



Briefing paper

Date: 16th May 2019

No.22

Subject: NPT Preparatory Conference, international town / city friendships, ICAN Cities Appeal and divesting from nuclear weapons

1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and provides members with an overview of recent local, national and international activity with Mayors for Peace.

The areas of activity considered include:

- The Mayors for Peace activity in the recent Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Conference held at the United Nations in New York
- The outcome of the House of Lords inquiry into UK nuclear weapons policy and international nuclear weapon treaties.
- An update on the ICAN Cities Appeal.
- An overview of the Basel Conference on divesting from nuclear weapons and fossil fuels, and the development of a model divestment resolution for Chapter members.
- An update of discussions within the European Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace and progress with developing a European structure.
- The Bike for Peace Global Tour launch in Westminster.
- The importance of developing twinning and international friendship links between towns and cities.
- The next meeting of the UK and Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace to coincide with International Peace Day and a national tour of the Kazakh artist Karipbek Kuyukov.
- The Mayors for Peace Executive Conference planned for Hanover, Germany on the 11th and 12th November 2019
- A Mayors for Peace exhibition – '50 Cities, 50 Traces' being planned for Manchester and Bristol in late 2019 / early 2020

2. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference, late April / early May 2019

The final Preparatory Conference of the 2015 – 2020 cycle reviewing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was held at the United Nations in New York in late April and early May.

An international Mayors for Peace delegation at the conference was led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as other Executive Board Mayors or their representatives from Des Moines (United States), Biograd na Moru (Croatia) and Fremantle (Australia).

The context to the Preparatory Conference had been gloomy. The United States and the Russian Governments had stated their plans to suspend the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty amongst much recrimination of whose fault it was. The talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons programme with the United States had broken down. During the NPT conference, the Government of Iran noted that they were partially pulling out of parts of the agreement over their

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: s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk Website: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

own nuclear programme. And there were growing tensions between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states as more states signed and ratified the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

There was considerable division and divergence of views at the conference, which was difficult for the Malaysian Chairman to deal with and then represent. In its analysis of the conference, Ray Acheson of the 'Reaching Critical Will' coalition noted:

"Standing up to bullies is always hard. It takes courage and resilience. This week, Ambassador Syed Hussin of Malaysia and his team demonstrated this in spades. They listened to vehement criticisms from nuclear armed states for the revised draft recommendations. The United States and France in particular accused the Chair of moving away from consensus and including elements in the recommendations that 'undermine the NPT'. But rather than caving to pressure, the Chair simply turned the recommendations into a working paper. This will be forwarded to the 2020 Review Conference and can provide a basis of work there if states want."

Acheson goes on to note:

"For most delegations, the revised draft is the most balanced NPT document they have seen since 2010. It actually reflects the views of the entire membership of the NPT rather than just the nuclear-armed and nuclear-endorsing states parties. Standing by these recommendations rather than watering them down to appease the vocal minority was a revolutionary act, one that should give heart to the international community at a time when belligerence and bullying are the tune of the day."

Many states that support the nuclear weapon states argued that the revised recommendations provided by the Chairman were "drifting away" from consensus. This is despite admitting that the final text had though improved core priority issues around risk reduction, transparency and reporting, gender issues and verification.

Acheson concluded:

"Both Australia and Canada argued that the discussions during this PrepCom have demonstrated where negotiations are possible, which is useful for the 2020 Review Conference.

This was the theme of the Chair's reflections on the PrepCom, which he published on Friday morning. He argued that there is more convergence than divergence in states parties' views, including their conviction of the NPT's importance and relevance. He urged states to move away from entrenched positions and to keep an open mind in order to avoid deadlock. This is a key message. But the persistent challenge, which has only grown throughout the past two review cycles, is the refusal of states that believe in their right to possess nuclear weapons or include them in their security doctrines to be willing to change this position. This position is anathema to the NPT itself, especially to its objectives and obligations of averting the danger of nuclear war, ending the nuclear arms race, and achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It is the primary reason why the NPT has not yet been fully implemented, nearly fifty years after its entry into force. And it will be the critical sticking point once again in 2020 unless the nuclear armed and nuclear-enabling states begin to comply with international law, which stands firmly against nuclear weapons.

