



The World Conference of Mayors for Peace  
presents

# **2020 Vision**

**An Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons**

**August 2005**

**Mayors for Peace**

## 1 Background

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) entered into force in March 1970, becoming the central international agreement for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The NPT Review Conference in 2000 adopted a final document containing the promise of “an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon states to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.” This promise was seen as a significant step toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, which has long been the most fervent desire of Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities.

However, the current world situation affords little optimism. The United States, the nuclear superpower, is evidently uninterested in implementing its NPT promise. It has publicly reserved the option of a preemptive first strike with nuclear weapons and has openly stated its intention to develop small “useable” nuclear weapons. North Korea has withdrawn from the NPT and has told the US it plans to build and possess nuclear weapons. The NPT regime teeters on the verge of collapse, and the elimination of nuclear weapons remains a distant and elusive goal.

In response to the mounting peril they perceive, the Mayors for Peace decided at its executive conference in Manchester, UK, in October 2003, to launch an “Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons” to promote this “2020 Vision,” a program to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the year 2020, the 75 anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Mayors for Peace, other global associations of local authorities, NGOs and private individuals are now working together to promote this campaign.

## 2 Objectives

- 1) To strengthen the NPT Regime and encourage the international community to:
  - a) agree to immediately deactivate all nuclear weapons and terminate all launch on warning policies;
  - b) immediately begin concrete negotiations on the elimination of nuclear weapons, with the intent to conclude a nuclear weapon convention that will eliminate all nuclear weapons by 2020;
- 2) To press for the nuclear weapons convention to go into effect at the NPT Review Conference in 2010, followed by a good-faith effort to eliminate nuclear weapons within the following decade;
- 3) To create a peaceful world completely free from the threat of nuclear weapons by 2020.

## 3 Outline of the Campaign to August 2005

The Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons envisioned the following four steps:

### **Step 1 -- the NPT Preparatory Committee Meeting ( From April 26, 2004 to May 7. )**

Mayors for Peace brought a mayoral delegation of 19 mayors and deputy mayors from 12 countries to attend the NPT PrepCom held at UN Headquarters in New York. Seven representatives of the delegation delivered speeches calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons, and we had individual meetings with UN Undersecretary General Nobuyasu Abe and with national government representatives, including the Non-Aligned Movement, EU, Russia, China and Brazil. We sought to present as strongly as possible our citizens’ demand for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We also met with City Councilors of New York City and with anti-nuclear NGOs to expand our network of allies in the struggle for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

### **Step 2 -- Year of Remembrance and Action for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World; August 6, 2004- August 9, 2005**

Cities and peace groups around the world have long commemorated Hiroshima Day (August 6) and Nagasaki Day (August 9) and are continuing to promote initiatives to educate the public regarding the danger of nuclear weapons. Mayors for Peace designated August 6, 2004 to August 9, 2005 as a “Year of Remembrance and Action for a Nuclear Weapon Free World”.



### **Step 3 --NPT Review Conference, May 2 to 27, 2005**

Mayors for Peace formed a mayoral delegation of 167 city representatives (51 of them mayors) from 80 cities/municipalities in 16 countries and participated in the NPT Review Conference. These mayors, led by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, represented the voices of peace-loving citizens in demanding liberation from the nuclear threat. Mayor Akiba had circled the globe in January 2005 to promote participation in the delegation. In Washington DC he addressed the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual winter meeting, and in Belgium and Germany he met with mayors, parliamentarians, and government officials.

#### **(1) Participation in the Peace March and Rally**

On May 1, our Mayoral Delegation participated in the Peace March and Rally calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons and opposition to war. The Peace March started from a point in front of the UN building and continued about three kilometers to Central Park. About 40,000 people gathered from around the world to file through the streets of New York. The Rally was held in Central Park, where the Peace March ended. On behalf of Mayors for Peace, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki delivered speeches at the Rally.



Peace Rally in the streets of New York

#### **(2) Attending the opening of the NPT Review Conference**

On May 2nd, Mayors for Peace mayoral delegation attended the opening of the NPT Review Conference, showing that many mayors around the world support the abolition of nuclear weapons and had high hopes for the Conference. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in his opening address, stressed that “the only guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used is for our world to be free of such weapons,” making clear the mandate of the Review Conference.

