



# Briefing paper

---

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021

No.34

---

**Subject: Mayors for Peace European Chapter Board Meeting and Global Executive Conference**

## 1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and it provides UK & Ireland Chapter members with a progress report of recent and upcoming activity of the Mayors for Peace organisation at the cross-national, European and global level. The report particularly focuses on two recent meetings – the first Mayors for Peace European Chapter meeting which took place in June, and the 12<sup>th</sup> Mayors for Peace Executive Conference which was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Other issues considered in this report include:

- Plans for commemorating the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks in early August and the 100-day countdown for International Peace Day.
- Plans for a joint Mayors for Peace / ICAN webinar on the 21<sup>st</sup> October.
- Expected dates and format for the first States Parties Conference of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.

## 2. European Mayors for Peace Chapter Board Meeting

As reported in previous Chapter Policy Briefings, the European Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace have been working carefully on the development of a continental Chapter to focus joint work, deepening interest and seeking to increase membership across Europe.

The European Chapter was formally agreed after the 11<sup>th</sup> Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Hannover, Germany in November 2019. An Officers Working Group has been mandated by that meeting to build up a structure, website, operational plans and terms of reference. The Chapter has also hosted, in cooperation with ICAN and the NFLA, a European webinar on the TPNW and developing strategies to promote peaceful and resilient cities, which were held in early December 2020. In January, a joint statement and video messages were also issued welcoming the entry into force at the United Nations of the TPNW.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> June, the activity of the Working Group was discussed at the first Board Meeting of the European Chapter. Attending the meeting were the Mayors or Deputy Mayors of Granollers (Spain), Manchester (UK), Hannover (Germany), Malakoff and Grigny (France), Ypres (Belgium), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Cervia (Italy) and Sarajevo (Bosnia and Hercegovina). The Russian City of Volgograd has asked to be kept informed of its progress. Also attending the Board Meeting were the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace and the Director of the Mayors for Peace Secretariat, both representing Hiroshima.

The Chair of the Chapter, Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers, welcomed all to this meeting, which was a major milestone in the development of the Mayors for Peace in Europe. The Lord Mayor of Manchester is the Vice Chair of the European Chapter, and Manchester has played an important part in the development of the Chapter.

## THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

---

C/o Nuclear Policy, City Policy Section, Level 3, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 3NY  
Tel: 0161 234 3244 E-Mail: [sean.morris@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:sean.morris@manchester.gov.uk) Website: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

The Board Meeting agreed to approve the following documents and plans for the future include:

- The Chapter's legal statutes outlining its terms of reference. These will now be formalised under Spanish law.
- An Operational Plan for 2021 – 22 that outlines its core work plan for the next year.
- A new Chapter website promoting its work – the website can be found at this webpage – <http://www.mayorsforpeace.eu> and it is well worth having a look at it.
- New Chapter social media pages on Facebook and Twitter.
- A protocol for the issuing of Chapter statements on notable anniversaries, Chapter events or workstreams and on major issues.
- Plans for a major joint webinar with ICAN and the NFLA on the 21<sup>st</sup> October.
- Plans to support a European Lead Cities involvement in a Mayors for Peace delegation to the TPNW and NPT conferences at the United Nations in Vienna and New York.
- Its next Board Meeting will be held in December 2021.

A media release welcoming the creation of the Chapter and its first board meeting is attached as Appendix 1.

### **3. Mayors for Peace Executive Conference, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

The global Executive Board Conference of Mayors for Peace is usually held every two years. Plans to have held the meeting during the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic weapon attack in August 2020 needed to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result the meeting was moved to July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and it has had to be held online.

18 members of the Executive Board took part in the meeting – Hiroshima (Japan), Nagasaki (Japan), Hannover (Germany), Malakoff (France), Manchester (UK), Granollers (Spain), Ypres (Belgium), Montreal (Canada), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Fremantle (Australia), Volgograd (Russia), Bangkok (Thailand), Mexico City (Mexico), Grigny (France), Halabja (Iraq), Cervia (Italy), Santos (Brazil) and Tehran (Iran). Apologies were also sent by Des Moines (USA), Wellington (New Zealand) and Sarajevo (Bosnia and Hercegovina).

Holding a global online meeting across many time zones is an immense challenge, so the Executive Conference was largely limited to discussion and approval of two documents – a new 'vision' document that would replace the previous '2020 Vision' and an Action Plan to outline its planned work programme from 2021 – 2025.

The new vision that would underpin the Mayors for Peace is called the 'Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World' or the 'PX Vision'.

In presenting the vision, the Mayors for Peace Secretariat outlines that: "Based on this, we will build cities where citizens act with a strong sense of solidarity for the ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. As the Vision of a global network made up of heads of local governments, whose role is to ensure citizens' safety and security, it centres on the objective "realize a world without nuclear weapons" in the quest for the eradication of the greatest threat to our peaceful lives.

