

Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2013-2017)

I Purport

Mayors for Peace has been dedicating its efforts to the expansion of its membership in order to develop the 2020 Vision (Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons), a set of guidelines for action aimed at abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020, under the cooperation of ever more cities and citizens worldwide. Currently, 5,712 cities from 157 countries/regions around the world have joined Mayors for Peace, representing one-seventh of the total global population, or one billion people.

As the circle of support for nuclear weapons abolition widens, we witness an accelerating momentum to highlight the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and outlaw them, which is precisely in line with our 2020 Vision in three key areas.

- Greater awareness of the urgent imperative to abolish nuclear weapons
The international Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo on March 4 and 5, attended by 127 countries, considered both the direct impact of a nuclear explosion upon humanity and the indirect catastrophic impact on the global climate.
- Good faith efforts to get negotiations started towards achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world
The 2012 UN General Assembly established an Open-Ended Working Group with a mandate to develop proposals to proceed with multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. The Working Groups sessions in Geneva attended by about 70 countries, including many of those allied to nuclear weapon states, as well as international organizations and civil society, started sessions in May to compile a report for the sixty-eighth UN General Assembly Session in September.
- Holding the High-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament
For the first time ever, the UN General Assembly will hold a high-level plenary meeting at the opening of the UN General Assembly on September 26 to discuss nuclear disarmament. The UN resolution that scheduled this session urges participation at the “highest level”, and Mayors for Peace has been urging the same.

From now on, one of the roles that Mayors for Peace must play is to strengthen the voice of the citizens urging concrete measures towards nuclear weapons abolition to governments worldwide, and to raise the international public awareness calling for nuclear weapons abolition. For this purpose, the expansion of membership in Mayors for Peace and the active development of independent activities at the city, regional, and international level are necessary. In addition to having even more people understand the reality of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and having the message of the atomic bomb survivors, calling for nuclear weapons abolition, be shared by people around the world, it will be necessary to foster public opinion with the cooperation of many groups. Furthermore, it is necessary to strengthen the measures calling

on the United Nations and governments of various nations to overcome the barriers of mutual distrust, regardless of nationality, race, religion, as well as building a sense of community, and creating a security system rooted in a feeling of brotherhood as fellow members of the human race.

In addition, the improvement of the financial basis of Mayors for Peace and the Secretariat's function is also an important challenge.

Based on these considerations, the main projects to be promoted from 2013 to 2017 under the 2020 Vision are as listed below.

II Main Projects

1. Expanding membership and strengthening Mayors for Peace's management system

1) Expanding membership

i. Calling on non-member cities for membership through various channels

We will call on non-member cities to join Mayors for Peace, not only through the Mayors for Peace Secretariat (hereafter referred to as Hiroshima Secretariat) but through associations of local governments, lead cities, 2020 Vision Campaigners, and other channels.

ii. Calling on capital cities for membership <new>

We will promote the membership of capital cities, which have great political influence.

2) Promoting regionalization and galvanizing regional activities <new>

i. Selection of lead cities and their roles

In order to encourage proactive and independent activities appropriate to each region, we will promote the creation of regional groups. For this end, we will select a number of lead cities, which will serve as chapters for the Hiroshima Secretariat and take the lead in their regional activities. The lead cities are also expected to establish an appropriate system as chapters. Following discussions with candidate cities, the President will select lead cities, which will then identify countries and areas that will join their regional group. Also, when non-executive cities have been selected as lead cities, the cities will be appointed to become executive cities.

ii. Holding of regional conferences by member cities

To stimulate regional activities, lead cities will hold regional conferences to exchange information and determine the content of activities based on regional characteristics.

3) Strengthening information transmission <new>

We will utilize social media to facilitate the transmission of information about Mayors for

Peace's activities and information exchange among member cities.

4) Solidifying the financial basis

i. Fundraising

Mayors for Peace will seek to explore and use better and more effective fund raising strategies to maximize fund raising beyond membership fees, for example, specific events, joint projects with partners and application to funding and revenue giving organizations.

ii. Membership fees <new>

In order to build a system through which all member cities cooperate to support the organization while maintaining membership, each city will bear an annual membership fee of 2,000 yen. Furthermore, we will welcome any voluntary payment of more than 2,000 yen. Cities will not lose their membership automatically if they do not pay the fee.

