review Conferences seek to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and these objectives are more important than ever.

Not only all 191 NPT States Parties but also *hibakusha* of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and representatives of civil society, including NGOs from around the world, were to attend that conference. As the conference has been postponed due to the coronavirus crisis, it is with great regret that we have lost, for the time being, an opportunity to convey messages to contribute to the realization of the world without nuclear weapons. We look forward to an opportunity to raise our voices when the parties agree to reschedule the conference.

The current global pandemic touches us all, regardless of border or race. It is the toughest struggle that the world has confronted since World War II. Given this situation, we must take actions from a humanitarian perspective, not from self-centered nationalism. We must now consider what needs to be done to save the whole of humanity, then cooperate globally to make it happen. Such a paradigm shift to a new mindset will bring us victory over this common threat.

We believe this experience of collective action against the COVID-19 threat can inspire new cooperation to address many other global challenges, including climate change and resultant large-scale disasters, growing wealth inequalities, and the threats from the use of nuclear weapons—threats worsened by the immoral doctrine of nuclear deterrence and the ongoing nuclear arms race. We must build a robust global coalition of citizens everywhere to confront and eliminate these growing challenges to our common security.

The next Review Conference will, in particular, provide an opportunity for States Parties to underscore the importance of treaties in the advancement of disarmament, including Article 6 of the NPT. We strongly encourage the extension of the New Start treaty before that conference.

This conference will likely be a difficult one, due to an ongoing confrontation between nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon states. Yet if we see the situation positively, the postponement allows all States Parties including nuclear-weapon states and their allies more time for preparations. The entire world expects, even demands, that these countries will make the most of the time allowed by engaging in sincere and constructive dialogues to permit a successful conference.

Together with more than 7,900 member cities all around the world and their citizens, Mayors for Peace stands behind the courageous actions by policymakers everywhere who are seeking to ensure the peace and security of humanity today and of generations to come.