The rest of the world has a stake in this—but also a say. Just as the majority of governments, working with activists and the Red Cross, demonstrated by banning nuclear weapons, we are not beholden to power. "I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change," said Angela Davis. "I am changing the things I cannot accept." This is the spirit in which non-nuclear-armed states parties need to approach the 2020 Review Conference: a spirit that builds on the courage of the Malaysians to issue a balanced document at this PrepCom, a spirit that honours the work that so many have done over so many years to protect future generations from the scourge of nuclear war. Regardless of what we think is possible next year, we have the duty, and the right, to try to achieve that to which we have all agreed: total nuclear disarmament."

(See: <http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/npt/NIR2019/NIR16.7.pdf>)

The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki commented on the rancour of the conference and the lack of consensus, which they remain highly concerned about in terms of the formal Review Conference in 2020. With the Mayor of Des Moines they presented to the Chairman of the Conference a statement that all states should focus next year on the areas of agreement in order to provide some definitive progress. Their statement – the ‘Mayors for Peace Joint Appeal for Common Ground on the NPT’ – is attached as Appendix 1. It has the full support of the Executive Board of Mayors for Peace, which includes UK and Ireland Chapter Lead City Manchester.

The Joint Appeal emphasises the difficulty to find common ground between nuclear weapon states and their supporters on one hand, and non-nuclear weapon states who have supported the TPNW process on the other. The wider tensions around unilateral activity by some nuclear weapon states does not bode well for the 2020 Review Conference, but it is incumbent on civil society groups like Mayors for Peace to do its level best to encourage full and fair dialogue and put forward the majority view for multilateral nuclear disarmament. This matter will be discussed in detailed later this year by the Mayors for Peace Executive Board at its Executive Conference in Hanover.

3. Outcome of the House of Lords inquiry into nuclear weapons and international treaties / breakdown of multilateral nuclear disarmament treaties

In late November 2018, the House of Lords International Relations Select Committee launched an inquiry into the effectiveness of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at a time of growing international tension. The Committee was particularly concerned about tensions rising between nuclear-armed states and the potential fragmenting of existing non-proliferation and arms control agreements.

The inquiry also considered the creation of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the growing frustration from over two thirds of UN members with the lack of sufficient progress in nuclear weapons disarmament. The inquiry also sought to consider the state of global nuclear diplomacy and the role of the UK within it.

The summary of the Committee’s report is attached at Appendix 2. It argued that: “The risk of the use of nuclear weapons has increased, in the context of rising inter-state competition, a more multipolar world, and the development of new capabilities and technologies. There are serious tensions between some of the nine nuclear possessor states - the five states the legitimacy of whose possession of nuclear weapons was recognised by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom and the United States), the three states which never signed the NPT (India, Israel and Pakistan) and North Korea, which signed the NPT but nevertheless developed such weapons. Irresponsible rhetoric, combined with a lack of communication between nuclear possessor states, creates serious risks of nuclear use due to misinterpretation and miscalculation. The benign circumstances which subsisted for nearly 25 years after the end of the Cold War, during which the risk of the use of nuclear weapons ceased to be a priority challenge to the international community, have ended.”

One of the most startling comments of the report was:

“We are dangerously close to a world without arms control agreements, which would increase the risk of nuclear use.”

The Committee see the NPT as the cornerstone of progress with nuclear disarmament, but see movements to that end as stalling. They call on the UK Government to play its part in reducing tensions between nuclear weapons states and also with non-nuclear weapon states. They also call for it to play a bolder role in ‘strengthening the rules-based international order’.

The Committee considered the development of the TPNW process and noted that the UK Government had not taken part in it. In their view they see the TPNW process as a potentially dangerous distraction that could provide unhelpful competition to the NPT.

