June 2008

Dear Fellow Mayor,

We have been so heartened by the way old and new members of Mayors for Peace have embraced the 2020 Vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world by the year 2020. But four-and-a-half years have elapsed without significant progress toward our goal. If anything, the situation has worsened. If our vision is to remain compelling, it must now mature into a plan. Taking the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the foundation, we have set forth a plan of action in the form of a protocol to the Treaty which would allow all states to contribute to realizing the 2020 Vision.

We call this protocol the “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol” in the profound hope that this will encourage people throughout the world to accord it commensurate attention.

We are under no illusion that governments will suddenly seize upon the Protocol as the answer to the difficulties that face them in the field of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. Years of deadlock have led to increasingly lower expectations in the diplomatic world. Many seem to think that if we can just manage to muddle through, we should be grateful. But far too much is at stake. The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol (see below) challenges governments to concentrate on eliminating the nuclear threat once and for all.

No constituency is more qualified to communicate the importance of nuclear disarmament than the representatives of people who live in cities. Nuclear weapons were developed because of their capacity to destroy cities, and that capacity remains to this day at the core of the national security policies of the nuclear-armed states. The cities of the world – where more than half of humanity now resides – have spoken in no uncertain terms: “Cities Are Not Targets!” National governments need to know that cities expect more from them. By rallying behind the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, cities can inspire governments to aim higher.

The Cities Appeal will be formally presented to the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We hope that by then it will have garnered support from thousands of cities.

We know only too well that you, as a fellow mayor, have many pressing concerns. If you have only fifteen minutes to spare for this vital issue, please use them to read the Protocol, sign the Appeal and send it back to the contact below. Every signature is a vital contribution to solving the most urgent global issue of our time. We deeply appreciate your valuable support.

We close with best wishes for your continued good health and sound development of your city.

Sincerely yours,

Tadatoshi Akiba
Mayor
The City of Hiroshima

Tomihisa Taue
Mayor
The City of Nagasaki

Please send back the signed Cities Appeal to:
Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign International Secretariat
c/o City Hall, Grote Markt 34, 8900 Ypres, BELGIUM
Fax: +32-57-23 92 76 (Attn. Mayors for Peace)
E-mail: 2020visioncampaign@ieper.be
CITIES APPEAL IN SUPPORT OF THE HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI PROTOCOL

Mindful that according to the United Nations Population Fund, “In 2008, for the first time in history, more than half of the world’s population will be living in towns and cities;” and that United Cities and Local Governments is recognized by UN agencies as the voice of cities worldwide;

Taking, in this regard, special note of the support expressed in the 2007 Jeju Declaration of the Second World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments for “the Mayors for Peace campaign, which lobbies the international community to renounce weapons of mass destruction;”

Noting that while the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention prohibit the acquisition of such weapons of mass destruction without exemption, the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) exempts five “nuclear-weapons States” from the prohibition on the acquisition of nuclear weapons;

Underscoring that the aforementioned exemption was never meant to be permanent as all States were obligated to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to ... nuclear disarmament;”

Recalling that, in 2005, a Mayors for Peace statement based on a resolution of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and signed by 575 mayors worldwide called upon State Parties to the NPT to take a decision to commence negotiation on the elimination of nuclear weapons and weapon-usable fissile material, and that this resolution was presented in the Great Hall of the General Assembly to the NPT Review Conference President;

Alarmed that not only did the 2005 NPT Review Conference fail to reach agreement on any decisions whatsoever and but also that no negotiations whatsoever have occurred in the years since to advance the objective of nuclear disarmament;

Mindful that the elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2020 has become more difficult because of this lack of progress and other adverse developments, but convinced that with a rededication to good faith efforts the objective is still achievable;

Welcoming wholeheartedly the 62nd UN General Assembly decision to begin preparations for a UN Decade for Disarmament, 2010-2020;

We the undersigned elected representatives of citizens of our cities:

