

Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020)

This year, as we find ourselves less than three years away from 2020, the year we have set as the target for the abolition of nuclear weapons, the world is witnessing a significant change. In March and June-July, the United Nations held a conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons at its Headquarters in New York. While the nuclear-armed states and their allies remained absent throughout the negotiations, the States that took part in the debates engaged in active discussion on the need for legal prohibition of nuclear weapons – the fervent and long-sought wish of the atomic bomb survivors (*hibakusha*). On July 7th, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted with 122 countries voting in favor.

This agreement would not have been achieved without high aspirations and strong commitment from all those involved – the staff of the UN and international peace organizations as well as civil society members including Mayors for Peace, and above all, the *hibakusha*, who have been seeking the legal prohibition of the nuclear weapons, leading to their elimination.

Fully consistent with the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision, the ban treaty is a significant step forward in the pursuit of a future comprehensive nuclear weapons convention achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Mayors for Peace campaign should therefore focus now on how to encourage the nuclear-armed states and their allies to ratify the new treaty by convincing them to accept the will of civil society, which is this path toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

We also need to nurture a collaborative international environment where nuclear-dependent states can sit at the same table with the parties to the treaty and engage in dialogues to ensure that the new treaty will become a fully effective legal instrument for nuclear abolition. This will be part of our intensified efforts to advance toward realization of lasting world peace, aiming for our milestone year of 2020.

In drawing up the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020), we have set two main objectives that would lead us to our ultimate goal, that of lasting world peace: “Realization of a world without nuclear weapons” and “Realization of safe and resilient cities”.

To realize a world without nuclear weapons, together with our member cities and our civil society partners, we will call on national governments to share in the *hibakusha*'s earnest wishes for nuclear abolition and encourage the nuclear-armed states and their allies to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

To realize safe and resilient cities, we will promote proactive efforts by member cities to create a culture of peace and to address various issues unique to each region, such as terrorism, refugees, the destruction of the environment, and others. To these ends, we support concrete actions to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including those pertaining to peace, cities, and education.

These efforts can be promoted effectively only through fostering and growing international public opinion. To this end, we plan to implement new activities, including conducting peace education to raise awareness among future generations, appointing Campaign Ambassadors to raise people's awareness for peace, and conducting outreach activities on the inhumanity and risks posed by nuclear weapons. We will also encourage Lead Cities to hold regional conferences to address regional issues and also collaborate with associations of local authorities with whom they have established close relationships.

Furthermore, in order to solidify the financial basis for our future activities, we will seek an increase to the Membership Fee revenues, which we believe will help each regional group to secure budgets for their own activities in the region, thus contributing to revitalizing regional initiatives.

The membership of Mayors for Peace has grown to 7,417 member cities in 162 countries and regions, and we now represent more than 1 billion people, which accounts for one-seventh of the world population. While making the most of the solid foundations built together with our member cities over the past 35 years, we are determined to make a significant advance towards our goal. Based on these considerations, the concrete plans to be promoted from 2017 to 2020 are as listed below.

I Realization of a world without nuclear weapons

1) Efforts by Mayors for Peace to call on the U.N. and national governments to act <Revision>

[Content of requests]

➤ Visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to share in the hibakusha's earnest wishes for nuclear abolition

We will urge U.N. officials and policymakers around the world to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to deepen their understanding of the reality of the atomic bombings through experiences like listening to the eyewitness testimonies of the hibakusha. By doing so, we urge them to share in the hibakusha's earnest wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons and to strengthen their own commitment for its realization.

➤ Join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible

We will urge all States, including nuclear-armed states and their allies, to participate in the Treaty as soon as possible. Fully consistent with the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision, the treaty is a significant step forward in the pursuit of a future comprehensive nuclear weapons convention achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We therefore support all efforts to encourage the treaty's early entry into force.

➤ Create a security framework that moves away from nuclear deterrence

We will urge all States to move away from the current security system dependent on nuclear deterrence to one that fosters mutual understanding and cooperation in the diverse international community.

2) Efforts by a wide range of citizens to call on the nuclear-armed states and their allies to act

➤ Request policy changes from these governments through member cities working with civil society <New>

Member cities will work in cooperation with their civil societies to call on these governments to change their policy toward nuclear abolition.

