



Briefing paper

Date: 15th May 2020

No.28

Subject: Covid-19 global lockdown issue and Mayors for Peace activity

1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and provides members with a progress report on events and initiatives linked into the Mayors for Peace organisation, many of which have had to be cancelled or postponed due to the unprecedented global lockdown created by the Covid-19 outbreak. The report also looks at the ongoing activity in developing the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace. 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and August 6th and 9th 2020 is also the 75th anniversary of the atomic weapon attacks on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The report also looks to the future, even though that remains confused, and may remain so until at least the end of the year.

Specific issues noted in this report:

- Postponement of the UN's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.
- Postponement of the 10th Executive and General Conference of Mayors for Peace.
- Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks and the end of the Second World War.
- Progress with developing the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace.
- Plans to hold a rescheduled UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter webinar.
- An overview of the Stockholm Virtual Forum on Peace and Development, May 2020.
- Progress with the ICAN Cities Appeal and a report on Global Spending on Nuclear Weapons 2019.
- Divestment issues and the Women's Peace and Disarmament Appeal.

2. Postponement of the NPT Review Conference

The global outbreak of the highly infectious coronavirus, or Covid-19, has led to the cancellation or postponement of many national and international meetings, conferences and public events. One such meeting that has had to be postponed is the 2020 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the United Nations, in New York. The conference should have been taking place throughout May 2020.

The President-designate of the Review Conference, Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, has provisionally rescheduled the meetings to 4th – 29th January 2021.

The Review Conference would have followed Preparatory Conferences in 2017 in Vienna, 2018 in Geneva and 2019 in New York. Mayors for Peace and other civil society groups had been present at these meetings and witnessed a lack of consensus and little tangible progress within the international community. With the United States and Russia having last year abrogated from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the withdrawal of American support for the joint plan of action over Iran's nuclear programme, and North Korea's nuclear programme there was little positive expectations

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of significant progress being made had the conference taken place this month.

The President and one of the Vice Presidents of Mayors for Peace, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, issued a joint statement on behalf of the organisation, which is attached below at Appendix 1. The statement called for the international community to "...take actions from a humanitarian perspective, not from self-centred nationalism. We must now consider what needs to be done to save the whole of humanity, then cooperate globally to make it happen. Such a paradigm shift to a new mindset will bring us victory over this common threat."

The statement also argues that the Covid-19 outbreak shows the need for a new spirit of international cooperation which includes finding ways to deliver multilateral nuclear disarmament. The additional months before the rescheduled conference allows for time to try to reduce further some of the tensions that remain around the ongoing ownership of nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace also joined in a more detailed statement that was co-signed by over 80 national and international civil society groups which sets out to governments around the world what is required when the conference takes place, hopefully in January 2021. The statement is attached at Appendix 2.

The statement calls for three key actions from states:

- Global support for the NPT is strong, but its long-term viability cannot be taken for granted.
- The grave state of global affairs and the rising risk of nuclear conflict and arms racing requires new and bolder leadership from responsible states.
- Those that resist change also say the "environment" is not right for further progress, but responsible actors everywhere are rising to the challenge.

The civil society groups who have agreed to the statement argue that the postponement of the 2020 NPT Review Conference "offers an unprecedented opportunity to change the current course, move beyond bitter politicisation, and focus efforts to bring about the end of nuclear weapons". They also call on states and the international community to utilise that time wisely with new and bolder leadership.

The statement has been sent to all state parties across the world. Mayors for Peace hope the time will be used well, particularly within this 75th anniversary year since the first use of nuclear weapons. Civil society groups will continue to lobby governments using the basis of the common statement within such discussion.

An international Mayors for Peace delegation led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as many aging 'hibakushas' (survivors of the atomic bombing) and youth representatives had been planning to attend the May conference. Mayors for Peace will be represented at the rescheduled conference in January and both its International Secretariat and Executive Advisors are working closely with other groups on developing a plan of action over the next few months.

3. Postponement of the 10th Mayors for Peace Executive and General Conference

Another important meeting that has had to be postponed is the 10th Executive and General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which had been planned for August 3rd – 6th in Hiroshima.

Amongst those who had planned to attend the meeting were representatives from Manchester City Council, in their role as a Vice President of Mayors for Peace. A senior councillor from Glasgow City Council representing the NFLA Scotland Forum was also planning to attend. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat have announced the conference will be postponed until August 2021.

This is a great disappointment to all Mayors for Peace members around the world, as it was being held around the Hiroshima Peace Ceremony on August 6th, which will be the 75th anniversary of the atomic weapon attack that destroyed the city of Hiroshima at the cost of many tens of thousands of lives, and ongoing health issues for thousands more to the present day.