#### **(3) Mayor Conference at the United Nations**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Mayors Conference was held at the Japan Society near UN Headquarters. In the morning session, distinguished guests including H.E. Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, the UN

Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, and former US Ambassador Chowdhury of Bangladesh delivered speeches. A luncheon session followed in Conference Room 4 of UN Headquarters. There, H.E. Secretary General Annan spoke as our distinguished guest, expressing his high hopes for Mayors for Peace and his belief in the possibility of realizing the abolition of nuclear weapons through the initiatives of civil society and especially the Mayors for Peace. On this occasion, Mayor Akiba personally handed the Secretary General a Request for Leadership and Positive Action toward the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. In the afternoon, the Mayoral Delegation gathered to discuss the future agenda of Mayors for Peace.



Mayors Conference with UN Secretary General Annan

**(4) NGO Representatives speak at the NPT Review Conference**

On May 4<sup>th</sup> a special luncheon session was arranged for NGO representatives after the official plenary session of the NPT Review Conference. Ten representatives from NGOs including the Japan Congress Against A and H Bombs, the Japan Council Against A and H Bombs, International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, and Abolition 2000 delivered their speeches, calling for national delegates to abolish nuclear weapons. In this session, Ms. Yoko Ono Lennon delivered an impressive speech stressing that the A-bomb survivors warning, “No More Hiroshimas and Nagasakis” has never been more important. “Let us wake up, come together, and work on cleaning and healing our planet, instead of further destroying it.” .



Mayor Ito of Nagasaki speaking at the 2005 NPT Review Conference



Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima speaking at the NPT Review Conference 2005

**(\*) Participation in the Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones**

On April 26, prior to the NPT Review, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki participated in the opening session of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones Conference on behalf of Mayors for Peace. Mayor Akiba served as spokesman for civil society in an opening ceremony that included representatives from the signatories of the four Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and such international dignitaries as Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei, Director General of the IAEA, and Brazilian Ambassador Sergio Duarte, president of the NPT Review Conference. Mayor Akiba spoke highly of the efforts made by the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones and requested further leadership to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

#### **4 Next Steps for the Mayors for Peace Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons**

##### **YEAR 3 OF A 17-YEAR CAMPAIGN 2003-2020 (August 6, 2005 to August 9, 2006)**

##### **The Year of Inheritance, Awakening, and New Commitment**

The first priority for this year is to pass the torch of anti-nuclear activity from the Hibakusha to the rest of the world; the second is to awaken the global public from the nuclear trance; and the third is to inspire the abolitionist majority to work with new commitment to eliminate nuclear weapons. To effectively pass the torch and awaken the public, the campaign will emphasize two “awakened” attitudes.

**(1) Nuclear weapons are obsolete, absurdly dangerous, and must go now.**

The campaign will consistently and assuredly declare that nuclear weapons are no longer tolerable. They never were tolerable, of course, but we tolerated them. No more! They are passé. They are relics of the Cold War and a war culture. They are an anachronism. Some still seek to rely on them or turn them into something useful, but such people are trapped in the past. In today’s world, only a terrorist has any use for nuclear weapons. The US Conference of Mayors said it clearly. “Weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world.” Biological and chemical weapons have been banned. The obvious next step is to ban the most heinous weapon of all. As Yoko Ono reminded us at the UN in May, “It’s clean up time!” Let’s get to work.

**(2) Abolitionists are the Great Majority.**

The vast majority of nations has renounced nuclear weapons and want to see them abolished. The vast majority of people want to be liberated from the nuclear threat. Two thirds of Americans recognize that the proper, stable way to prevent nuclear proliferation is: “No nation should possess them.” (66% in AP poll of US citizens, March 31, 2005). Those of us actively struggling to eliminate nuclear weapons are no fringe group. We represent the majority. Those clinging to nuclear weapons are a tiny minority. Without exception nuclear-weapon programs were created in secret and maintained without proper democratic oversight. The task is to develop democratic modes of action to assert the will of the Great Majority.