1. Fostering and growing international public opinion

1) Encouraging the next generation to actively promote peace

i. Conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations <New>

Member cities will host peace education events and lectures with the theme of nuclear issues in an aim to raise awareness among young people who will bear the responsibility for future peace activities. In such events, member cities are encouraged to utilize various media that are appealing to young generations today, such as animation, cartoons, and other styles from popular subcultures, as well as contemporary arts, music, etc. The Secretariat will solicit education tools useful to such peace education programs from member cities and share them on the Mayors for Peace website.

ii. Strengthen support for existing projects to receive youths in Hiroshima and Nagasaki such as "The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program" <Revision>

We will improve programs for the youths who are visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki as part of "The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course," and "The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program," etc. It is hoped that the programs will enable them to better understand the reality of the atomic bombings and inspire them to proactively contribute to nuclear abolition when they return to their home cities.

iii. Promote the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course in higher education

We will further promote the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course, which is designed to analyze, systematize, and convey the reality of the atomic bombings and messages of hibakusha to younger generations. We will seek to increase the number of colleges and universities providing this course by effectively introducing its history and results as well as effectively providing teaching materials that can be used immediately through the Internet.

2) Raising awareness for peace among a wide range of citizens

i. Promote the petition drive to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible in collaboration with “The Hibakusha Appeal” <Revision>

We will carry out a petition drive urging the nuclear-armed states and their allies to participate in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In doing so, we will collaborate with the signature campaign “The Hibakusha Appeal”. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat (hereafter referred to as the Secretariat) will compile the number of signatures collected and present it to the United Nations on occasions such as NPT Review Conferences, etc.

ii. Appoint Campaign Ambassadors to raise people’s awareness for peace <New>

We will appoint prominent figures in culture, arts, sports, etc. as Mayors for Peace Campaign Ambassadors and have them engage in activities to raise people’s awareness for peace as well as encouraging citizens to participate in peace activities.

iii. Conduct outreach activities on the inhumanity and risks posed by nuclear weapons <New>

We will promote efforts to raise people’s awareness regarding the inhumanity of nuclear weapons as well as accidents and other universal and likely imminent threats posed by nuclear weapons to motivate them to work toward nuclear abolition.

3) Promoting and disseminating Hiroshima and Nagasaki’s messages in member cities

i. Hold A-bomb Poster Exhibitions

We will promote exhibitions in member cities using Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Posters and other related materials so that more citizens may deepen their understanding of the reality of atomic bombings and strengthen their desire for nuclear abolition.

ii. Promote transmission of hibakusha testimonies via Skype

We will further promote transmitting testimonies of hibakusha through Skype, in which we connect venues in member cities and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

iii. Distribute seeds and seedlings of A-bombed trees for cultivation

We will distribute the seeds and seedlings of A-bombed trees, which have survived the atomic bombings and are alive today, to all member cities wishing to receive them. It is hoped that taking care of the seed/seedling as a symbol of peace will help raise citizens’ awareness for peace.

iv. Receive foreign diplomats in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

We will receive diplomats of foreign missions to Japan, especially those representing our member cities' countries, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is hoped that by witnessing the reality of the atomic bombings, they will enhance their commitment toward nuclear abolition, and seek to help foster international public opinion toward nuclear abolition on various occasions after they return to their home countries. We will follow up to ensure the visits will lead to strengthening networks between the visitors' countries and Mayors for Peace.

4) Collaborating with a variety of groups

i. Establish collaboration with associations of local authorities around the world

In order to build momentum toward nuclear abolition on a wide-ranging city and citizen level and to broaden our activities, we will request various associations of local authorities around the world—including United Cities for Local Governments (UCLG), the US Conference of Mayors (USCM), and Metropolis—to support and cooperate with Mayors for Peace activities for nuclear abolition.

ii. Build networks and collaborate with international peace organizations such as the ICRC and peace NGOs

We will work to network with international peace organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, etc. as well as peace NGOs including Peace Boat, Abolition 2000, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), etc. and seek to collaborate with them on their various activities.

iii. Strengthen collaboration with Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

- a. We will place links to the two Museums' exhibitions, their archive database, websites for children ("Kids Peace Station Hiroshima" and "Kids Heiwa Nagasaki") on the Mayors for Peace website.
- b. We will effectively introduce the activities of Mayors for Peace in platforms of outreach established by the two Museums such as their traveling exhibitions.

iv. Strengthen collaboration with international peace institutes such as the Hiroshima Peace Institute and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition in Nagasaki <Revision>

We will strengthen collaboration with the Hiroshima Peace Institute of Hiroshima City University (HPI), and the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University (RECNA), and other international peace research institutes and investigate the possibility of utilizing their human resources and academic research results in Mayors for Peace activities. When Mayors for Peace is involved in seminars and events hosted by these peace institutes, we will publicize them through Facebook and other means to raise people's awareness.