Another objective, "realize safe and resilient cities," has been set forth as a target indispensable to ensuring citizens' safety and security by tackling the issues distinctive to each member's region that are threatening the coexistence of the human race."

The PX Vision is centred on three key objectives:

- Realizing a world without nuclear weapons.
- Realizing safe and resilient cities.
- Promoting a culture of peace.

The Mayors for Peace Action Plan puts detail into ways it can seek to try and achieve these three objectives, and full details can be found in Appendix 2.

The Executive Board also received a detailed update on the creation of the European Chapter, and all welcomed it as a highly positive development. It was thought the European Chapter could be a blueprint for similar development across other parts of the Mayors for Peace movement.

#### 4. **Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day, August 2021**

Throughout the year, Mayors for Peace members are encouraged to support key peace and memorial anniversaries. For the organisation, the commemoration of the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks are important to remember.

Plans are in place in many towns and cities around the UK and Ireland for holding events to commemorate both meetings. If you are planning to hold your own local event please do email details of it to the Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris – [sean.morris@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:sean.morris@manchester.gov.uk) – so it can be disseminated further.

Of course, the challenges of holding public events whilst there are still restrictions and issues due to the Covid-19 pandemic remains, so online events are still to be welcomed in addition to what public events can take place.

Major events in Japan still remain a challenge, as can be seen with the Tokyo Olympic Games. A restricted and socially distanced more limited event will take place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A number of smaller events are taking place across the UK and Ireland including:

- **Manchester** – The Lord Mayor of Manchester will lead a Hiroshima Day service in by the Manchester University war memorial, in the Quadrangle behind the Whitworth Building, off Oxford Road on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 11am.
- **Dublin** – The Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Japanese Ambassador to Ireland and the Chair of CND Ireland will lead a Hiroshima Day service in Merrion Square, Dublin on Hiroshima Day at 1.10pm by the Japanese cherry tree in the square.
- **Leeds** – The Lord Mayor of Leeds, the Leader of Leeds City Council and the NFLA Chair will be amongst the speakers at the Leeds annual commemoration on Nagasaki Day at 10.30am – 11.30am on the 9<sup>th</sup> August by the Mayors for Peace memorial plaque and tree in Park Square in the city centre.
- **London** - London Region CND's annual Hiroshima Day Commemoration will take place at the commemorative cherry tree in Tavistock Square, noon-1pm in the presence of the Mayor of Camden.
- **Bradford** – this will take place at midday on the 7<sup>th</sup> August at the Hiroshima memorial in Norfolk Gardens behind Bradford City Hall.
- **Sheffield** – a short event will take place at 2pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> August in the Peace Gardens by Sheffield Town Hall.
- **Hebden Bridge** – the Mayor of Hebden Royd is one of the speakers at a Calder Valley for Peace and Justice event by the wavy steps of the packhorse bridge in the town centre from 3pm.
- **Oxford and Didcot** – two events are being planned this year. On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August peace activists will mark Hiroshima Day with a gathering for reflection beside Ladygrove Lake in Didcot, while Nagasaki Day will be commemorated in Bonn Square, Oxford on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August. A Peace Walk from Didcot to Oxford along the Thames Path will take place during Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August.
- **Birmingham** – a socially distanced event with readings, reflection and poetry will take place close to Birmingham Cathedral from 11am on the 7<sup>th</sup> August.
- **Abingdon** – a silent vigil will take place by Abingdon War Memorial at 7.45am on the 6<sup>th</sup> August.
- **Milton Keynes** – a Hiroshima Day reflective event will take place at 8.15am on the 6<sup>th</sup> August by the Peace Pagoda, with an evening lantern floating ceremony at 7.30pm.
- **Lewisham** – a socially distanced peace picnic will take place in the Archbishop Tutu Peace Garden, Chinbrook Meadows, Grove Park from 1.30pm – 3pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> August.
- **Bromley** – a socially distanced vigil will take place opposite The Churchill Theatre, followed by a silent walk to the lake in Church House Gardens for the scattering of white flowers, followed by poems and peace statements from 12pm – 3pm.

- **Scotland** – CND branches across Scotland are organising events between 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Paisley, Kilmarnock and Stirling. For further details email [scnd@banthebomb.org](mailto:scnd@banthebomb.org) and for further background go to their webpage - <https://www.banthebomb.org/index.php/news/2148-hiroshima-2021> There will also be a Scottish online event, with registration through this webpage link.

