

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**MESSAGE TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
MAYORS FOR PEACE
Hiroshima, 3 August 2013**

Today our thoughts turn once again to the horrors that befell Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

The atomic bombings demonstrated that nuclear weapons are truly the most destructive and indiscriminate weapons against humanity. I will never forget my visit to both cities three years ago where I had the honour of hearing the first-hand testimony of the *hibakusha* who continue to bear valuable witness to that tragic event.

I will continue to do all I can to build a world free of nuclear weapons. That is why I launched a five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It calls for negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, with verification.

It also seeks deep cuts in nuclear arsenals, security assurances, greater transparency and accountability, and attention to related concerns such as missiles, conventional arms, space weapons and terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction.

Governments and civil society around the world have joined in a common effort to raise the priority of nuclear disarmament on the global public agenda. Mayors for Peace has been at the forefront of this great cause.

Since its establishment in 1982, Mayors for Peace has worked to strengthen inter-city solidarity around the globe, generate awareness of the need to abolish nuclear weapons and build lasting peace. I commend your dedication and leadership.

I wish you all the best in all your work, especially your 2020 Vision Campaign. The United Nations will continue to serve as a central forum for the advancement of nuclear disarmament at the global level, and as your partner for peace.