After discussion with the Executive Cities, including Manchester City Council, it has been agreed that Mayors for Peace will adopt a new Vision and Action Plan at the General Conference in 2021. It

has also been determined that the 2020 Vision will terminate at the end of this year and that the current Action Plan based on the 2020 Vision will temporarily remain effective until the General Conference in 2021.

Moves to hold an interim video conference between Executive Cities in the meantime over the next few months will be investigated.

In the meantime, Executive Cities and Chapters of Mayors for Peace have been encouraged to remain as active as possible and try and host relevant events in August and for International Peace Day on the 21st September.

4. Commemorating the 75th anniversary of 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings and the end of the Second World War

A key problem created by the Covid-19 lockdown is the need for social distancing to prevent the growth of further infection. This has meant all public events for the foreseeable future, and perhaps to the end of the year (or until a global vaccine can be found to treat the virus), will not be able to be held in their usual way.

This has a major impact on the plans within Hiroshima and Nagasaki for commemorating the 75th anniversary of the atomic weapon attacks on their cities. Usually, many thousands of people attend these ceremonies on August 6th and 9th. The 75th anniversary event was also going to be a special occasion as one of the last events where significant numbers of hibakusha would be present (as their average age now is over 82). The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was also due to be present and speak at it. A series of parallel civic society conference was also planned in conjunction with the Mayors for Peace Executive and General Conference.

Both Hiroshima and Nagasaki are reconsidering how to hold an event in a time when both long-distance travel and social distancing is likely to be in place to some degree. They plan to share that information with Executive Cities shortly.

UK and Ireland Chapter member authorities are encouraged to start considering what could be done both to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks, as well as linking in this with commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the war. Manchester City Council currently undertake such events in the Living Worlds Gallery at Manchester Museum, which has a peace exhibit linked to the story of the peace cranes and Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Early talks are taking place to hold some kind of event in the museum that may also be shown through online resources.

Some early suggestions for local events under these conditions include:

- Issuing a media release quoting the Mayor / Leader that commemorates these anniversaries and indicating your Council's support for the work of Mayors for Peace.
- Laying a white flowered wreath or a poppy wreath by our cenotaph with a small reception including the Mayor / Leader, other senior councillors, faith leaders and local peace group leaders.
- Holding an online event which goes out on the Council and / or local peace group's social media outlets with readings (and possibly singing) to commemorate those who have died in conflict since 1945.
- The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki use the annual peace ceremony as an opportunity to issue a Peace Declaration commenting on relevant issues of concern in the world. It could therefore be a good opportunity for your own town, city or county to consider doing your own local peace declaration relating to responding to the Covid-19 lockdown, ways your city seeks to promote peace and tolerance and a comment on the wider situation.
- Cooperating with local peace groups who may be organising relevant events, and who may ask the Mayor / Leader to speak at it.
- Promoting online videos which show children / adults how to fold paper cranes.

This list is by no means exhaustive, and the Chapter Secretariat would be very interested in promoting your own local events to other Chapter members and on the Mayors for Peace website.

5. Progress in developing the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace – support for a statement urging a global ceasefire during the Covid-19 pandemic

As reported in recent Mayors for Peace Chapter Policy Briefings, last November European Lead Cities agreed to establish a European Chapter of Mayors for Peace to promote the work of the organisation and consider ways to emphasise its work for a nuclear weapons free world, as well as the creation of safer, more peaceful and resilient cities.

A European Chapter Officers Working Group is meeting through a monthly online video meeting to discuss progress with the development of the Chapter.

This includes the creation of a European Chapter website to provide a focus on the issues that it would like to encourage member authorities across Europe to engage in. A design and logo for this website has been provisionally agreed and is now being discussed with Hiroshima to ensure it complements the global website. Legal statutes for the Chapter are being finalised and consideration of the recruitment of an Executive Advisor will commence after this. There is funding for much of this activity over the next four years.

Another part of the creation of the Chapter would be to provide the opportunity to issue statements on relevant issues of concern. This has included in recent weeks comments on terrorist attacks on individual towns and cities.

In early May, the European Chapter Lead Cities agreed to support a statement which had been initiated by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calling on all parties to conflict to put an end to violence and respect a global ceasefire during the Covid-19 pandemic. The text of this statement is attached at Appendix 3. Many other civil society groups have supported the call for a global ceasefire.

Unfortunately, after weeks of negotiations at the UN Security Council, a vote to pass such a resolution has just been blocked by the United States, apparently over inclusion of the UN World Health Organisation (WHO) in the resolution text.