For further details on some of these events go to the Network for Peace website: <http://www.networkforpeace.org.uk/category/areas-work/hiroshima-nagasaki-days>

## 5. 100 days countdown to International Peace Day

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the President of Mayors for Peace issued a letter to all Mayors for Peace members encouraging them to consider organising events for the International Day of Peace, as it was at that time the 100 days countdown towards it. Hiroshima and Nagasaki will hold events on that day, and many other events are planned on September 21<sup>st</sup>, which was designated by the United Nations as a day to promote peace and peace education.

The Chapter Secretary is looking into the possibility of holding a UK & Ireland Chapter in September, but this issue is complicated as he is moving on to a new post later that month. Further details will follow if it is possible to organise it in time.

The Secretariat recommends members to engage with the 'Peace One Day' group, which was founded by filmmaker Jeremy Gilley to encourage the reduction of violence and the promotion of peace around the world. Supported by the United Nations and a wide range of patrons and organisations, this initiative has been in place for a number of years and has brought many welcome events.

In 2021, Peace One Day will be holding the third of four special events on International Peace Day with a global online transmission. This follows similar events on the 21<sup>st</sup> March to challenge racism, the 21<sup>st</sup> June to consider climate action initiatives and the 21<sup>st</sup> December, which will be a special event promoting the role of young people in transforming peace.

The International Peace Day event on the 21<sup>st</sup> September will be Peace One Day's flagship event and it will aim to raise continued global awareness of the UN International Day of Peace, as an annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence, fixed in the calendar. Peace One Day will seek to engage the global community in the Day's broad observance through a full day digital online event.

Further details can be found at:

<https://peaceoneday.org/Main/Events?p=PeaceDayLiveGlobalDigitalExperience21>

## 6. Mayors for Peace / ICAN / NFLA Joint Webinar, 21<sup>st</sup> October

The Mayors for Peace European Chapter is organising a new webinar with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and the UK & Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA). This will concentrate on the preparations for the first States Parties Conference of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This conference is taking place in Vienna, provisionally in mid-January 2022.

The webinar will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> October from 1pm – 2.30pm. It will be in three parts:

- Invites are taking place to ministers or senior government disarmament officials from three of the European states that have ratified the TPNW – the Irish Government, the Maltese Government and the Vatican City State. They will explain why they have ratified the treaty and their plans and hopes for the upcoming States Parties Conference.
- The Conference Chair, Alexander Kmentt, will provide a keynote speech on what he has been doing in preparation for the conference and the outline plans for what will take place in January.
- Leading European Mayors, a representative from the International Red Cross and of a hibakusha group will profile the resolutions and the activity that the civil society movement can provide in encouraging all states to engage with this important disarmament process.

A full programme will be issued shortly to all member authorities and you are encouraged to ask Mayors and councillors to attend it.

## 7. Plans for NPT and TPNW Conferences / ICAN Cities Appeal

Following on from the webinar noted above in section 6, discussions are still taking place between UN member states of the dates for the TPNW State Parties Conference as well as the much-delayed Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.

Provisionally, the TPNW Conference is taking place at the UN in Vienna on 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The conference is likely to include delegations from those states who have ratified it (to date that is 55 states) or signed it (a further 31 states) and efforts is taking place to allow their attendance at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic still makes travel difficult.

Civil society efforts are also taking place to encourage those states who have not started proceedings to sign or ratify it, or who have formally opposed the treaty, to at the very least observe the conference. In Europe, there has been confirmation that a number of such states are planning to observe it, and further effort on this matter is continuing. The Conference Chair, Alexander Kmentt, is contacting states over the agenda and detail for the meeting, and the important role civil society groups will also take within the three days.

It is now looking more likely that the NPT Review Conference, which should have originally taken place in April / May 2020, may take place at the UN in New York in January 2022. Again this date has not been completely finalised and is subject to the same challenges in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

There remain real challenges for this Review Conference, should it take place to be a success. Amongst the challenges to it include:

- Whilst the US and Russian Presidents have recently met, there remains real tension and a lack of trust between the two governments and a push on both sides for potential new nuclear weapons.
- There is growing tension as well between the US, UK, France and other countries with China in a number of areas, including defence and nuclear weapons policy.
- Whilst talks are continuing on Iran's nuclear programme, there is much to resolve after the belligerent tensions between the US and Iran in the previous Trump administration.
- North Korea is still looking to expand and modernise its nuclear weapons programme and does not appear to be interested in engaging with other states around disarmament issues.
- The TPNW process shows the depth of frustration from non-nuclear weapon states to the stalemate that has existed in the NPT policy process.

In terms of local government support for the TPNW as a way to create new momentum in the processes to encourage nuclear disarmament, a number of new and prominent cities have passed resolutions supporting this treaty and calling on their governments to engage with them.