##### **Campaign Action Plan**

The year leading to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary was declared the Year of Remembrance and Action; 2005-2006, the year following the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be the Year of Inheritance, Awakening and New Commitment. The campaign will work at the UN level, the local government level, and the grassroots level to promote global events, internationally coordinated local events, and ongoing activities.

During the coming year (2005-2006), Mayors for Peace will emphasize three main events:

**(1) UN Day and Disarmament Week, October 24-30, 2005**

We will ask Mayors and activists to hold public events at City Halls around the world. Disarmament Week coincides with the final days of the UN General Assembly's First Committee deliberation of peace and security resolutions. Every effort will be made to ensure that substantive, action-oriented resolutions are debated in that forum, and we will ask all our members and allies to help focus public attention on the extent to which these crucial deliberations support the 2020 Vision Campaign.

**(2) The World Urban Forum (June 19-23) and World Peace Forum (June 23-28),**

The World Urban Forum and World Peace Forum will be held in Vancouver, Canada. These are seen as important opportunities to raise consciousness among mayors, city officials, and peace activists regarding the struggle against the nuclear threat. A Mayors for Peace delegation will attend both events. At the Urban Forum, every effort will be made to conclude a Treaty of Cities by which the signers will declare themselves nuclear free and, regardless of national borders, will press national governments to engage constructively in planning for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

**(3) The tenth anniversary of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on Nuclear Weapons and the Month of Action for Compliance**

On 8 July 1996, the ICJ issued an advisory opinion establishing the legal obligation of all nations to negotiate and conclude an agreement on measures for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Mayors for Peace will declare 8 July 2006 (ICJ Day) to 9 August 2006 (Nagasaki Day) a Month of Action for Compliance. We will propose to potential partners that the Month be launch by a major demonstration in the Hague on the anniversary.

To support and complement the major events described above, the Mayors for Peace will organize and/or encourage the following ongoing activities:

(1) **The "Jump-Start Disarmament" Project** – In reaction to the total lack progress at the NPT Review Conference, it is looking likely now that a resolution will be put forward in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly that would clear the way for new inter-governmental talks on nuclear disarmament. Such a resolution will likely be adopted, leading to talks beginning in Geneva as early as January 2006. What is still unclear is whether and to what extent the talks will be focused on a program of action for achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world and whether all the key states will participate constructively. The *Jump-Start Disarmament* Project will press to ensure that the necessary resolution is adopted with broad support and that it will create a special committee that will begin effective work toward the goal of the 2020 Vision, and begin mounting pressure for the full participation of all states.

(2) **The "Ask the People!" Project** -- To underscore that the members of Mayors for Peace truly speak for the people of the world when they advocate achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020, we will promote national polls centered on this issue in as many as fifty countries. The Project will begin immediately to raise funds from foundations. The design of the questions will also begin as soon as possible, ideally with the pro bono assistance of an experienced poll designer(s). The "Ask the People!" Project would be officially launched on UN Day (see event above). Ideally at least one polling operation in one country would be in the works by that time. Polls would be conducted throughout the following eight months, with a final push for completion in July. The compiled global results would be made public on the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary in Hiroshima (see events above). The political authority of Mayors for Peace and all other abolitionists will be greatly enhanced by the fact that they definitely speak for the Great Majority.

(3) **The "Mega-Port, Mega-Impact" Project** – The Rand Corporation has conducted a study to predict the impact of a terrorist nuclear bomb exploding in the port of Long Beach, California. This powerful study, which paints a frightening picture of economic disruption and hardship nationwide (in the US) and worldwide, will probably be released in August. Mayors for Peace, in cooperation with the U.S. Conference of Mayors (currently led by the Mayor of Long



Beach, Beverly O'Neill), will seek out mayoral organizations in Europe and Japan that could become partners in promoting an internationally coordinated study of other mega-ports in Europe and Asia. Mayors for Peace would also seek funds for widespread publication and distribution of the findings. Ideally, this study will be completed while Mayor O'Neill is still President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, i.e. June 2006. It would thus be available for use at the World Urban Forum (see above). The purpose of this project is to educate local government authorities and the general public regarding the far-reaching impact of even a small nuclear explosion in any one of the world's two dozen mega-ports, lending urgency to the effort to eliminate the nuclear weapons and control the fissile materials that make such an attack possible.