While the force of this resolution would be primarily symbolic, it is symbolism at a crucial moment for the world. Since the Secretary-General put forward a call for a global ceasefire, armed factions in more than a dozen countries have observed a temporary truce. The absence of a resolution from some of the world's most powerful nations, however, may undermine the UN in its delicate efforts to maintain those fragile ceasefires.

Talks have recommenced at the UN Security Council to explore whether some other way around the impasse can be found. On the 12th May, Germany and Estonia submitted an updated resolution to the UN Security Council. This now encompasses five major points and "demands a general and immediate cessation of hostilities in all situations." The new proposal calls for a "humanitarian pause for at least 90 consecutive days" in order to allow for the delivery of aid to the hardest-hit communities.

The Mayors for Peace at the European and at the global level hope such a way forward can be found, given the urgent need for multilateral, international support during this period of a global public health emergency.

6. Rescheduled UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace webinar, June 26th and general progress

A webinar is being planned for the next meeting of the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter. This replaces the planned March 27th seminar, which had to be postponed due to the national lockdowns in the UK and Ireland started a few days earlier.

The webinar will seek to provide member authorities with a detailed overview of progress with the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace and how Manchester City Council would like to see its UK and Irish Chapter members engage proactively with this positive development. The Chapter Secretariat is interested to hear from members on the wider remit of the Chapter, and ways to promote local examples of community cohesion, tolerance and peace-building. The Chapter

Secretary will provide further information at the meeting, as well as talking about the plans for 2020 and the Executive and General Conference of Mayors for Peace taking place in August.

The webinar may also include additional speakers that were planned in the March meeting, considering issues like peace education and remembrance events. A flyer for this meeting will be issued to members shortly.

The Chapter Secretariat is planning to issue voluntary invoices to members over the summer and writing to non-members encouraging them to consider joining Mayors for Peace.

7. **Stockholm Virtual Forum on Peace and Development, May 2020**

This May, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has replaced its traditional large annual public conference into a virtual forum considering the theme of 'Sustaining Peace in the Time of COVID-19'. SIPRI recognizes the challenges that Covid-19 has presented around the world, and the impact it may well have on peace and development. In what has been an increasingly interdependent world, national responses to global challenges cannot be conducted in isolation. From climate change to food insecurity and pandemics, collective global action must be the solution. This is particularly true in conflict situations and fragile states. The Stockholm Forum is convened online from 11–22 May 2020.

The 2020 Virtual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development is co-hosted by SIPRI and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in collaboration with partner organisations.

Mayors for Peace was encouraged to participate in the Forum and promote it. All the open sessions are being shown and recorded on SIPRI's YouTube Channel –

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SIPRIorg>

Sessions within the Forum include:

- An opening session with the Swedish Foreign Minister.
- Women, Peace and Security
- Strategic Dialogue on Global Trends – Violence and the Coronavirus
- Climate Change – the Other Crisis
- Sustaining Peace in the Time of Covid-19
- UN Peace Operations and Covid-19
- Youth Inclusion and the Protection of Civil Spaces
- Who are the new Peacebuilding Actors and what do they want?
- The Wake-up Call – Rebuilding Trust and Rewiring Institutions in a New Social Contract.
- A series of closed partner led sessions.

These informative sessions are worth watching to consider global responses to the Covid-19 outbreak.

8. **ICAN Cities Appeal and report on Global Spending on Nuclear Weapons 2019**

Over the past 18 months, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has been working with Mayors for Peace in encouraging towns, cities and counties to pass resolutions to support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Prior to the global outbreak of Covid-19, over 300 municipalities around the world have passed such resolutions, particularly in states whose national government is a nuclear weapon state, or who support the possession of such weapons as part of being a NATO member or being in a security partnership with a nuclear weapon state. Amongst some of the prominent cities that have passed resolutions include capital and leading cities like Washington DC, Paris, Berlin, Sydney, Oslo, Manchester, Edinburgh, Bruges, Brescia, Berne, Geneva, Munich, Toronto and most recently Barcelona.

A number of additional towns, cities and counties were imminently planning to pass resolutions, but the Covid-19 lockdowns has seen many Council meetings having to be postponed or

significantly reduced to an online meeting considering urgent business only. That also included a number of UK and Ireland member authorities.

ICAN have recently published a simple 5-step guide in encouraging Councils to pass such a resolution which can be found on their website –

https://www.icanw.org/how_to_join_the_ican_cities_appeal

It is hoped to bring further resolutions to be passed by Councils again as the lockdown eases in countries and normal business can resume.

In early May, ICAN also published its analysis for global spending on nuclear weapons in 2019. A link to the report can be found at:

https://www.icanw.org/report_73_billion_nuclear_weapons_spending_2020

The report calculated that \$72.9 billion (£59.8 billion) was spent by nine countries on nuclear weapons in 2019. ICAN's report is the first estimate in nearly a decade of global nuclear weapon spending, taking into account costs to maintain and build new nuclear weapons.