The Committee's conclusions in this area included:

- The Ban Treaty has little chance of achieving its goals in the short to medium term, not least because none of the nuclear possessor states are signatories. While we welcome evidence from its proponents that it will not undermine the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, we believe the Ban Treaty risks exacerbating existing polarisation between Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Weapon States while delivering no immediate disarmament benefits. We understand and accept that the Government will remain opposed to the Ban Treaty.
- We also believe however that the increasing signs of division between Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Weapon States are matters of concern, and that the dissatisfaction of the Ban Treaty's proponents with the status quo on disarmament should be taken seriously. We therefore recommend that the Government should adopt a less aggressive tone about this treaty and seek opportunities to work with its supporters towards the aims of Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which concerns disarmament.
- More openness from the UK, as a responsible nuclear state, on the possible humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and a willingness to engage on developing strategies to manage the consequences of nuclear weapons use, would be welcome.

The Committee's first conclusion here is quite disappointing but not entirely unexpected, given previous votes in Parliament supporting the retention and modernisation of nuclear weapons. It is welcome that the Committee have called on the UK Government to engage more readily with other states and civil society groups critical of the current status quo on disarmament. The Chapter will discuss this matter with the Mayors for Peace Secretariat and civil society groups such as ICAN to consider how to move forward in these areas for the 2020 Review Conference.

4. ICAN Cities Appeal – more cities pass resolutions to support the TPNW

The ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Cities Appeal was launched in mid-November 2018 at the UCLG Congress in Madrid. Its aim is to allow local government – town, city and county councils – to pledge their support to the campaign to encourage states to pass the UN International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This is particularly targeted at countries who do not support the TPNW, like the UK, US, Germany, Japan and Australia. The Cities Appeal is supported by Mayors for Peace as part of its own strategy to encourage states to pass the TPNW as well as supporting the NPT. By passing resolutions, Councils are also showing their own support to Mayors for Peace.

To date, there are now 42 towns and cities around the world that have passed resolutions pledging support for the TPNW and calling on a reconsideration of policies to support the modernisation of nuclear weapon programmes. These include capital cities like Washington DC, Berlin, Berne, Canberra and Oslo as well as leading cities like Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Zaragoza, Sydney, Melbourne, Toronto and Los Angeles.

In the UK, Manchester, Renfrewshire and Hebden Royd Councils have passed resolutions supporting the Cities Appeal and the TPNW. It is expected that more UK Chapter members will pass resolutions in the next couple of months.

Chapter members are encouraged to seek to pass resolutions to show their support for Mayors for Peace and to moving forward with multilateral nuclear disarmament. A model resolution is attached as Appendix 3.

5. Basel Conference on divestment and model resolution

Councillor Audrey Doig, representing the Provost of Renfrewshire Council, who is also the Vice Convener of the NFLA Scotland Forum, accepted an invitation from the City Government of the Swiss city of Basel to a conference considering the issue of divestment

from Council pension fund investments in companies supporting nuclear weapons and fossil fuel developments. The conference was co-organised with the Basel Peace Office and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND).

The conference was attended by Parliamentarians, Mayors, senior councillors, fund managers, disarmament NGOs and academic experts on pension fund finances from across Europe. Cllr Doig's presentation was developed by the Chapter Secretary in discussion with the 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' Scotland network, who have developed detailed reports considering the large levels of financial investment provided by banks to companies involved in the development of nuclear weapons.

Using detailed research from the network - that Scottish local authorities hold approximately £294 million in shares in 14 companies that undertake nuclear related work (see <https://nukedivestmentscotland.org/local-government-pension-scheme/>) - Cllr Doig noted that there was a need for Councils who support the aims and objectives of Mayors for Peace to call for divestment from such companies, taking due account of the fiduciary duty. A number of UK Councils were already seeking to develop such policies around divesting from companies involved in fossil fuel production, where the divestment movement was providing challenge on the contradiction with Councils passing 'climate emergency' resolutions.

Some of the core outcomes of the conference were:

- Under the TPNW there is a legal duty for signatory states to divest from nuclear weapon investments.
- Councils could link a call for developing policies for the 'climate emergency' with the need to deal with a similar 'nuclear emergency'.
- Direct Council pension fund investment into companies focused on high impact climate reduction instead.
- There is an economic value to peace and divestment lays at the heart of this endeavour.
- Those involved in investment need to personally experience the benefits of divestment in order to undertake such policies.
- There is a real need to build a 'peace-industrial complex'.
- Local divestment policy can, and does, encourage national divestment policy.
- It is a great 'win-win' to move money from nuclear weapons and fossil fuels towards green energy and social empowerment.