In the UK in recent months, the list of TPNW supporting councils has increased to 22. Most notable is Scotland's largest council, Glasgow City Council, passing a cross-party supported resolution in May. Gwynedd County Council became the first Welsh county council to pass a TPNW resolution, following on from Bangor City Council and Nefyn Town Council. Shipley Town Council and Todmorden Town Council followed in the footsteps of Leeds in being West Yorkshire councils to pass resolutions. A number of other councils have the resolution on their agendas. Irish councils do not need to pass resolutions given that the Irish Government has ratified the TPNW.

Internationally, Helsinki City Council became the first Finnish city to pass a resolution of support for the TPNW. A significant milestone was passed in France, where 50 French municipalities have now passed resolutions of support under the ICAN Cities Appeal. Civil society and youth lobbying have seen a number of Canadian cities also pass resolutions recently, including Winnipeg City Council. There have also been new resolutions passed by towns and cities in the likes of Norway, Belgium and the Netherlands.

For a full list of supporting municipalities go to: [https://cities.icanw.org/list\\_of\\_cities](https://cities.icanw.org/list_of_cities)

## 8. Conclusions and recommendations

This report has focused on positive international moves forward with the Mayors for Peace at the European and global level. The first board meeting of the European Chapter, now with a full terms of reference, operational plan, website and social media, as well as upcoming events and support for the passing of TPNW resolutions, is very much to be welcomed.

The new 'PX Vision' for the Mayors for Peace at the global level is also to be welcomed as focusing its work on lobbying for nuclear disarmament, working for more peaceful cities and seeing the importance of peace education in informing and educating new generations to seek a different way than military conflict or localised violence.

I have been honoured to help develop some of these initiatives as Manchester's nominated officer on Mayors for Peace over the past 13 years, following on from a further 10 years of involvement on such matters with Leeds City Council. In late September I will be moving to a new post with the Manchester Climate Change Agency, but will work closely with my successor, who should be appointed shortly, to take on this important and positive work. I have many excellent memories and welcome the huge progress the Mayors for Peace has made in the past decade to develop and deepen its work. There remains much to be done, but a good base for it is in place in the Mayors for Peace and in its interaction with other civil society groups, and with national governments and the United Nations.

Member authorities are recommended to be involved in the following actions:

- To organise and / or support local live or online events for the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks and to commemorate all civilians killed in war or urban violence to the present day. These events should be held between August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- To consider online or live events to support International Peace Day on September 21<sup>st</sup>, or to support the work of the Peace One Day group noted above.
- To continue to seek to pass resolutions of support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- To attend the Mayors for Peace / ICAN / NFLA webinar on preparing for the TPNW States Parties Conference being held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October.
- To look at ways to promote peaceful cities and peace education at the local level. Briefing Number 33 gave an extensive overview of peace education charities and trusts working within the UK and Ireland –  
[https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/M4P\\_Briefing\\_No\\_33\\_Chapter\\_meeting\\_and\\_progress\\_report.pdf](https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/M4P_Briefing_No_33_Chapter_meeting_and_progress_report.pdf)

Sean Morris

Principal Policy Officer, Manchester City Council

UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter Secretary

**Media Statement welcoming the first board meeting of the Mayors for Peace European Chapter**

**The European Chapter holds its first Board Meeting agreeing a regional work plan for nuclear disarmament**

Hannover (Germany), Malakoff (France), Manchester (UK), Ypres (Belgium), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Granollers (Spain), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Grigny (France) and Cervia (Italy) are the Executive Cities which form the European Chapter.

The first Board Meeting of the European Chapter took place virtually on 10 June 2021 and served to officially launch the Chapter as well as its regional work plan for the coming years. It was attended by a large number of Mayors and cities officials, representatives of local governments. The Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace approved a proposal by the European Executive Cities to develop the Chapter in November 2019.

The Chair of the Chapter, Mayor Mayoral of Granollers, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants to this first full board meeting and thanking all European Lead Cities for fully taking part in this process. The Secretary General of Mayor for Peace, Mr. Koizumi, congratulated European members on getting to this point and hoped the new European Chapter could be an engine of activity for increasing Mayors for Peace membership. The first part of the meeting also served to introduce Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi, the new European-based Executive Advisor of Mayors for Peace. Mr. Hajnoczi had previously worked for many years in the Austrian Government's Disarmament Affairs Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

City officials introduced a short activity report with the activities that have been carried out so far to promote the Chapter: legal statutes to outline a terms of reference for the Chapter, an operational plan, a communications plan and a protocol for the issuing of public statements. These are all tabled in this board meeting for approval.