ICAN say that amounts to \$138,699 spent in the world on nuclear weapons per minute. Global nuclear spending rose \$7.1 billion from 2018, in line with total military spending which also rose dramatically from 2018 to 2019. ICAN's research was pulled from dozens of different sources on each country's military and nuclear spending, making an educated estimate when exact budget data was not available.

The report calculates that in 2019, China spent \$10.4 billion, France spent \$4.8 billion, India spent \$2.3 billion, Israel spent \$1 billion, North Korea spent \$0.6 billion, Pakistan spent \$1 billion, Russia spent \$8.5 billion, the United Kingdom spent \$8.9 billion and the United States spent \$35.4 billion on nuclear weapons. ICAN's Executive Director Beatrice Fihn stated, "It is absurd to be spending \$138,700 every single minute on weapons that cause catastrophic human harm rather than spending it to protect the health of their citizens. They are abdicating their duty to protect their people."

ICAN argue that the billions spent on nuclear weapons could rather be funding medical supplies and research needed to help people around the world fight Covid-19. For example, ICAN's research showed that in France, the United Kingdom and the United States, each country's spending on nuclear weapons could instead pay for at least 100,000 intensive care unit beds, tens of thousands of ventilators and tens of thousands of annual salaries for nurses and doctors.

ICAN's report was developed with support from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Fudan University, the James Martin Centre for Non-proliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and Women Cross DMZ.

Mayors for Peace welcome this research as showing that the development of a nuclear weapons free world could have a positive impact on many crucial public health and social impact and redirect the world to more peaceful security solutions.

9. Divestment issues and Women's Peace & Disarmament Appeal

Many civil society groups involved in the peace and disarmament agenda have been lobbying banks, finance organisations and pension funds of divesting their funds from companies that are involved in the nuclear weapons industry, and separately in fossil fuels.

In late January a meeting of New York City Council was held with extensive testimony encouraging it to divest its pension funds from such companies. The package of bills on this area is still passing through the Council.

A number of Scottish Mayors for Peace members have passed resolutions on such divestment, and in late April a meeting was held with Renfrewshire Councillor Audrey Doig, the Chapter Secretary, and a representative from Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland network with a senior officer

in the Strathclyde Pension Fund to discuss its divestment policies. The meeting was useful and productive and further correspondence is taking place on the detail of the policies.

The disarmament group Abolition 2000, PNND and the World Futures Council also held an informative seminar on effective divestment strategies around the world. Further information can be found at their websites.

The same groups have just helped to develop an appeal of notable women involved in the disarmament issue on the first International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament, which will be held on May 24th in the 75th anniversary year of the United Nations. A copy of the endorsers to this appeal is attached as Appendix 4. The appeal urges human security for public health, peace and sustainable development.

10. Conclusions and recommendations

This report has highlighted the challenges that has been created by the Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown in postponing or cancelling a number of conferences and public meetings.

It is hoped some of the major conferences can be held in 2021, which gives time to create new momentum in such talks.

Chapter members are encouraged to consider holding events of some kind for the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks and the end of the Second World War in August, and International Peace Day in September, taking account of limitations arising from social distancing rules.

Chapter members are also encouraged to link in to the planned late June webinar, and process voluntary membership invoices when they arrive.

As all councils will be aware, these are unprecedented times with a global lockdown creating both a public health crisis as well as an economic crisis. The need for peace and disarmament has become as pressing as ever, and Mayors for Peace will seek to be in these debates representing its members as they move forward.

Mayors for Peace statement on the postponement of the NPT

The 2020 NPT Review Conference was supposed to begin today, in the year of the 50th anniversary of the treaty's entry into force and the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings.

Discussions in all of these rare five-year Review Conferences seek to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and these objectives are more important than ever.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor Tomihisa Taue of Nagasaki, Vice President of Mayors for Peace
April 27th, 2020

Joint statement of Civil Society Groups to States Parties of the NPT

As the world mobilises in response to the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot afford to lose sight of the other global challenges that threaten all of us, including the worsening planetary climate emergency and the ongoing threat of catastrophic nuclear war. These are all, in the words of former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, “problems without passports”. (1)

The scale of the global crisis caused by this pandemic is due to multiple political failures. Time and again, governments and other actors have ignored and dismissed the warnings made by scientists throughout the world about transnational threats and the steps necessary to prevent and/or mitigate the effects. In the case of COVID-19, those warnings were ignored for too long and now it is too late.