Following the conference, Cllr Doig tabled a resolution that was passed by Renfrewshire Council. This calls on the Strathclyde Joint Councils Pension Fund to consider divestment from companies involved in nuclear weapon production. A copy of the resolution is attached as Appendix 4. Chapter members are encouraged to consider passing a similar resolution.

6. Progress with a European Mayors for Peace Chapter

The European Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace, which includes Manchester City Council, have been discussing for some time increasing cooperation and looking for an effective structure, which may become an over-arching European Chapter for the organisation.

This matter has recently included considering a terms of reference and legal statutes that can structure such a Chapter organisation. It is hoped to put some proposals on this matter to the November Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace for approval.

As part of this process active discussion is also taking place to increase the number of lead cities and national Chapters of Mayors for Peace. A core part of European developments will be to support the Mayors for Peace's core aim of promoting activity to develop a world free of nuclear weapons, but also to promote its second aim of supporting the development of safer, resilient and more peaceful towns and cities.

The Chapter Secretary will keep members apprised of these developments as they are agreed upon.

7. Bike for Peace Global Tour 2019

Between late February and mid-April the Norwegian group Bike for Peace organised their latest global bike tour for peace. This began with a special launch event at Westminster on the 27th February.

Bike for Peace was established in 1978 by Tore Naerland and organises bike rides to promote peace, tolerance and the low carbon benefits of cycling, as well as working in cooperation with Mayors for Peace. The latest bike ride included a route taking in the UK, France, India, China, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and the United States, with a special meeting at the United Nations in New York. A core group of 12 cyclists was joined by local cyclists and campaigners with special events taking place on each part of the journey.

The Westminster launch include an explanation of the tour from Tore Naerland and it was chaired by the Chapter Secretary. Speaking at the event were Fabian Hamilton MP, CND General Secretary Kate Hudson and CND Vice Chair Bruce Kent. The event was also supported by Caroline Lucas MP and Douglas Chapman MP. The event took place during one of the major days of 'Brexit' votes in Parliament, but it still provided the opportunity for an inspiring opening to an important endeavour.

Photos from the Westminster launch are included in Appendix 5.

8. The importance of twinning and international friendship links

In 2018, Manchester signed a formal friendship agreement with the Japanese city of Kagoshima. The link between the two cities goes back to the 1860s, when a delegation from Kagoshima visited Manchester to understand its industrial revolution. The first major industrial style factory in Japan was built in Kagoshima with machinery and expertise from the Manchester area - the factory is now the Kagoshima Industrial Museum.

The Governor of Kagoshima Prefecture visited Manchester in 2018 and signed a friendship agreement with the Lord Mayor of Manchester. A similar agreement by Kagoshima was also signed with the Mayor of Camden over educational links between the two cities.

A visit to Kagoshima from the Lord Mayor, supported by the Chapter Secretary, took place in late April 2019. This included a visit to the Industrial Museum, local schools and local political leaders. It also included a visit to the Japanese Space Centre which is located on a small island within Kagoshima Prefecture. Manchester is delighted to develop this link, which is amongst one of the most effective ways all Mayors for Peace members can work closely with each other. Kagoshima is in the Mayors for Peace organisation, and the visit allowed for discussion on the work Manchester does within Mayors for Peace.

A Kagoshima schools delegation will visit Manchester in late July, and as part of that visit the schoolchildren will walk the Manchester City Centre Children's Peace Trail.

All Councils have close twinning and friendship links with other towns and cities, and Chapter members are encouraged to contact each other to join the Mayors for Peace. Photos from the Kagoshima visit are included within Appendix 5.

9. Next meeting of the UK and Ireland Chapter, Manchester, 13th September 2019

The UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter will take place on Friday 13th September in Manchester Central Library.

This meeting will be a local celebration of the upcoming 2019 International Peace Day and will welcome the celebrated Kazakh artist and nuclear disarmament campaigner Karipbek Kuyukov in an event held in cooperation with the Kazakh Embassy.

