

Final Communiqué

In September 2011, 29 years after Mayors for Peace was established, the number of member cities exceeded 5,000. As of this Executive Conference, we have 5,053 cities in 151 countries and regions, and we continue to grow by one or two cities each day. Mayors for Peace is now a global network that is impacting international public opinion and guiding it toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The 8th Mayors for Peace Executive Conference was held on November 9 and 10, 2011 in Granollers, Spain. The participating mayors and representatives from executive cities reviewed past efforts and discussed future steps.

Members are requested to note that due to the passage of time, it has become necessary to update the 2020 Vision. Specifically, the date for the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention has been reset at 2015. [see attachment for details]

Based on its deliberations, this Conference adopted the following priorities in pursuit of a world without nuclear weapons by 2020:

- Develop a global grassroots petition drive, including e-petitions, conducted by all member cities calling for negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention, and submit those petitions to the most appropriate authorities.
- Issue letters of request and/or statements calling for a world free from nuclear weapons to be sent to appropriate recipients at appropriate times and in effective ways.
- Encourage member cities to conduct and report activities to the secretariat, which will then publicize the activity through the website and press releases to raise the public awareness and inspire similar activities in other member cities.
- Offer intensified secretariat support and follow up to facilitate activities as necessary. As needed, the secretariat will facilitate Executive Conferences to discuss and make decisions through negotiations by document.

2020 Vision Campaign Action Plan approved by Conference

On August 6, 2011, at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, the Mayor of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace, declared, ***“We plan to host an international conference that will bring the world’s policy makers to Hiroshima to discuss the nuclear nonproliferation regime.”*** The 2020 Vision Campaign Association has adopted the following campaign action plan to ensure that the 2013 General Conference (see below) is in a position to make the necessary decisions and plans for the final 2-year push towards a Hiroshima policymakers summit in 2015, and to arouse international public demand for adoption of a realistic and effective 2015 NPT Review Conference Action Plan.

1. Instilling a sense of urgency and stimulating momentum toward convening a high-level meeting of governments and experts in Hiroshima concurrent with the 8th General

Conference of Mayors for Peace in August 2013.

Goals of the high-level meeting:

- Examine and promote follow-through on the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan
- Explore elements of a 2015 NPT Review Conference Action Plan, to include a summit meeting in Hiroshima later that year
- Develop quality interaction between this meeting and the General Conference

Action:

- Leadership Cities and Directors of the Campaign will involve member cities in lobbying national governments, with the help of 2020 Vision Campaigners and Ambassadors
- Create mayoral delegations and develop initiatives calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons at the Preparatory Committee Meetings in 2012 and 2013, with a view to tracking the review process through to the 2015 NPT Review Conference.
- Strengthen links with NPDI, NWFZ and like-minded countries, as well as the United Nations
- Encourage our strategic allies to work with us towards these objectives

2. Commemorate the 5000-city milestone with a new poster exhibit available to all our member cities. To keep distribution costs down, the exhibit will be posted on the internet in downloadable form.

Goal of the exhibit:

- To directly inform several million citizens on:
 - the impact of nuclear attack on a city from the Nagasaki ‘mini’ poster exhibit in order to convey the reality of the 1945 U.S. atomic bombings
 - the impact of nuclear war on the entire world as highlighted by the Geneva seminar on nuclear famine in order to convey the reckless endangerment of humanity by current nuclear policies
 - the constant diversion of economic and human resources from urban, human needs to nuclear weapons and related military spending
 - the role city leaders strive to play through the 2020 Vision Campaign of Mayors for Peace to eliminate the nuclear threat and waste
 - local efforts toward the global objectives and relevant local issues including suffering resulting from the scourge of war
- To collect signatures on the Mayors for Peace petition calling for a nuclear weapons convention for the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020 and to receive public contributions to the 2020 Vision Campaign

Actions:

- The full poster exhibit will be premiered in Vienna at the May 2012 meeting of Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference
- Encourage use of the poster exhibit in City Halls, Parliaments, public spaces, and schools, and at major conferences in connection with key international dates such as Aug. 6 and Aug. 9.
- Provide exhibition ‘add-on’ resources including:

- exhibition publicity material adaptable to local use
 - educational films for concurrent screening
 - manual of holding press conferences, receptions, fundraising events,
 - booklet and website with additional information
3. Strengthening and broadening strategic alliances at the international level with organizations such as the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Red Cross/Red Crescent (ICRC), Abolition 2000, ICLEI, IALANA, IPPNW, IPB and other organizations working to preserve the environment, eradicate hunger, resolve conflicts, and challenge misplaced priorities. Invite the leading representatives of the allies to participate in the 2013 General Conference, with a view to contributing to the success of the high-level meeting. (These alliances at the international level do not place an obligation on member cities to collaborate with representatives of these organizations at the local level.)
 4. Identify celebrities and other opinion leaders who support the 2020 Vision and appointment to serve as 2020 Vision Ambassadors. The Campaign Secretariat will keep the Ambassador informed regarding Mayors for Peace activities and they will promote the 2020 Vision through their own activities and public events.

8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Mayors for Peace will hold its 8th General Conference in Hiroshima in August 2013 for three days around August 6. In addition to the invitees identified above, we will call for participation by disarmament ambassadors and UN officials as well as parliamentarians. We will also include representatives from Hiroshima Prefecture and non-member Japanese local governments.

In 2012, the Secretariat will conduct a survey of member cities to solicit ideas and input for the agenda of the General Conference and future direction of Mayors for Peace.

Enthusiastic support was expressed for holding a world exposition of peace cities in conjunction with the 2013 General Conference. This would provide member cities with an opportunity to publically display photographs and information about their cities' peace activities at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Members are encouraged to raise this proposal with their city governments and constituencies in order to develop ideas and identify potential sources of funding, and to report their findings at the next Mayors for Peace meeting in May 2012. This idea will be included in the survey mentioned above.

Other decisions taken by Conference

Now that Mayors for Peace membership has exceeded 5,000, we discussed the need to strengthen and enhance Mayors for Peace activities over the long term. Issues discussed included a proposal to hold future Executive Conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki; sharing

the operating costs of Mayors for Peace among member cities; and establishing regional offices of Mayors for Peace -- clarifying roles, responsibilities and operating procedures.

To promote the shift from quantity to quality and to strengthen our financial base, an international committee of representatives from existing secretariats and member cities will meet in the near future to develop a proposal for creation of regional structures within Mayors for Peace, taking into account, on the one hand, the special role of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and on the other hand, the more than 5000 members around the world. As part of its mandate, the committee will develop a concrete proposal regarding how to fund Mayors for Peace in the future, and will prepare a draft for consideration at the next Mayors for Peace meeting in May 2012. Hannover has offered to host the initial meeting of the committee in the near future with the assistance of the Hiroshima Secretariat.

The “Resolution on the abolition of nuclear weapons” adopted by the Executive Conference will be sent to the governments of nuclear weapon states, states suspected of developing or possessing nuclear weapons, and the United Nations, along with a request to make every effort to achieve a nuclear weapons convention as quickly as possible.

This Final Communiqué and the “Resolution on the abolition of nuclear weapons” will be sent to all member cities.

November 10, 2011
The 8th Mayors for Peace Executive Conference