We're not only at a pivotal point in the struggle against the fast-moving coronavirus; we are also at a tipping point in the long-running effort to reduce the threat of nuclear war and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Tensions between the world's nuclear-armed states are rising; the risk of nuclear use is growing; billions of dollars are being spent to replace and upgrade nuclear weapons; and key agreements that have kept nuclear competition in check are in serious jeopardy.

One of the many lessons to be learned from this global crisis is that science must not be ignored under the guise of “national security” policies that put profit before people and privilege the most powerful.

As we approach the solemn 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings by the United States of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and mark the 25th anniversary of the package of decisions that led to the indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), we are also facing postponement of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. It is in this context that the civil society organisations endorsing this statement put forward the following three key messages to NPT states parties:

1. Global support for the NPT is strong, but its long-term viability cannot be taken for granted.

It is encouraging to see that all countries have expressed support for the NPT, including in recent UN Security Council meetings. However, the Treaty is only as strong as its implementation. The longer that consensus-based NPT Review Conference decisions remain unimplemented, the less weight the Treaty and its obligations will have. For the long-term viability of the NPT, all countries must fully implement their obligations. The body of previous NPT Review Conference commitments and action steps still apply.

This includes the benchmarks agreed to at the historic 1995 Review and Extension Conference and further commitments made at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. These remain largely unfulfilled, and some are at risk of being reversed or lost entirely, such as the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

2. The grave state of global affairs and the rising risk of nuclear conflict and arms racing requires new and bolder leadership from responsible states.

Implementing past action plans must be the floor and not the ceiling for taking forward the NPT's provisions. The risk of nuclear weapon use is all too high and is growing, particularly as offensive cyber operations and artificial intelligence introduce unprecedented uncertainty into the global security environment.

(1) Mr. Annan's closing remarks at the 2013 Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship, 12 April 2013, <https://www.kofiannanfoundation.org/speeches/the-courage-to-change/>

It is this environment that demands bolder action from all states to reduce nuclear risks by eliminating nuclear weapons; action that is rooted in “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons”. Many countries have demonstrated their commitment to nuclear disarmament by joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The TPNW is a major contribution to the common goal of eliminating the threat of nuclear war and eliminating nuclear weapons.

3. Those that resist change also say the “environment” is not right for further progress, but responsible actors everywhere are rising to the challenge.

The world cannot wait until the environment is “right” for disarmament. It is true that success in conflict prevention and resolution, control of non-nuclear military capabilities, protection of human rights, climate and environmental protection, and other important endeavours would help to facilitate nuclear disarmament. But taking action for disarmament by negotiating agreements or through unilateral steps helps create an environment for achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons while building a climate of mutual trust that will positively contribute to solving the world’s other pressing problems.

The postponement of the 2020 NPT Review Conference offers an unprecedented opportunity to change the current course, move beyond bitter politicisation, and focus efforts to bring about the end of nuclear weapons.

The 81 undersigned organisations call on NPT states parties and the international community to utilise this additional time wisely. The current situation requires new and bolder leadership from responsible states to work together to build majority support for a plan of action to advance NPT Article VI goals and create much needed momentum for further progress on disarmament, and to save humanity from the scourge of nuclear war.

More in-depth analysis and recommendations for NPT states parties’ consideration over the next few months is provided following the list of endorsing organizations, to help in preparation for the Review Conference and to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

ENDORISING ORGANISATIONS:

- Amplify (www.amplifyyouth.org)
- ANT-Hiroshima (www.ant-hiroshima.org/en)
- Arms Control Association (www.armscontrol.org)
- Basel Peace Office (www.baselpeaceoffice.org)
- Blue Banner (www.peaceportal.org)
- Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security (www.cpdcs.org)
- Canadian Pugwash Group (www.pugwashgroup.ca)
- Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (www.vowpeace.org)
- Centre for International Security and Policy (www.cisp-astana.kz/en)
- Centre for Peace and Public Integrity, Hanshin University (www.hs.ac.kr/sites/kor/index.do)
- Chernobyl-Hibakusha Support Kansai (<http://wakasa-net.sakura.ne.jp/che>)
- Church and Peace (www.church-and-peace.org)
- Citizens' Nuclear Information Centre (www.cnic.jp/english)
- Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (www.colombiasinminas.org)
- Council of Churches in the Netherlands (www.raadvanckerken.nl)
- FEMIN Women's Democratic Club (www.jca.apc.org/femin)
- Global Action to Prevent War and Armed Conflict (www.globalactionpw.org)
- Hereford Peace Council
- Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organization (www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/english))
- Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (www.e-hanwa.org)
- Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers organizations
- Human Rights Now (www.hrn.or.jp/eng)
- Human Survival Project
- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (www.icanw.org)
- International Fellowship of Reconciliation (www.ifor.org)
- International Peace Research Institute, Meiji Gakuin University (PRIME) (www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/~prime)

