



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

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Dear Executive Members of Mayors for Peace,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits.

Thank you very much for your ongoing initiatives and cooperation to advance the cause of Mayors for Peace.

I am writing today to share with you the basic stance of Mayors for Peace toward the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' (ICAN's) new initiative, [the "Cities Appeal"](#), which was launched earlier this month. It seeks to be a rallying call for cities / towns to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and to take action to support its principles and norms.

As you know, it was in August last year at our General Conference in Nagasaki that Mayors for Peace decided to promote the TPNW. Since then, we have been working in various ways to encourage all States to ratify it as well as collaborating with other organizations on this issue. In June, the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), for the 13th consecutive year, adopted [a comprehensive resolution calling for nuclear disarmament put forward by Mayors for Peace](#), thanks to the efforts by Mayor Cownie of Des Moines, who serves as the Lead City mayor of the U.S. Chapter of Mayors for Peace. On the basis of these initiatives and accumulated efforts taken autonomously by U.S. members of Mayors for Peace, we are pleased to witness this year that such efforts are starting to spread beyond the USCM, with a growing number of U.S. cities, large and small, passing their own resolutions and proclamations individually in their city councils. In addition, the California State Legislature has adopted a resolution calling for nuclear disarmament. Many of these initiatives cited and quoted from the USCM resolution, and they have advanced with the encouragement of civil society groups, many working under the umbrella "Back from the Brink" campaign.

We are also pleased to observe in many parts of the world that our member cities have initiated various innovative approaches and efforts to promote our cause of legally prohibiting nuclear weapons and realizing a world free of nuclear weapons.

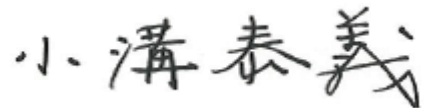
We see all of these efforts as examples of successful regional initiatives, which we consider very important in working as a global nonpartisan network of mayors. While autonomous, local government institutions, which are part of wider national public executive organizational structures, are actually quite diverse in various parts of the world. We are therefore mindful of the different political and social environments among countries and regions. We encourage executive members and lead city mayors to take autonomous approaches suitable in your own countries and regions, in consultation with your neighbor cities, to innovatively advance our common cause of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

Prior to the launch of ICAN's Cities Appeal, we had received a letter to Mayor Matsui from Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Executive Director of ICAN, explaining the concept behind it. I also had a chance to meet with Mr. Daniel Högsta, ICAN's Campaign Coordinator, to discuss it last week. In her letter to Mayor Matsui, Ms. Fihn describes the appeal as follows: *"Our initiative is in many ways inspired by the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020) adopted in 2017, which calls on the network to "urge all States, including nuclear-armed states and their allies, to participate in the Treaty". Our hope is that the Appeal can also be a mutually reinforcing way for mayors around the world to implement the Action Plan."*

We consider it an honor that the work of Mayors for Peace has been a source of inspiration to ICAN in launching their new initiative that seeks to involve cities and towns. Mayors for Peace and ICAN are working together in harmony to achieve our common goal of a world without nuclear weapons, while respecting each other's different but complementary approaches to create greater impact, just as an orchestra produces greater harmony than individual instruments can achieve in isolation. We hope to continue our constructive collaboration further. We also believe that each chapter/individual city knows best about what is specifically needed and what approach is most effective in its country or region to reach our common goal. Therefore, we honor the judgement of each member city/local chapter and leave it up to each of them to decide whether to join this initiative of ICAN's.

If your city/chapter decides to join this Appeal, we would appreciate it if you could kindly inform us. We also welcome your comments on this issue as well as information about your own initiatives.

With best regards,



Yasuyoshi Komizo
Secretary General
Mayors for Peace