Karipbek Kuyukov was born without arms as a result of exposure to radiation from the nuclear weapon tests of the former Soviet Union at Semipalatinsk. He has devoted his life

and art to making sure that no one – and nowhere – else suffers the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing.

Karipbek was born in a small village which was just a few miles away from where the Soviet Union conducted more than 450 nuclear weapons tests. Those tests exposed his parents to radiation and resulted in Karipbek being born without arms. Karipbek has overcome many obstacles to become an anti-nuclear weapons activist and renowned artist, whose works have been shown around the world. Today, Karipbek often paints portraits of the victims of nuclear testing and, as an honorary Ambassador to The ATOM Project, speaks out against nuclear weapons at conferences and events held in such places as the United Nations and the United States Congress. (see - <https://www.theatomproject.org/en/about/nuclear-weapons-testing-effects/>)

The Kazakh Embassy is bringing Karipbek to the UK for a short national tour in mid-September which will include events at the Westminster UK Parliament and at the Scottish Parliament, as well as exhibition of his artworks. The Chapter Secretariat is delighted that Karipbek can be the lead speaker at its September meeting.

Also speaking at the meeting will be Vijay Mehta of the group 'Uniting for Peace'. Vijay Mehta is an author and long-term peace activist. He is Chair of Uniting for Peace and a founding Trustee of the 'Fortune Forum' Charitable Trust. His books include 'United Nations and its Future in the 21st Century' (2005), 'Arms No More' (2005), 'The Fortune Forum Code: For a Sustainable Future' (2006), 'The Economics of Killing' (2012) and 'Peace Beyond Borders' (2016).

Vijay Mehta's latest book is 'How Not to Go to War – Establishing Departments for Peace and Peace Centres Worldwide'. The book argues that the institutions of war need to be matched by institutions of peace. For every department of war, Vijay Mehta suggests there needs to be a department of peace that allocates public resources to forestall violence and militarism, by measures of pre-emptive conflict resolution. The Chapter Secretariat is pleased that Vijay can speak at its September meeting.

A full programme will be sent out to Chapter members shortly. Chapter members are also encouraged to hold special events to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks on August 6th and August 9th.

10. Mayors for Peace Executive Conference, Hanover, 11th and 12th November 2019

Every two years, the Executive Board of Mayors for Peace comes together to review its Action Plan and consider its future development.

The next Executive Conference will be held in Hanover, Germany on the 11th and 12th November and representatives from Manchester City Council are expected to attend it. The Conference will be considering many of the issues noted in this report, as well as the wider development of Mayors for Peace and the creation of national / cross-national Chapters.

A major focus for discussion will be its activity in 2020, which will be the 75th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons in war. For Hiroshima and Nagasaki this is an important date as it may be one of the last formal events directly including survivors, or 'hibakusha', of the atomic weapon attacks on their cities. Most hibakusha are now in their 80s and 90s. Mayors for Peace has had a long-term aim of seeking a nuclear weapons free world by 2020 – what it called its '2020 Vision'. As this report has shown, that aim is sadly unlikely to be fulfilled, so the Executive Conference will consider how it can engage with others to speed up further nuclear disarmament in the short, medium and long-term.

The Executive Conference will also focus on the second pillar of the Mayors for Peace remit – the creation of safer and more resilient cities. This brings in discussion over the other serious threats to peace around the world – such as civil war, terrorism and political

extremism, climate change, the refugee crisis and the poverty crisis. This Executive Conference is therefore both timely and important.

11. Mayors for Peace art exhibition in Manchester and Bristol, late 2019 / early 2020

The Mayors for Peace Vice President and Lead City of Hanover has worked with a number of German artists to establish a touring exhibition called '50 Cities, 50 Traces'.

Launched at the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference in November 2015, this international art project seeks to promote the benefits of a nuclear free world. It was initiated by Klaudia Dietewich, an artist based in Stuttgart, Germany, and promotes the 'Cities Are Not Targets' (CANT) initiative of Mayors for Peace. The exhibition began in 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and will conclude in 2020 in New York within the NPT Review Conference.