The activity report also outlined some early activities to promote the Chapter including among others: an audience between members of the Chapter and Pope Francis in October 2020, a joint webinar with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and the UK & Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) in December 2020 and video statements from the Mayors of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Granollers, Barcelona and Manchester were issued with a joint media release with ICAN supporting the entry into force of the TPNW in January 2021.

The European Chapter will hold a new webinar on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 'Building a nuclear weapons free world: the TPNW and the important role of cities'. This webinar will encourage a wider campaign to encourage states who have not supported the TPNW to come to the first States Parties Conference of the TPNW as observers.

Mayors and officials finally discussed the future steps beyond 2022 for the development of the Chapter, considering how to recruit new board members and a larger general membership in Europe and how to develop and enhance existing and new coalitions of support.

The Executive Cities will meet again on the 7 July at the global Mayors for Peace Executive Conference.

To find out more information about the European Chapter and its activities please visit: [www.mayorsforpeace.eu](http://www.mayorsforpeace.eu) or its social media accounts on Twitter – [www.twitter.com/MfPEuropean](https://www.twitter.com/MfPEuropean) and Facebook - [www.facebook.com/MfPEuropean](https://www.facebook.com/MfPEuropean).

### **A Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World**

In order to achieve a world in which all people can perpetually benefit from peace by realizing the total elimination of nuclear weapons and by attaining and maintaining peaceful coexistence between the whole of humanity, subsequent to the 2020 Vision, we, Mayors for Peace, have created our new Vision, titled Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision): Peacebuilding by Cities for Disarmament and Common Security. Based on this, we will build cities where citizens act with a strong sense of solidarity for the ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace.

As the Vision of a global network made up of heads of local governments, whose role is to ensure citizens' safety and security, it centres on the objective "realize a world without nuclear weapons" in the quest for the eradication of the greatest threat to our peaceful lives.

Another objective, "realize safe and resilient cities," has been set forth as a target indispensable to ensuring citizens' safety and security by tackling the issues distinctive to each member's region that are threatening the coexistence of the human race.

While accomplishing these two objectives, we must also bring about a fundamentally important paradigm shift involving two things. Firstly, we will seek to change the "nation-minded" approach currently prevalent among global leaders, which prioritizes each country's own interests, to a "civic-minded" approach, which values mutual aid and the recognition of shared interest. Secondly and more importantly, we will seek to build a consensus in civil society in favour of the realization of a peaceful, nuclear weapon-free world.

Through the shift represented by these two things, we will urge policymakers to demonstrate decisive leadership to effect peace-oriented policy change. For this reason, we have set forth a third objective, "promote a culture of peace," to establish a concrete base for the other two objectives. This entails cultivating peace consciousness and causing a culture of peace—a culture in which the everyday actions of each member of the public are grounded in thinking about peace—to take root in civil society.

As a network composed of mayors of local governments, the most immediate presence to citizens, Mayors for Peace has concluded that promoting a culture of peace is the most significant role to fulfil both locally and internationally.

These three objectives to achieve a nuclear weapon-free world, safe and resilient cities, and a culture of peace are mutually reinforcing goals. Together, they aim to cultivate a shared sense of belonging to a single human family, regardless of our cultural, religious, or ethnic differences.

Furthermore, sustainable development of Mayors for Peace as an organization will be key to consistent implementation of various initiatives under this Vision. To that end, in conjunction with further expansion of our membership, we will enhance our members' initiatives, work in collaboration with a diverse range of groups, strengthen the functions of the Secretariat, and improve our financial capability.

Based on the following Vision and the 2021 – 2025 Action Plan, and in solidarity with 8,037 member cities in 165 countries and regions, we hereby express our determination to continue our utmost efforts toward our goal of realizing lasting world peace.

July 2021, Mayors for Peace

## **I Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision): Peacebuilding by Cities for Disarmament and Common Security**

### **Objective A: Realize a world without nuclear weapons**

With cities and the citizens who live in them being their targets, and catastrophic consequences on a global scale to be inflicted by their use, nuclear weapons are the greatest threat to the safety and security of citizens' lives. We will urge global leaders to effect peace-oriented policy change by calling on the UN and national governments, especially the nuclear-armed states and their allies, to take concrete action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

### **Objective B: Realize safe and resilient cities**

In pursuit of ensuring citizens' safety and security, we will strive to address and solve a diverse range of issues distinctive to each member's region that are threatening the coexistence of the human race such as starvation, poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation.

### **Objective C: Promote a culture of peace**

We will seek both to create an environment that urges policymakers to demonstrate decisive leadership to effect peace-oriented policy changes that facilitate the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to establish a civil society in which citizens act with a strong sense of solidarity for the realization of peaceful coexistence between the whole of humanity. To that end, we will cultivate peace consciousness and cause a culture of peace—a culture in which the everyday actions of each member of the public are grounded in thinking about peace—to take root in civil society as the foundation of lasting world peace.