- International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (www.ippnw.org)
- International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Canada (www.ippnwcanada.ca)
- Japan Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (JALANA) (www.hankaku-j.org/english.html)
- Japan Congress Against A and H-Bombs (GENSUIKIN) (www.gensuikin.org/english)
- Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) (www.antiatom.org/GSKY/en)
- Japanese Liaison Council of Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors (<http://www.cable.ne.jp/~hibaku2/>)
- Kakuwaka Hiroshima (www.kakuwakahiroshima.jimdosite.com)
- Kerk en Vrede (www.kerkenvrede.nl)
- Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy (www.lcnp.org)
- Mayors for Peace (www.mayorsforpeace.org/english)
- Mennonites Netherlands (www.dgwereldwerk.nl)
- Muslim Peace Fellowship (www.mpf21.wordpress.com)
- Nagasaki Youth Delegation 8th
- New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin) (www.shinfujin.gr.jp/english)
- No DU Hiroshima Project
- Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (www.wagingpeace.org)
- Nuclear Watch New Mexico (www.nukewatch.org)
- Nuclear Watch South (www.nonukesyall.org)
- NVMP Physicians for Peace /International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Netherlands (www.nvmp.org)
- PAX (www.paxforpeace.nl)
- Pax Christ USA (www.paxchristusa.org)
- Pax Christi International (www.paxchristi.net)
- Pax Christi Northern California (www.paxchristinorcal.org)
- Pax Christi Scotland (www.paxchristiscotland.org)
- PEAC Institute (www.peacinstitute.org)
- Peace Action (www.peaceaction.org)
- Peace Boat (www.peaceboat.org/english)
- Peace Depot, Inc. Japan (www.peacedepot.org/en)
- Peace SOS (www.peacesos.nl)
- People for Nuclear Disarmament (www.pndnsw.org.au)
- People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) (www.peoplepower21.org/English)
- Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security (PRESS)
- Pressenza International Press Agency (www.pressenza.com)
- Project Ploughshares (www.ploughshares.ca)
- Proposition One Committee (www.prop1.org)
- Pugwash Japan (www.pugwashjapan.jp)
- Pugwash Netherlands (www.pugwash.nl)
- Rotarians 4 Nuclear Ban
- Rotary Action Group for Peace Nuke-Free Planet (www.rotarians.peacinstitute.org/about)
- Savannah River Site Watch (www.srswatch.org)
- Science for Peace (www.scienceforpeace.ca)
- Soka Gakkai International (www.sgi.org)
- Tri-Valley CAREs (www.trivalleycares.org)
- Tribunal for Peace (www.tribunaalvoordevrede.nl)
- UK Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (www.cnduk.org)
- Union of Concerned Scientists (www.ucsusa.org)
- United for Peace and Justice (USA) (www.unitedforpeace.org)
- US Fellowship of Reconciliation-USA (www.forusa.org)
- Western States Legal Foundation (www.wslfweb.org)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) (www.wilpf.org)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom US (www.wilpfus.org)
- Working Group Inclusive Security Netherlands (www.samenveilig.earth)
- World Federalist Movement of Japan (www.wfm-igp.org/wfm-of-japan)
- World Future Council (www.worldfuturecouncil.org)
- YWCA of Japan (www.ywca.or.jp/english)

This statement was drafted by Ray Acheson (WILPF); John Burroughs (Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy); Jacqueline Cabasso (Western States Legal Foundation / Mayors for Peace); Akira Kawasaki (Peace Boat); Daryl Kimball (Arms Control Association); Allison Pytlak (WILPF); Alicia Sanders-Zakre (ICAN); Susi Snyder (PAX); and Carlos Umana (IPPNW). May 11th, 2020

European Mayors for Peace Chapter joint statement urging a global ceasefire

The European Chapter of Mayors for Peace supports the call for a global ceasefire

The European Chapter of Mayors for Peace calls urgently on all parties to conflict around the world to put an end to violence and respect a global ceasefire amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stated “the virus does not care about nationality or ethnicity, faction or faith. It attacks all, relentlessly. Meanwhile, armed conflict rages on around the world and the most vulnerable — women and children, people with disabilities, the marginalized and the displaced — pay the highest price. In war-ravaged countries, health systems have collapsed. Health professionals, already few in number, have often been targeted. Refugees and others displaced by violent conflict are doubly vulnerable. The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war”.