5) Improving the Secretariat's functions

i. Receiving of interns, etc.

We will work to improve the functions of the Secretariat through receiving interns from member cities and maintaining information about member cities.

ii. Establishing the positions of Secretary General and Under-Secretary General <new>

The Chairperson and Executive Director of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation will serve respectively as Secretary General and Under Secretary General at the Hiroshima Secretariat.

2. Fostering the international public opinion for nuclear weapons abolition

1) Communication and transmission of Hiroshima and Nagasaki's messages

i. Spreading the reality of atomic bombing through holding A-bomb Poster Exhibitions in member cities

Member cities will hold Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Poster Exhibitions in their cities so that more citizens may deepen their understanding of the reality of atomic bombings and share our strong desire for nuclear abolition. Also, through the cooperation with worldwide peace and war museums, we will disseminate the reality of the atomic bombings. In order to hold an exhibition, cities will apply to the City of Hiroshima, the City of Nagasaki, or the Hiroshima Secretariat for A-bomb posters, etc. as well as carrying out effective promotional activities.

ii. A-bomb survivor testimony through Skype

We will transmit testimonies of A-bomb survivors through Skype connecting venues in member cities and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

iii. Promotion of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course

We will encourage colleges and universities in member cities to establish and promote Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses designed to analyze, systematize, and convey the reality of the atomic bombings and A-bomb survivors' messages to younger generations.

iv. Distribution and cultivation of seeds and seedlings of A-bombed trees <new>

We will distribute the seeds and seedlings of A-bombed trees, which have survived the atomic bombing and are alive today, to the member cities wishing to receive them. They will carry out activities to raise citizens' awareness for peace using trees, as well as taking care of them as a symbol of peace.

v. Distribution and preservation of the Flame of Peace <new>

We will distribute fire from the Flame of Peace, which will keep burning until all nuclear weapons on the planet are eliminated, to the member cities which are interested in this project. They will carry out projects to raise citizens' awareness for peace using the flame, as well as keeping it burning as a symbol of peace.

vi. Holding of Exhibition: 'The Light' - Portraits of the 'Hibakusha'<new>

To the member cities wishing to hold this event, we will lend portraits of atomic bomb survivors and their second/third generation drawn by the faculty and students of the Hiroshima City University, as well as descriptions about their A-bomb experiences and wish for peace.

vii. Screening of animated films: 'On a Paper Crane' and 'Barefoot Gen'<new>

To the member cities wishing to hold this event, we will lend animated films for screening, such as 'On a Paper Crane', a story about a 12-year-old girl Sadako Sasaki who died due to an A-bomb related disease while folding paper cranes in hope for her recovery, and 'Barefoot Gen', depicting a strong-willed boy named Gen who lived through hardship among the ruins of Hiroshima.

viii. Receiving of journalists and peace activists from member cities and diplomats<new>

We will receive journalists and peace activists from member cities and diplomats of foreign missions in Japan in Hiroshima and Nagasaki so that they may understand the reality of the atomic bombings and share our strong desire for nuclear weapons abolition. Following their return to their home countries, we will encourage them to engage in various activities to foster public opinion toward nuclear abolition in their cities.

ix. Receiving of youths and university students to Hiroshima and Nagasaki <new>

We will receive youths from member cities and students from universities which have established the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course so that they can deepen their

understanding of the reality of the atomic bombings, and get involved with nuclear abolition activities in their cities. We will provide them with opportunities to participate in peace-related programs, such as listening to an A-bomb survivor's testimony, interacting with local youths and peace activists in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and attending a briefing about Mayors for Peace.

2) Cooperation with a variety of groups, promotion of awareness activities

i. Promotion of a resolution for Mayors for Peace initiatives at associations of local authorities around the world

In order to foster public opinion for nuclear weapons abolition on a wide-ranging city and citizen level, we will encourage various associations of local authorities around the world, such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), Federation of Latin America and Caribbean Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations (FLACMA) and Japan Association of City Mayors, to pass a resolution for our initiatives toward nuclear weapons abolition. When a resolution is passed, we will publicize the fact on our website or through a press release.

ii. Strengthening of collaboration with worldwide peace institutes including the Hiroshima Peace Institute and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