## **II Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2021 – 2025)**

For cities to ensure the safety and security of their citizens from the great threat of nuclear weapons and to attain and maintain peaceful coexistence between the whole of humanity, under three objectives set forth in the Vision, Mayors for Peace member cities will implement the following initiatives to promote peacebuilding by cities.

### **Objective A: Realize a world without nuclear weapons**

#### **1. *Sharing in the hibakusha's earnest wishes for a nuclear weapons free world***

##### **a) *Promote the universalization of the TPNW by involving the nuclear-armed states and their allies***

We fully embrace the letter and the spirit of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We will aim at winning additional states parties, so that the treaty can maximize its impact to lead to the total elimination of nuclear weapons for which the hibakusha, the atomic bomb survivors, have been calling for so long. To this end, we will seek the good-faith engagement of the nuclear-armed states and their allies with the TPNW and in other efforts to achieve an effective, verifiable, transparent, irreversible, and universal nuclear disarmament regime.

##### **i. *Issue open letters urging the ratification of the TPNW***

To promote the universalization of the TPNW, the Executive Cities will issue open letters addressed to national governments, especially to the nuclear-armed states and their allies, urging them to join the treaty.

##### **ii. *Conduct activities led by member cities in the nuclear-armed states and their allied states urging their respective national government to join the TPNW***

Member cities in the nuclear-armed states and their allied states will each urge their own national government to join the TPNW through activities such as issuing letters requesting the ratification of the treaty. In addition, they will each request their own national government as a first step to take part in the Meetings of States Parties as observers.

## **b) Appeal to the UN and national governments for the abolition of nuclear weapons**

Having the hibakusha's sincere desire for peace at our core, we will urge the UN and national governments to make substantial progress on nuclear disarmament toward their total abolition, and to establish a common security framework that is based on mutual cooperation. For this, we will continue making appeals on the importance of moving away from nuclear deterrence, full implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) disarmament obligation, and visiting the atomic bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

### **i. Call for progress on nuclear disarmament at international conferences**

The Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will attend international conferences addressing nuclear disarmament such as the NPT Review Conferences and Meetings of States Parties to the TPNW, in which they will call the government delegations and UN representatives to make substantial progress on nuclear disarmament by delivering speeches from the floor and through meetings with the attendees, including through support for the negotiation of a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

### **ii. Issue open letters aimed at the abolition of nuclear weapons**

At important moments in nuclear disarmament, the Executive Cities will issue open letters addressed to the UN and national governments, urging them to make substantial progress on nuclear disarmament.

### **iii. Conduct member city-led activities calling on their respective national governments to contribute to the abolition of nuclear weapons**

Member cities will each call on their own national government to commit and contribute to the abolition of nuclear weapons by activities such as submitting letters of request.

## **3) Support public calls by a wide range of citizens urging policymakers to effect policy change**

### **i. Conduct petition drives calling for all states to join the TPNW at the earliest date.**

Member cities will spread the message that nuclear weapons are an absolute evil that must not exist to members of the public throughout the world, thus building a consensus in civil society in favour of their abolition, and urge policymakers to demonstrate decisive leadership to effect peace-oriented policy change. For this purpose, member cities, in collaboration with their citizens, will conduct petition drives calling for all states to join the TPNW at the earliest date.

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretariat") will gather collected signatures and submit them to UN officials on occasions such as Mayors for Peace delegations attending international conferences addressing nuclear disarmament.

## **Objective B: Realize safe and resilient cities**

### **2. Contribute to a sustainable Earth and society: Promoting the SDGs**

1) Promote regional initiatives addressing local issues and challenges such as terrorism, the plight of refugees, environmental degradation, acceptance of diversity, and promotion of inclusion.

#### **i. Build cities that "leave no one behind"**

Under the principle of "leaving no one behind," member cities will commit themselves to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially those pertaining to peace, cities, and education. While sharing useful information with other members through the Secretariat, member cities will strive to address and solve a diverse range of issues and challenges distinctive to each member's region such as terrorism, the plight of refugees, environmental degradation, acceptance of diversity, promotion of inclusion, poverty, starvation, and violence.

#### **ii. Hold regional conferences aimed at solving local issues**

Aimed at solving a diverse range of issues distinctive to each member's region and further enhancing regional activities with the participation of citizens, the Lead Cities, leading the regional chapters, will hold regional conferences. At regional conferences, they will share useful information such as activities by the member cities in the region.