In view of these circumstances, the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace supports the calling for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world expressed by UN Secretary-General and subscribed by a large majority of peace and human rights organizations. It is time to put also armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on promoting international cooperation, solidarity, diplomacy and global leadership. Instead of fighting each other, people all over the world must now join together to overcome coronavirus. We must facilitate humanitarian access for the delivery of life-saving aid to those in need, ensure human rights and consolidate the peace.

This unprecedented moment in world history should serve to strengthen our capacity building and take steps towards peace in all the world’s conflicts that have already taken such a huge toll on human life. Cities play a key role in promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies, the right place to implement true democracy and build a culture of peaceful coexistence.

We stand together for peace, human rights and an end to violence in all its many forms.

This statement of support and solidarity was agreed by Lead members of the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace – Granollers, Manchester, Hannover, Biograd na Moru, Ypres, Cervia, Malakoff and Grigny.

Notes:

Secretary-General Calls for Global Ceasefire, Citing War-Ravaged Health Systems, Populations Most Vulnerable to Novel Coronavirus: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sqsm20018.doc.htm>

Secretary-General Reiterates Appeal for Global Ceasefire, Warns ‘Worst Is Yet to Come’ as COVID-19 Threatens Conflict Zones: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sqsm20032.doc.htm>

Endorsers of a global women's appeal to commemorate International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament (May 24) and the 75th anniversary year of the United Nations

Endorsers -

Legislators:

- Christine Muttonen MP (Austria). PNND Co-President. Former President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
- Senator Sue Lines (Australia). Deputy President of the Australian Senate;
- Marian Hobbs (New Zealand). Former Cabinet Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
- Heather McPherson MP (Canada). Deputy House Leader of the New Democratic Party;
- Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer (UK). PNND Co-President.
- Louisa Wall MP (New Zealand), PNND New Zealand Deputy Chair. Women's Rugby World Cup champion;
- Helen Konzett MP (Lichtenstein). Member of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
- Isabelle Chevalley MP (Switzerland). Founder of the Swiss Liberal Ecology Movement;
- Merja Kyllönen MP (Finland). Member, Advisory Council Finnish Institute of International Affairs;
- Kathrin Vogler MdB (Germany). Member, Foreign Affairs Committee;
- Sadet Karabulut MP (Netherlands). Member, Netherlands Parliament delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
- Jan Logie MP (New Zealand). Parliamentary Undersecretary on Justice: Domestic & Sexual Violence Issues;
- Asa Eriksson MP (Sweden), Deputy Member, Foreign Affairs Committee;
- Claudia Beamish MSP (Scotland). Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Deputy Convenor of the Cross-Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children;
- Maria Vamvakinou MP (Australia). Member, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee;
- Amineh Kakabaveh MP (Sweden). Member of the Swedish Parliament;
- Sahar F. Qawasmi MP (Palestine) member of the Palestinian Legislative Council;
- Cllr Audrey Doig (UK). Member, Renfrewshire City Council, Vice Chair, Nuclear Free Local Authorities Scotland;
- Rachel Reese (New Zealand). Mayor of Nelson. Member of Mayors for Peace;
- Martine Watkins (USA). City Councillor. Former Mayor of Santa Cruz. Member of Mayors for Peace;
- Lucie Lavoie (Canada). Conseillère, Relations internationales (Councillor for International Relations), Montreal;
- Uta Zapf (Germany). Former Chair of the Bundestag Sub-committee on Disarmament and Arms Control. PNND former Co-President;
- Ute Finckh-Krämer (Germany). Former Member, Bundestag. PNND Council member;
- Eva Quistorp (Germany). Former Member, European Parliament. Co-founder, German Green Party. Co-founder, May 24 International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament;
- Edine von Herold Duarte (Costa Rica). Former Member, Costa Rica Parliament. PNND Council Member.

Religious leaders:

- Greet Vanaerschot (Belgium). Secretary General Pax Christi International;
- Kajsa Wejryd (Sweden), Former president of Women in the Church of Sweden;
- Rosemarie Pace (USA). Director, Pax Christi New York;
- Ela Gandhi (South Africa). Religions for Peace;
- Rev Emma Jordan-Simpson (USA). Executive Director, Fellowship of Reconciliation;
- Mary T. Yelenick (USA). UN Representative, Pax Christi International;
- Paula Clayton Dempsey (USA). Director of Partnership Relations, Alliance of Baptists;
- Sr. Mary-Ellen Francoeur (Canada). Member, Sisters of Service of Canada, Pax Christi Toronto;
- Board Member, Religions for Peace Canada;
- Marie Dennis (USA). Senior Advisor, Pax Christi International;
- Susan H Smith (USA). Director of Operations, Fellowship of Reconciliation;
- Dianna Ortiz, OSU (USA). Deputy Director, Pax Christi USA;
- Martha Hennessy (USA). Co-editor Catholic Worker;
- Theresa Alessandro (UK). Director of Pax Christi UK;
- Louise Royer (Canada). Social Action - Roman Catholic Church, Montreal.