We will investigate the possibility of joint projects with worldwide peace institutes including the Hiroshima Peace Institute of Hiroshima City University, and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University, as well as utilizing their human resources and academic research results as peace research institutions in atomic bombed cities.

iii. Collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies <new>

We will collaborate with ICRC and Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies around the world in order to foster international public opinion toward nuclear weapons abolition through activities such as co-sponsoring A-bomb poster exhibitions, distributing seeds and seedlings of atomic bombed trees, and sharing the fire of the Flame of Peace in the Peace Memorial Park.

iv. Building of networks with international peace organizations and collaboration with their activities <new>

We will work to build networks with international peace organizations, peace NGOs, parliamentarians, prominent figures in culture, arts, sports, etc. as well as collaborating with their activities. We will especially strengthen and intensify our collaboration with the

Abolition 2000 - Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons (Abolition 2000) and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

- v. Collaboration with the Peace Boat on the Hibakusha World Tour Project with the theme “I was her age.” <New from 2020VCA>

In collaboration with the peace NGO Peace Boat, we will plan a route for a ship voyage with atomic bomb survivors and youth, coinciding with the 2015 NPT Review Conference in New York, and making stops at member cities on the way from and to Japan. In member cities and New York, we will organize peace gatherings, in which parents with their young children encounter hibakusha who in 1945 were the same age as their child is today and pledge to strive for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Host cities will undertake to promote public awareness of and participation in the gathering with the hibakusha, as well as local, national, and where possible international media attention.

- vi. Creation and publication of the Cities’ World Peace Calendar <New from 2020VCA>

The Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Association (2020VCA) will take the lead in creating and publicizing the Peace Calendar, which recognizes activities toward nuclear weapons abolition being undertaken in member cities on each of the 365 days of the year. Cities which have experienced the scourge of war will be encouraged to commemorate the anniversary of the attack on their city in the spirit of “Cities Are Not Targets!” All member cities will also be encouraged to commemorate the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (on or between 6-9 August) and/or the International Day of Peace (21 September).

- vii. Centennial Commemoration of the first use of weapons of mass destruction <New from 2020VCA>

An international conference of cities in Ypres, Belgium, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first use of weapons of mass destruction (begin 22 April 2015). The themes will be “A Century of WMD: Enough!” and “Cities Are Not Targets!” and will publicize the results of a comprehensive survey of the historical experience of cities coming under attack in the last 100 years compiled by the 2020 Vision Campaign. The conference will consider how cities can most effectively mobilize to counter the targeting of cities in the future, including threats of use of weapons of mass destruction.

3. Promotion of actions for the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention

- i. Calling on the United Nations and governments for action

Taking advantage of the following international conferences, we will call on the United Nations and governments around the world to take action in good faith toward the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention. As well as other international gatherings that may in due course be scheduled by governments and the United Nations, such as a

renewed mandate for the Open-Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations in 2014

- September 2013 High-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament (New York, USA)
- February 2014 International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (Mexico)
- April 2014 2014 ministerial meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) (Hiroshima, Japan)
- April-May 2014 Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference (New York, USA)
- April-May 2015 NPT Review Conference (New York, USA)

ii. Promoting a petition drive calling for a nuclear weapons convention

Member cities will carry out a petition drive demanding the immediate commencement of negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention. Each member city will collect as many signatures as possible ahead of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference to be held in 2014, and send them to the Hiroshima Secretariat by the end of March 2014. They will continue to collect petitions thereafter and the President of Mayors for Peace will submit them to the United Nations as appropriate.

iii. Sending protest letters against acts contrary to the objective of nuclear weapons abolition

Mayors for Peace will send letters and messages of protest against acts contrary to the objective of nuclear abolition, such as nuclear tests, threats, and development.

iv. Selection of 2020 Vision Ambassadors

Member cities will nominate 2020 Vision Ambassadors who will spread the philosophy of Mayors for Peace and communicate messages for nuclear abolition utilizing their talent, fame, and status. The 2020 Vision Campaign Association will choose from among the nominees.

v. Increasing the number of 2020 Vision Campaigners and support for their activities

We will increase the number of 2020 Vision Campaigners working to promote and educate people about the 2020 Vision Campaign, and to recruit member cities for Mayors for Peace. Furthermore, we will support their activities by providing information and promotional goods through the 2020 Vision Campaign Association.