## **Objective C: Promote a culture of peace**

### **3. Foster and expand international public support**

#### **1) Cultivate peace consciousness in civil society**

##### **i. Promote the importance of peace through art and sporting events**

Member cities will encourage more citizens to think about the importance of peace through music, fine art, and other forms of art expressing desire for peace, as well as through sports and other activities that emotionally connect people across language barriers; for example, celebrating one particular month of the year as the “Month for a Culture of Peace” holding a variety of cultural events aimed at raising peace awareness.

##### **ii. Collaborate with citizens engaged in activities to promote a culture of peace**

Member cities will work in close collaboration with citizens engaged in activities promoting a culture of peace, aiming to cultivate a culture of peace in civil society and stimulate members of the public to think about the importance of peace.

##### **iii. Promote outreach concerning the current international situation surrounding nuclear weapons**

To have as many citizens as possible deepen their understanding of the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and the grave risks and devastating consequences they pose, member cities will engage in outreach on relevant occasions such as the UN’s International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and International Day of Peace.

In addition, in close collaboration with international peace research institutes such as the Hiroshima Peace Institute of Hiroshima City University and Research Centre for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University, the Secretariat will share useful resources and post timely information on nuclear weapons on the Mayors for Peace website and in the monthly News Flash newsletter.

##### **iv. Publicize research on the methodology of peacebuilding**

In close collaboration with international peace research institutes such as the Hiroshima Peace Institute of Hiroshima City University and Research Centre for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University, the Secretariat will publicize their research on the Mayors for Peace website and in the monthly News Flash newsletter, making them widely available and accessible for members of the public.

##### **v. Organize events to build momentum for achieving the SDGs**

To have more citizens deepen their understanding of the SDGs and to have them participate in creating an inclusive society that “leaves no one behind” in their cities, member cities will organize outreach events on relevant occasions such as the UN’s Global Goals Week.

#### **2) Widely convey the realities of the atomic bombings and war**

##### **i. Hold Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibitions**

To have more people deepen the understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and share in the wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons, with support from the Secretariat, member cities will hold the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition.

##### **ii. Pass down atomic bomb experiences through testimonies**

To pass down the hibakusha’s experiences of the atomic bombings to as many people as possible, have them share in the hibakusha’s sincere desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons and to encourage them to take action for peace, with support from the Secretariat, member cities will provide opportunities for their citizens to hear their testimony while using online video conference platform or on video.

##### **iii. Distribute and nurture seeds and seedlings from atomic bomb survivor trees**

The Secretariat will distribute seeds and seedlings from atomic bomb survivor trees, which still stand in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as silent witnesses, to member cities. Aiming to raise public peace

consciousness through citizens, member cities will plant them at places where many citizens visit, and nurture them by hands of citizens as symbols of peace.

**iv. Hold outreach events conveying the devastation caused by war**

To have more people deepen their understanding of the realities of the devastation caused by wars, and to share in the importance of peace, member cities will hold outreach events such as poster exhibitions.

**v. Pass down war experiences through testimonies**

To have more people deepen the understanding of the realities of the devastation caused by wars, share in the importance of peace, and take action for peace, member cities will provide opportunities for their citizens to hear testimonies by those who have experienced war, while using online video conference platforms or on video.

**3) Develop youth leadership for future peace activities**

**i. Further promote peace education through initiatives such as the annual Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns"**

To provide opportunities for young people to think about the importance of peace and to foster their peace-seeking spirit, member cities will accept the submissions of artworks from the children in their cities to the annual Children's Art Competition "Peaceful Towns", organized by the Secretariat. In addition, member cities will further promote peace education on the subjects of the abolition of nuclear weapons, SDGs, and a culture of peace.

**ii. Promote peace and disarmament education**

Member cities will promote the importance of disarmament as a means to achieve peace among young people, and stimulate them to engage in activities to raise public awareness for disarmament in their cities. For these purposes, with support from the Secretariat, member cities will provide their young officials and local university and graduate students opportunities to attend seminars and online courses on peace and disarmament education, utilizing the teaching resources and model curriculum created by the Research Centre for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University.

**iii. Further enrich programs to host youth in the atomic bombed cities such as the Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program**

The Secretariat will further enrich programs that host youth from member cities in the atomic bombed cities, such as the Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program, to have them deepen their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings. They will thus be stimulated to engage in peace activities in their own cities aimed at the abolition of nuclear weapons. After going back to their respective cities, each of the participants and the member city they represent will together conduct peace activities.

**iv. Send Mayors for Peace youth delegation to international conferences addressing nuclear disarmament**

To have young people understand the current international situation surrounding nuclear weapons through real-life experiences, and to provide them opportunities to convey the messages for the abolition of nuclear weapons from the atomic bombed cities, the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will send young people engaged in various peace activities as Mayors for Peace youth delegations to international conferences addressing nuclear disarmament such as the NPT Review Conferences.