The exhibition will be held in Manchester Central Library in late 2019, following on from its major 'Peterloo' festival, which itself looks at the one of the most pivotal events in the history of Manchester. Following its 3 month stay in the special exhibition space at the Central Library it will then move on to Bristol, which is a twin city of Hanover.

Further details on the exhibition will be provided in the next Chapter briefing.

12. Conclusions and recommendations

This briefing comes at a time of increasing tension and unilateral action between nuclear weapon states and also between these states and the large majority of non-nuclear weapon states seeking to unblock the disarmament stalemate through the TPNW process.

Along with such instability, the growing threat of climate change has become much more prominent in British and global politics as the acknowledgement of the scale of the 'climate emergency' becomes ever more prescient to local Councils. The upcoming second anniversary of the Manchester Arena attack and the London Bridge attack reminds Councils of the ongoing concerns of terrorism and political extremism. And this is all taking place during the ongoing deadlock with the 'Brexit' issue.

Within all of these challenges, it seems more important than ever that Councils stand up for working together in a spirit of peace and harmony and bring a local focus in dealing with these issues. None of these issues are easy to deal with, but local government has a useful role to play within them. Mayors for Peace can play that useful role in promoting peace locally and the need for disarmament globally.

A number of recommendations have been suggested in this report for UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace members.

They include:

- Considering passing a resolution to support the ICAN Cities Appeal and the need for a Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Considering passing a resolution(s) calling for divestment from companies involved in fossil fuels and nuclear weapon production.
- Encouraging members to contact their twin and international friendship cities to join Mayors for Peace, and work directly together to promote local projects for peace, tolerance and harmony.
- Hold events to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks on August 6th and 9th, 2019.
- Attend the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter meeting in Manchester on September 13th, 2019.
- Hold events to commemorate International Peace Day on September 21st, 2019.
- Consider hosting the '50 Cities, 50 Traces' modern art exhibition.

Mayors for Peace joint appeal to the UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference – A Call for Common Ground

Mayors for Peace Joint Appeal for Common Ground on the NPT

Issued to the NPT Preparatory Conference on behalf of the members of Mayors for Peace by:

- Kazumi Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Hiroshima
- Tomihisa Taue, Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Nagasaki
- Frank Cownie, Vice President of Mayors for Peace and Mayor of Des Moines, USA
- Supported by all Mayors for Peace Executive and Lead Cities

May 8th, 2019

On 1st May 2019, we—along with representatives from several other non-governmental organizations—addressed the delegations participating in an international conference reviewing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Today, we offer this joint appeal in anticipation of the treaty’s Review Conference next year at the United Nations.

We view the NPT as one of the most important treaties of the post-World War II era. With a membership just short of the United Nations Charter, this treaty embodies a near-global consensus on the basic proposition that international peace and security would be strengthened in a world free from the existence or proliferation of nuclear weapons. We recognize the NPT as the only multilateral instrument binding the recognized nuclear-weapon states to pursue negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament.

In their preparations for the historic NPT Review Conference in 2020—to be held on the treaty’s fiftieth anniversary—we appeal to all delegations to focus their deliberations on expanding their common ground on the fundamental objects and purposes of this treaty. The future success of the NPT will depend heavily upon diplomatic bridge building among delegations, reinforced by a common commitment to ensure the effective implementation and achievement of the treaty’s principal goals.

We understand that parties to complex multilateral treaties often disagree over such matters as degrees of compliance, appropriate methods for achieving treaty goals, the equity of various treaty commitments, and the never-ending competition from narrow national interests and short-term priorities.

We appeal to all delegations not to permit such divisions from eroding the great common ground upon which all the states parties stand with respect to this treaty. We urge them to work to expand this common ground by engaging in earnest dialogue that transcends differences and to agree on innovative solutions to advance concrete nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures. We view the global interest embodied in the NPT as in the national interests of all countries and all peoples worldwide.

Recalling the inspirational words of the Einstein-Russell Manifesto in 1955: “We appeal as human beings to human beings: Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.” This is precisely the message that the *hibakusha*—the survivors of the tragic atomic bombings—most humbly wish to extend to the world and to future generations. And we wish to convey their wishes today in this joint appeal and encourage all delegations to make the 2020 NPT Review Conference a success through bold initiatives to turn the confrontational security environment into one of cooperative security.