Call upon all people to contribute to the preparations for the UN Decade for Disarmament;
Pledge to do our utmost to ensure that it will be a decisive decade for nuclear disarmament;

Call upon the State Parties to the NPT to ensure that the current NPT review process lays the foundation for actual nuclear disarmament during the UN Disarmament Decade and, to that end, urge each Head of Government to lead the government delegation to the 2010 Review Conference and to include in the delegation at least one representative of the nation’s cities;

Recommend for the immediate consideration of all States, not least each of our own, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol (appended) as a direct means of fulfilling the promise of the NPT by the year 2020, thereby meeting the obligation found by the International Court of Justice “to conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspect under strict and effective international control;”

Challenge all States to adopt the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol without delay and to undertake in good faith to present to the 65th General Assembly in September 2010 the envisioned Nuclear Weapons Convention or Framework Agreement.

Signature: [Mayor or Governor, City Councilor, or other elected local authority representative]

*Please clearly print your name, the name of your local authority, and country below, thank you.

Name and your title:

Name of your local authority:    Country:

(NOTE: Signing the Appeal does not make you a member of Mayors for Peace. If you wish to affiliate your city with Mayors for Peace please use the REGISTRATION FORM link at http://tinyurl.com/54upwk.)
Protocol complementary to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world by the year 2020.

Desiring to establish an over-arching means of addressing nuclear disarmament in all its aspects so as to facilitate the fulfillment by States Parties of their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and with a view to all states fulfilling the nuclear disarmament obligation found by the International Court of Justice in their 1996 advisory opinion on the legality of the use or threat of nuclear weapons;

Considering that continued exploitation of the discriminatory nature of the Treaty, wherein nuclear-weapon States Parties are exempted from the prohibition on the acquisition of nuclear weapons, is incompatible with the pursuit in good faith of nuclear disarmament in all its aspects;

Considering further that full equality under international law must be re-established by the elimination of all nuclear arsenals as agreed in the 1995 Extension Conference decision on “Principles and Objectives”;

Article I
1. The nuclear-weapon States Parties to this Protocol shall cease forthwith:
   (a) all activities related to the acquisition of nuclear weapon which non-nuclear-weapon States Parties are prohibited from pursuing under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
   (b) all activities which incorporate nuclear weapons into their military doctrines and practices;
       and shall place all nuclear weapons and weapon-usable fissile materials in safe and secure storage at the earliest possible date.

2. All other States Parties to this Protocol possessing weapons-usable fissile material shall take those steps required of the nuclear-weapon States in paragraph 1 which apply to their circumstances.

Article II
1. The States Parties to this Protocol shall pursue in good faith negotiations on achieving nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under the following two main sections:
   Section One negotiations will standardize and legally codify the measures taken under Article I, paragraph 1, (a) and (b).
   Section Two negotiations will address:
   (c) the elimination of all nuclear weapons and related deployment systems, including delivery vehicles, launch platforms, and command and control systems.
   (d) the elimination of all infrastructure associated with the acquisition of nuclear-weapon system, including production and testing facilities, and of all weapon-usable fissile material stocks.

2. The negotiations called for in paragraph 1 shall have as their objective a Nuclear Weapons Convention or a comparable Framework Agreement. Negotiations shall begin forthwith and be pursued without interruption by all States Parties until this objective is achieved. A Secretariat for the negotiations shall be established that remains in operation until negotiations are concluded.

3. Every good faith effort shall be made to ensure that all measures related to Section One are agreed and implemented before or by 2015 and that all measures related to Section Two are agreed and implemented before or by 2020.

4. All measures contained or foreseen in the Nuclear Weapons Convention or Framework Agreement shall be subject to strict and effective international control and shall provide for international institutions capable of ensuring that the nuclear-weapon free world which is achieved can be maintained indefinitely.

Article III
Nothing in this Protocol shall be interpreted as diminishing in anyway the nonproliferation obligations of any State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; including each State’s obligation to cooperate in the establishment and operation of the international institutions of Article II, paragraph 4.