

Resolution towards the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

In August 1945, the first nuclear weapon used in combat was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, the second was dropped on Nagasaki. The resulting catastrophes in these two cities are indescribable. Even today, thousands of A-bomb survivors suffer physically, psychologically, and socially from aftereffects. Struggling to live difficult daily lives, they have, nevertheless, sought consistently and intensively to persuade the world to eliminate all nuclear weapons.

To pursue that goal, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki established the World Conference of Mayors for Peace in 1982 to promote solidarity and cooperation among cities in arousing international demand for a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons. This network of cities has expanded worldwide, and in September 2011, our membership exceeded 5,000 cities in 151 countries and regions, and continues to grow rapidly.

Mayors for Peace is dedicated to protecting citizens from inhumane conditions created by armed conflicts, wars, and use of nuclear weapons.

In 2003, we launched an “Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons” that quickly became our “2020 Vision,” a program to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the year 2020. Working with other cities, concerned citizens, and NGOs around the world, we have launched a number of important initiatives. In the run-up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, we promoted a grassroots petition drive derived from our Cities Are Not Targets! project (CANT). We also campaigned for adoption of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, a concrete roadmap for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. Though the Protocol was not adopted, the Final Document did, for the first time, mention a nuclear weapons convention, which we consider an achievement for the 2020 Vision.

After the speech by U.S. President Obama in Prague in April 2009 calling for a “world without nuclear weapons,” and with the adoption of a Final Document agreeing on an action plan toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, global momentum appeared to be mounting. Since then, however, we have seen no significant progress. The U.S. and Russia concluded the New START Treaty, but the U.S. then conducted a new type of nuclear test, in addition to its subcritical testing. Such actions have cast a shadow over the movement toward nuclear abolition. In a time of unprecedented global economic crisis, a recent study has found that the nuclear weapon states plan to spend more than 1 Trillion U.S. dollars on nuclear weapons and related programs over the next decade. Meanwhile, mayors and cities are being forced to make deep cuts in vital public services and the Millennium Development Goals fall farther and farther behind.

Hunger, inequality and lack of opportunities endanger our world. We are particularly

concerned that regional conflicts could lead to the use of nuclear weapons. We are aware that illegal trade in arms and drugs is fueling these conflicts. As Mayors for Peace, we need to demonstrate our clear determination to eliminate or bring these activities under strict control.

On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake caused a major accident and release of radiation from the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. The ongoing threat of radiation has generated tremendous anxiety among those living nearby and millions around the world. The issue of nuclear power has become a global public debate. Whether the source of radiation exposure is nuclear bombs, nuclear testing, or nuclear energy, we must do everything we can to prevent any more *hibakusha* anywhere. We must create a society that is supported by safer energy.

Today, the average age of the *hibakusha* is over 77 years. To honor their most cherished desire, we must achieve a nuclear-weapon free world at the earliest possible date. To this end, we believe it important for as many people as possible, especially policymakers from the nuclear-weapon states, to visit and experience first-hand the A-bombed cities, learn the horror of nuclear weapons, and discuss ways to free the human family from this threat. In addition, Mayors for Peace will promote the following actions to focus the energy and power of our entire membership in pursuit of the 2020 Vision.

- Develop a global grassroots petition drive conducted by all member cities calling for negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention, and submit those petitions to the most appropriate authorities.
- Instill a sense of urgency and stimulate 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.
- Commemorate the 5000-city milestone with a new poster exhibit to directly inform millions of citizens on the impact of nuclear attack on a city; the impact of nuclear war on catastrophic climate change resulting in global famine; the diversion of economic and human resources from urban, human needs to nuclear weapons and related military spending; and the role city leaders strive to play through the 2020 Vision Campaign of Mayors for Peace.
- Strengthen and broaden strategic alliances with international NGOs.
- 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.
- Work with member cities, NGOs and concerned citizens in specific regions to develop effective means to influence their governments to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to promote regional activities in support of concrete actions.
- Create mayoral delegations and develop initiatives calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons at the Preparatory Committee Meetings in 2012, 2013 and 2014 and at the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

The target year for conclusion of the nuclear weapons convention is 2015. To achieve this goal, we hereby demand that national governments take the following steps:

- 1) Pressure the nuclear-weapon states, including non-parties to the NPT, to immediately de-alert all nuclear weapons, cease all nuclear development and deployment programs, and commence concrete negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention.
- 2) Send disarmament ambassadors to join mayors, UN officials, parliamentarians and NGO representatives at the Mayors for Peace General Conference in Hiroshima in August 2013 to develop a clear roadmap that will lead us to a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.

We hereby declare our renewed determination to act on behalf of our citizens to free them from the threat of nuclear weapons. We advocate conflict resolution based on dialogue because without peace, there is no democracy. Without peace, there is no freedom. Without peace, there is no sustainable development.

November 10, 2011

The 8th Mayors for Peace Executive Conference