Summary of core points from the House of Lords International Relations Committee report on the NPT and disarmament agenda

See: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldintrel/338/33803.htm>

The risk of the use of nuclear weapons has increased, in the context of rising inter-state competition, a more multipolar world, and the development of new capabilities and technologies. There are serious tensions between some of the nine nuclear possessor states—the five states the legitimacy of whose possession of nuclear weapons was recognised by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom and the United States), the three states which never signed the NPT (India, Israel and Pakistan) and North Korea, which signed the NPT but nevertheless developed such weapons. Irresponsible rhetoric, combined with a lack of communication between nuclear possessor states, creates serious risks of nuclear use due to misinterpretation and miscalculation. The benign circumstances which subsisted for nearly 25 years after the end of the Cold War, during which the risk of the use of nuclear weapons ceased to be a priority challenge to the international community, have ended.

We conclude that the nuclear possessor states should commit to the principle that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, and do all they can to reduce global tensions, support nuclear non-proliferation, and pursue nuclear disarmament. Dialogue between the nuclear possessor states is also essential. In particular, notwithstanding current tensions, the Government and NATO should be prepared to talk to Russia about nuclear strategic stability.

The maintenance of the existing international nuclear regime is of critical importance to long-term efforts to reduce the risks inherent in the possession of nuclear weapons. At the core of the regime is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which has three pillars—non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and disarmament. Since its entry into force in 1970 only one of its non-nuclear signatories—North Korea—has developed a deliverable nuclear weapon.

The next Review Conference of the NPT will be held in 2020, marking 50 years since the treaty entered into force, and will be an opportunity to take stock of progress towards its goals.

The NPT has had important successes that should be lauded, including limiting the number of nuclear possessor states and enabling the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. However, while reductions in nuclear stockpiles since the 1980s should be welcomed, it is clear that—largely as a result of the worsening security environment—global progress towards disarmament has stalled. The programmes of some nuclear possessor states go well beyond what can properly be described as modernisation, introducing new capabilities, particularly in the field of so-called tactical nuclear weapons, which could potentially increase nuclear risk. The lack of progress in the disarmament pillar of the NPT has led to considerable dissatisfaction, and contributed to the decision of some Non-Nuclear Weapon States to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

In advance of the 2020 NPT Review Conference we urge the Government to seek to reduce tensions between Nuclear Weapon States and Non-Nuclear Weapon States. While we accept that UK will remain opposed to the Ban Treaty, its proponents have legitimate concerns about the pace of disarmament and nuclear risk, and the Government should adopt a less aggressive tone towards the treaty and its supporters. We also call on the Government to continue to support work towards the forthcoming UN conference on a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone in the Middle East, and encourage Israel to participate. We are concerned that global nuclear non-proliferation efforts have been undermined by the US's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal. This is against the interests of the UK. We welcome the Government's robust defence of the deal, and its co-operation with European partners to find ways to preserve it. North Korea's nuclear programme is also a serious concern, and we welcome efforts to seek a diplomatic solution.

The entry into force of treaties concerning nuclear testing and fissile material would contribute to the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agenda. While the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-

Ban Treaty has still not yet entered into force, its negotiation has contributed to *de facto* moratoriums on testing. We strongly welcome the UK's support for the treaty and its ongoing efforts to secure further ratifications. The negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty would also contribute to global efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation, and we urge the Government to consider every option to make progress in this regard.

We are dangerously close to a world without arms control agreements, which would increase the risk of nuclear use. We accept that Russia is in violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, but urge the Government to use ongoing discussions in NATO to promote either a revival of the treaty or, at least, to avoid the deployment of intermediate-range missiles in Europe. We also call on the Government to make clear to the US Administration the value of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) for Euro–Atlantic security, and advocate its extension.