In addition, on such occasions, the Secretariat will host Mayors for Peace Youth Fora inviting young people engaged in peace activities in many different countries to provide them with opportunities to take part in discussions and presentations on their activities.

**v. Support more universities to establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses**

Member cities, with support from the Secretariat, will encourage a greater number of local universities to establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses, which are accredited by the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and which academically approach the realities of the atomic bombings and the importance of peace.

#### **4. Promote sustainable development of Mayors for Peace as an organization**

##### **1) Further expand membership**

###### **i. Strengthen regional recruiting activities by referring to model cases**

To achieve 10,000 member cities and create real momentum for peace, the Lead Cities will further strengthen their recruiting activities to gain new members, especially in the nuclear-armed states. In doing so, they will refer to the model cases presented by the other regional chapters, and also to how the Secretariat works in close partnership with embassies.

##### **2) Enhance member city activities**

###### **i. Collect and share good examples of activities by member cities**

To encourage member cities to take the lead in enhancing initiatives that they develop independently, the Secretariat and the Lead Cities will collect good examples of such initiatives and post them on the Mayors for Peace website and monthly News Flash newsletter.

###### **ii. Stimulate regional activities led by the Lead Cities**

To stimulate activities at each region, the Lead Cities will take the lead in conducting activities in close collaboration with the member cities in their regions, referring to good examples presented by the other regional chapters.

##### **3) Work in collaboration with a diverse range of groups**

###### **i. Work in collaboration with associations of local authorities such as the USCM, NFLA, and UCLG**

To create momentum for peace and expand our network both on the level of cities and of citizens, the Secretariat and the Lead Cities will work in close collaboration with associations of local authorities around the world that the Lead Cities work in partnership with—including the US Conference of Mayors (USCM), Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), United Cities for Local Governments (UCLG), and Metropolis—to gain their support for Mayors for Peace activities.

###### **ii. Work in collaboration with international organizations such as the UN, the ICRC, and ICAN**

To effectively foster and expand international public support for the realization of lasting world peace, the Secretariat and the Lead Cities will work in close partnership with international organizations such as the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Peace Boat, Abolition 2000, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.

###### **iii. Strengthen collaboration with international peace research institutes such as the Hiroshima Peace Institute of Hiroshima City University and Research Centre for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University**

The Secretariat will strengthen collaboration with international peace research institutes such as the Hiroshima Peace Institute of Hiroshima City University and Research Centre for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University to utilize their research and bring their expertise in the field to Mayors for Peace initiatives.

###### **iv. Promote collaboration with memorial museums of the world that convey the realities of the atomic bombings and war**

In addition to further strengthening the collaboration with Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, the Secretariat will expand its network of memorial museums of the world that convey the devastation caused by war. Working in collaboration with them, the Secretariat will provide opportunities for the citizens of member cities to hear testimonies of hibakusha and other people who have experienced war, and conduct outreach regarding Mayors for Peace initiatives.

##### **4) Strengthen the functions of the Secretariat**

###### **i. Enhance initiatives led by the regional chapters and strengthen their collaboration with the Secretariat**

The Secretariat will collect good examples of initiatives independently implemented by regional chapters from around the globe that are distinctive to their respective regions, and share them on

the Mayors for Peace website and in the monthly News Flash newsletter, aiming to enhance initiatives led by the regional chapters and strengthening their collaboration with the Secretariat.

**ii. Strengthen collaboration with member cities through the internships**

The Secretariat will host young officials from member cities in Hiroshima as interns at the Secretariat. This aims not only to strengthen collaboration between the Secretariat and member cities, but also to have participants promote Mayors for Peace initiatives in the local government they work for. In turn, the member cities that sent them will collaborate with them on peace initiatives.

**iii. Share information in a timely and effective manner through social media**

To effectively foster and expand international public support for the realization of lasting world peace, in addition to using the Mayors for Peace website, the Secretariat and the Lead Cities will share information on Mayors for Peace activities in real time through social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

**iv. Practice public relations aimed at gaining a greater number of supporters**

The Secretariat and the Lead Cities will conduct public relations activities through a wide range of means to gain publicity for Mayors for Peace and to gain a greater number of supporters for our activities.

**5) Improve financial capability**

**i. Improve the collection rate of the membership fee**

As the number of member cities increases, in addition to building a strong sense of solidarity between members, having the financial capability to be able to consistently implement various initiatives is essential. For this purpose, the Secretariat and the Lead Cities will work to improve the collection rate of the membership fee, making member cities more aware of how the membership fee supports our activities and making the payment process clearer.

**ii. Explore ways to raise funds from a larger number of supporters**

To further improve our financial capability, the Secretariat and the Lead Cities will explore ways of raising donations and funding for our activities from a greater number of supporters.