Civil society leaders:

- Mairead Corrigan Maguire (Ireland), Nobel Peace Laureate;
- Holly Near (USA). Actor, song-writer and singer;

- Jackie Cabasso (USA). Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation, Executive Advisor, Mayors for Peace;
- Cecili Thompson Williams (USA). Executive Director, Beyond the Bomb;
- Leah Bolger (USA). President of World Beyond War;
- Maria Fernando Espinosa (Ecuador), Member of the World Future Council. President of the UN General Assembly, 2018-2019;
- Jessie Linn Medvan (USA). Vice-President of Veterans for Peace;
- Ashna Ali (Canada), Nobel Women's Initiative;
- Young-mi CHO (South Korea). Executive Director, Korean Women's Movement for Peace;
- Kehkashan Basu (UAE/Canada). World Future Council Youth Ambassador;
- Angie Zelter (Wales, UK). Trident Ploughshares campaigner and Right Livelihood Laureate;
- Mary-Wynne Ashford MD (Canada). Former Co-President, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War;
- Maude Barlow (Canada), Chairperson, The Council of Canadians; Former Senior Advisor to the UN on water issues;
- Ana Maria Ceto (Mexico). Executive Committee of Pugwash Conferences (Nobel Peace Prize 1995) and Mexico's Woman of the Year in 2003;
- Divina Stella Maloum (Cameroon). Founder, Children for Peace. Co-winner with Greta Thunberg of the 2019 International Children's Peace Prize;
- Betty Reardon (USA). Founding Director Emeritus, International Institute on Peace Education;
- Helen Caldicott (Australia). Founding President, Physicians for Social Responsibility;
- Akinyi Obama-Manners (Kenya). Program Officer at the Auma Obama Foundation Sauti Kuu
- Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos (Poland). Program Coordinator, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders;
- Dr Ann Frisch (USA). Chair, Rotary Action Group for Peace Nuke Free Planet, Rotary Peace Champion;
- Kristina Lunz (Germany). Co-founder, Centre for Feminist Policy;
- Cynda Collins Arsenault (USA). Founder, Secure World Foundation and Our Secure Future-Women Make the Difference;
- Greta Zarro (USA). Organizing Director, World BEYOND War
- Nancy Mancias (USA). Divestment Campaigner, Code Pink.
- Dr Jennifer Simons (Canada). Member, Global Zero. President, The Simons Foundation
- Ellen Thomas (USA), Co-Chair, Womens' International League for Peace and Freedom Disarm/End Wars Committee
- Tamara Lorincz (Canada). Board Member, World Beyond War;
- Catherine Dewes (New Zealand). Co-Founder Disarmament and Security Centre, Former Member UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament;
- Gay Rosenblum-Kumar (USA). UN Representative, Peace Direct;
- Scilla Elworthy (UK). Founder, Business Plan for Peace;
- Linda Pentz Gunter (USA). International specialist, Beyond Nuclear;
- Bridget Moix (USA). US Executive Director, Peace Direct;
- Liz Remmerswaal (New Zealand). New Zealand coordinator World Beyond War;
- Vanda Prošková (Czech Republic). Coordinator, PNND Czech Republic. Program Officer, Prague Vision Institute for Sustainable Security;
- Alexandra Wandel (Germany). Chair, Management Board, World Future Council;
- Kasha Sequoia Slavner (Canada). Film-maker. Founder, The Global Sunrise Project;
- Kajsa Overgaard (Sweden). Deputy Director, Right Livelihood Foundation;
- Adele Buckley (Canada). Former Chair, Canadian Pugwash;
- Asha Asokan (India). Rotary Peace Fellow;
- June Tano (USA). International Representative, The Ribbon Project;
- Janis Alton (Canada). Former Co-Chair, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace;
- Ellen R. Judd (Canada). Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of Manitoba;
- Cristina Sagarzazu (New Zealand). Co-Chair, Tauranga Moana Women for Peace;
- Julia Auf dem Brinke (Germany). Advocacy Manager at SCRAP Weapons;
- Marla Slavner (Canada). Film producer. Canadian Voice of Women for Peace Delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women;
- Oda Andersen Nyborg (Norway). Advisor, Norwegian Peace Council;
- Tina Agrell (Canada) Chair, Advancement of Women Halton;
- Marlene Ware (New Zealand), Co-Chair, Tauranga Moana Women for Peace;
- Cassandra Ryan (Canada). Member, Raging Grannies.