II Realization of safe and resilient cities

Expand regional efforts to promote a culture of peace and to address common challenges such as terrorism, refugees, the destruction of the environment, etc. <New>

In addition to the issues related to nuclear weapons, each regional group will identify needs and agendas unique to each region, such as terrorism, refugees, the destruction of the environment, poverty, starvation, discrimination, and violence, etc. and engage in various activities to address such issues, and to promote a culture of peace in close collaboration with the Secretariat. These regional initiatives will be supported by Mayors for Peace as a whole.

1. Fostering and growing international public opinion

1) Encouraging the next generation to actively promote peace

i. **Conduct peace education to raise awareness among future generations <New>**

Member cities will conduct peace education targeting future generations in which they think about the preciousness of peace through learning about various regional issues that could threaten human dignity. The Secretariat will compile examples of such peace education programs and share them on the Mayors for Peace website so more cities will be able to engage in such initiatives.

2) Encouraging proactive regional activities with the initiatives of Lead Cities

i. **Conduct activities to address issues unique to each region, such as holding regional conferences, etc. <New>**

With the initiatives of Lead Cities, each regional group will be encouraged to promote activities to address various issues unique to each region involving a wide range of citizens, such as holding regional conferences, etc. These activities should also promote the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those relating to peace, cities, and education.

3) Facilitating collaboration between Lead Cities and a variety of groups

i. **Create collaboration with associations of local authorities with which Lead Cities have already established relationships <New>**

In order to build momentum toward addressing various regional issues and to broaden our activities, Lead Cities will request associations of local authorities with whom they have established close relationships to support and cooperate with Mayors for Peace activities and to serve as a liaison between such associations and Mayors for Peace. Constructive models include the productive cooperation with the UCLG led by the Mayor of Granollers, Spain and with the USCM led by the Mayor of Des Moines, Iowa.

ii. **Build networks with international peace organizations such as the ICRC and peace NGOs <Revision>**

Lead Cities will work to network with international peace organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, etc. as well as peace NGOs including Peace Boat, Abolition 2000, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), etc.

I Realization of a world without nuclear weapons

II Realization of safe and resilient cities

2. Strengthening the organizational system and functions

<Measures for Mayors for Peace as a whole>

1) Expanding membership

i. Invite non-member cities to join through various channels

We will call on non-member cities to join Mayors for Peace, not only through the Secretariat but through associations of local governments, Lead Cities' partners and other channels.

ii. Promote the membership of influential capitals and cities with U.N. offices <Revision>

We will promote the membership of capital cities and cities with U.N. offices, which have great political influence and a significant role in forming international public opinion.

2) Improving the Secretariat's functions

i. Strengthen collaboration between the Secretariat and member cities by receiving interns <Revision>

We will receive interns from a wide range of member cities each year in an aim to strengthen collaboration among the Secretariat and member cities and also to improve the functions of the Secretariat. We will seek to receive interns from new cities when possible.

ii. Strengthen information dissemination through social media

We will utilize social media to facilitate the transmission of information about Mayors for Peace activities and to facilitate information exchange among member cities.

3) Solidifying the financial basis

i. Improve the collection rates of Membership Fees <Revision>

In order to increase Membership Fee revenue, which supports the Mayors for Peace activities, Lead Cities will seek to improve the collection rates by informing the member cities in their regional group of the need for contribution from each city and also proposing methods of payment.

ii. Seek other fundraising measures

We will explore and use better and more effective fundraising strategies beyond the Membership Fee, for example by applying to other organizations for subsidies.

<Measures for each regional area>

1) Strengthening basis for regional groups to promote regional initiatives

i. Promote integration at the national / cross-national level to expand regional activities with the initiatives of Lead Cities <Revision>

We will build solid structural foundations for regional integration by encouraging our member cities to establish a regional chapter at the national or a wider cross-national level, so each chapter can engage in proactive and independent activities based on regional characteristics.

2) Solidifying the financial basis

i. **Membership Fee increase for new regional activities** <New>

Lead Cities can, while seeking to improve the collection rates in their regional group, increase the Membership Fee from 2,000 JPY to 6,000 JPY and allocate the difference (6,000-2,000=4,000 JPY) to fund new projects to promote the objective “Realization of safe and resilient cities”.

ii. **Promote proactive fundraising by regional groups** <Revision>

Each regional group will explore and use better and more effective fundraising strategies beyond the Membership Fee.

Note: The highlighted items on page 2, 3, and 5 are the high-priority action items.