

Final Communiqué

The Mayors for Peace Executive Conference was held on November 21 and 22, 2007 in Florence, Italy. This meeting in Florence took note of the fact that Giorgio La Pira, as mayor of Florence, organized an international meeting of mayors in 1955 to pursue nuclear disarmament at the city level. As far as we know, his was the first initiative of city diplomacy in opposition to nuclear weapons, long before the founding of Mayors for Peace in 1982. Thus, it was particularly appropriate that the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference took place in Florence on our 25th anniversary.

As we near the end of our 25th anniversary year, we have 1,828 city members in 122 countries and regions, and we are widely recognized as a municipal association with a significant global network arousing public demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Mayors are duty bound legally and from a humanitarian perspective to protect the lives and wellbeing of their citizens. Thus, this Executive Conference expressed its determination to continue promoting Peace Culture, declaring that funds should not be invested in war and nuclear armaments, but rather in meeting human and environmental needs, and calling for nuclear weapon states to assure cities that we are not targeted for destruction, and seeking to abolish nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

After approving a report of recent actions and discussing future steps, the 2007 Executive Conference in Florence adopted the following five action priorities:

1. Prepare the global public for the “Decade of Disarmament” (2010 to 2020) as declared by the United Nations. To this end, we are now launching Phase III of our 2020 Vision Campaign, which we will unveil publicly at the NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee Meeting in Geneva in May 2008. There, we will call for two UN conferences. One is for a framework agreement on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects; the other is to strengthen international humanitarian law to protect cities from the scourge of war.
2. Expand and intensify our 2020 Vision Campaign, which will be supported through voluntary contributions from member cities, foundations, socially responsible corporations, and the general public. To facilitate this expansion, it was decided to establish the 2020 Vision Campaign Association in Ypres, Belgium, an NPO incorporated under Belgian law, that will plan, implement and raise funds for the campaign on behalf of Mayors for Peace.
3. Hold the Seventh General Conference in Nagasaki in August 2009.
4. Send the Resolution on the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons adopted by the Executive Conference to the governments of nuclear weapon states, states suspected of developing or possessing nuclear weapons, and the United Nations, along with a request to maintain and strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime.
5. Send this Final Communiqué to all member cities.

November 22, 2007

7th Mayors for Peace Executive Conference