#### **(4) Educational projects**

Mayors for Peace places a high priority on reaching out to young people, educating them about nuclear weapons and involving them in the struggle to eliminate the nuclear threat. We will encourage activists and mayors in all member cities to work closely with their schools to promote this subject at every opportunity. In addition, we are developing two specific projects.

- The A-bomb Account Reading Project encourages older children and adults to read hibakusha testimony to younger children and other groups. In Hiroshima we have found this an excellent way to teach the subject and generate energy for related activities.

- We are also promoting the establishment of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses in colleges and universities around the world. We are developing curriculum and making direct contacts with professors and university presidents in an effort to encourage schools to take up the atomic bombings and the message of the hibakusha as formal academic subjects of inquiry.

#### **(5) Developing Ties and Outreach**

Broad-based collaboration and mutual support have been essential to the Emergency Campaign since its inception. However, this phase of the campaign will emphasize cooperation and coordinated action as never before. Some of our key allies and related campaigns include:

##### *Other Local Government Networks*

Mayors for Peace has established close working relations with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Sister Cities International, both based in Washington. The Japanese association of cities has endorsed the 2020 Vision Campaign. Associations of nuclear-free local authorities, especially in Japan and Europe, are powerful allies. Two local authority networks in Italy have endorsed the Campaign, and we work closely with another natural ally, the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities. These fraternal relationships will be deepened, but they should also be emulated in other countries. As an international organization, it is appropriate for Mayors for Peace to have mutual relations with regional and international associations of mayors and municipal authorities. Meetings of the national organizations provide opportunities for Mayors for Peace members to meet each other and reach out to other mayors. Local peace activists can be very helpful in facilitating such activities, since there is not yet a reflex among most mayors to think of these national meetings as campaigning opportunities.

##### *National legislators*

In New York, both in 2004 and 2005, Mayors for Peace and the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament cosponsored meetings. At the 2005 meeting, a joint declaration was issued that remains useful as an organizing tool for outreach to mayors and members of parliaments (MPs). Many MPs have their constituencies entirely within a city. In most cases they will have a strong interest in maintaining close ties with the mayor, and in responding to the requests of citizens. MPs should be invited to participate in City Hall events, like the UN Day/Disarmament Week activities (see above). In most governmental systems, MPs' have an oversight function, which enables them to require government officials to appear before them and answer questions under oath. This could be vital in some instances in order to get to the bottom of a government's lackluster performance in developing a plan of action for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

### *The Abolition Now! Campaign*

Abolition 2000, through its Abolition Now! Campaign, has been and will continue to be our main partner in reaching out to other constituencies. As a member of the Abolition 2000 network, Mayors for Peace will work with other members to update and implement the Abolition Now! Campaign in accordance with the Abolition Now! mandate adopted in May 2005 in New York.

### *Projects of Japanese Anti-Nuclear Organizations*

These organizations, especially those in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are vital allies for Mayors for Peace. Every effort will be made to work closely with these organizations and to help them work in tandem with Abolition 2000 and other allies outside of Japan.

### *The "No LOW" Project*

Forty-four Nobel Prizewinners, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, several leading NGOs and an increasing number of governments are already demanding that all nuclear-weapon states abandon their LOW (launch on warning) policies. This project advocates an easy, rational, absolutely necessary step to take to avoid the accidental extinction of the human race. Mayors for Peace will help to publicize and obtain support for this project.

### *German Poster Campaign and the Wall to Protect International Law*

Both of these campaigns have demonstrated appeal and effectiveness. Mayors for Peace will support and learn from them in every way possible.

### *Peace Pillar Campaign*

For Mother Earth in Belgium is promoting the idea of placing peace pillars in cities around the world. This campaign is a good fit with Mayors for Peace, so we will explore ways to cooperate, including the possibility of establishing the peace pillars as a Mayors for Peace prize to be given to cities that make outstanding contributions to the cause.