The 2020 NPT Review Conference represents an opportunity for states to reaffirm their support for the non-proliferation agenda, and for the Nuclear Weapon States to show a demonstrable commitment to disarmament. In support of the treaty on its 50th anniversary, we recommend that the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs should represent the UK at this conference. The UK's upcoming chairmanship of the P5 group provides an opportunity for the Government to encourage its fellow Nuclear Weapon States to engage constructively with Non-Nuclear Weapon States to strengthen the NPT regime. It is also an opportunity to increase transparency and dialogue both between the P5, and with nuclear possessor states outside the NPT, to reduce the risk of nuclear use through misunderstanding and miscalculation.

The NPT has made, and continues to make, an essential contribution to international peace and security. The UK can help to strengthen a rules-based international order by demonstrating vision and leadership in addressing the challenges we have identified.

Model resolution to support the ICAN Cities Appeal

a. Resolution that simply supports the ICAN Cities Appeal -

“(N) Council is an active member of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki-led organisation Mayors for Peace; which have been working for almost four decades to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Mayors for Peace work with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work in encouraging over two-thirds of United Nations members to agree to the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Council supports ICAN’s new ‘Cities Appeal’ which urges Councils to formally support the TPNW. It has already been signed by a number of important global cities likes Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Sydney, Melbourne, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Geneva, Mainz, Trondheim, Zaragoza and in the UK, Manchester, Renfrewshire and Hebden Royd.

In supporting the Cities Appeal, Council is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we warmly welcome the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations in 2017, and we call on the UK / Republic of Ireland Government to join it.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the UK Government to inform them of this resolution and urge them to take account of it.”

b. An alternative broader resolution challenging wider UK nuclear weapons policy -

“(N) Council is a member of the Hiroshima-led Mayors for Peace and / or NFLA; both of which have been working for almost four decades to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament.

NFLA and Mayors for Peace work with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its work in encouraging over two-thirds of United Nations members to agree to the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which Council supports by formally endorsing ICAN’s Cities Appeal. Council regrets that the Governments of the existing nuclear weapon states, including the UK, refuse to support the Treaty. Council fully supports the TPNW as one of the most effective ways to bring about long-term and verifiable multilateral nuclear disarmament.

The Council also calls on the United Kingdom Government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- Cancelling the plan to replace its entire Trident nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons;
- Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals by supporting the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons and the ‘Good Faith’ Protocols within the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Council will ask the Chief Executive to write to the UK Government to inform them of this resolution and urge them to take account of it; and to ICAN to endorse their Cities Appeal supporting the TPNW.”

Renfrewshire / Chapter model resolution on divestment from nuclear weapon producers

“Renfrewshire Council is a member of NFLA and the Mayors for Peace, the global international body of Councils working for over 3 decades to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament and a more peaceful world. The Council has already passed a resolution on the 13h December 2018 calling on the UK government to cancel Trident replacement plans and support the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Strathclyde Pension Fund manages the pension contributions of Renfrewshire Council employees. Strathclyde Pension Fund is known to hold shares in companies that are involved in the production or maintenance of nuclear weapons or their delivery systems, including some that undertake work on the UK’s nuclear weapons programme.

Any investments in nuclear weapons producers are at odds with the Council’s support for the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the Council’s opposition to Trident renewal. Such investments also present a growing risk to Strathclyde Pension Fund. The TPNW has increased the stigma associated with nuclear weapons and companies which continue to produce nuclear weapons after the treaty enters into force will face damage to their reputation which could affect their value.

Council calls on Strathclyde Pension Fund to:

1. Work towards eliminating current and future financial exposure to companies that are involved in the production or maintenance of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, giving due regard to fiduciary duty.
2. Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the Convenor of Strathclyde Pension Fund’s pension committee to urge them to take full consideration of this resolution.”

Photos from the Bike for Peace Westminster launch, the Basel Divestment Conference and Manchester's friendship visit to Kagoshima



Bike for Peace group with Fabian Hamilton MP and the Chapter Secretary at their global bike launch outside the Houses of Parliament



Cllr Audrey Doig presents Lukas Ott of the Basel Canton with a Renfrewshire gift



The Lord Mayor of Manchester and the Governor of Kagoshima Prefecture



Kagoshima's new 'Satsuma' students with the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the Chapter Secretary and Kagoshima Prefecture staff officers