## **Organizational Priorities**

The following activities are seen as related to both the emergency campaign and the normal organizational activities of Mayors for Peace:

### *Advisory Board*

An Advisory Board will be formed to help guide the Campaign. It will report to the Executive Committee and will be chaired by the President. It will be composed of key members, NGO leaders, and other experts. Communications will be done primarily by internet, although there is provision for occasional telephone conference calls.

### *Recruiting*

To broaden and strengthen our network, Mayors for Peace will continue to recruit new members. Our target will be 2006 members by August 6, 2006. We will especially encourage all our member mayors to assist this effort as well as asking allied organizations to include the recruitment of mayors in their other programs. In return, of course, we will be more than happy to support signature, petition, statement or resolution campaigns organized by others.

### *Support for Peace Commissions*

Mayors for Peace will encourage member mayors and local activists to work together to form peace commissions in cities around the world. Peace commissions convened and led by an assigned city official are an excellent way to help the peace and justice community in any city work in better coordination and cooperation with each other and with the municipal government. This project has been taken up by the Association of World Citizens and the International Association of Educators for World Peace, with whom Mayors for Peace will cooperate.

### *Fundraising*

As you can see, we are preparing for an ambitious campaign year. We believe that our campaign has real potential for success, but only if it effectively brings the nuclear threat to public consciousness. Hiroshima and Nagasaki have carried the financial burden of Mayors for Peace almost alone over its 24-year history. They can continue to support the bulk of the costs of the



Secretariat infrastructure and General Conferences, which this year cost \$450,000. In the last campaign year, however, they spent well over \$150,000 on our global 2020 Vision Campaign, including over \$50,000 on the Mayoral Delegation to New York. After years of recession in Japan, it is impossible for these cities to continue to fund the campaign's rapid expansion. The fact that we have grown from 500 members to over 1000 members in two years indicates the extent to which our activities and expenses are growing. Mayors for Peace is, thus, forced to appeal to its member cities; to hold fundraising events; to approach foundations; and to explore a variety of fundraising methods in order to finance campaign events and projects. We hope that all of our allies will be open to participating in or including us in large-scale fundraising efforts.

Appendix: **List of statements of support for the 2020 Vision Campaign**

**1) Resolution passed by the European Parliament ( February 26, 2004 )**

On 26 February, 2004, the European Parliament, in its Plenary Session in Brussels, adopted a resolution that includes support for the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons promoted by Mayors for Peace. A follow-up resolution was adopted in 2005.

**2) Resolution passed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors ( June 28, 2004 )**

On June 28, 2004, a resolution supporting our Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons was adopted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which has 1,183 member cities, at its 72nd Annual Meeting held in Boston, the United States.

**3) Resolution passed by Japan Council of Nuclear-Free Local Authorities at the National Convention of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities ( July 30, 2004 )**

On Friday, 30 July, 2004, the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities held its 19<sup>th</sup> National Convention of Japan Nuclear Free local Authorities in Nagasaki City. A resolution to support the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, as promoted by the Mayors for Peace, was adopted during the Convention.

**4) International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War ( September 16, 2004 )**

On September 16, 2004, Mayors for Peace President and Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba addressed the 16th IPPNW World Congress in Beijing, requesting support for the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons.

**5) Resolution passed by Japan Association of City Mayors ( January 26, 2005 )**

On January 26, 2005, the Japan Association of City Mayors adopted a Resolution Demanding the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. This resolution mentioned the importance of the NPT Review Conference and described the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons in its appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

**6) Resolution passed by the National Conference of Black Mayors ( US, April 30, 2005 )**

On April 30, the National Conference of Black Mayors passed a resolution stating that it joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the World Conference of Mayors for Peace in calling upon the President of the United States and the U.S. government to support a decision by the 2005 NPT Review Conference to commence negotiations on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

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**Ideas Please**

Any ideas you have about how to present the campaign effectively and distribute our information widely will be gratefully received. Please contact us at the numbers or addresses above, or visit the Mayors for Peace website at: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/> Thank you.