



Mayors for Peace News Flash

December 2021 / No.144

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,059 cities

in 165 countries and regions

(as of December 1, 2021)

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

Check our website and follow us on SNS:

Website 

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

Facebook 

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>

Twitter 

<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>

“Like” and share our Facebook and Twitter posts to help spread awareness of our mission.

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Release of Mayors for Peace Open Letter addressed to NPT States Parties

Prior to the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) Review Conference that will open in January next year, Mayors for Peace has drafted an Open Letter addressed to all 191 States Parties to the NPT. In the letter, we call on all participants to fully implement their NPT Article VI disarmament obligations in good faith, and to engage in constructive discussion to achieve a consensus on the Final Document, with measures to make substantial and concrete progress on nuclear disarmament incorporated in it. The Open Letter was sent to all NPT States Parties, UN officials, and all Mayors for Peace member cities on December 13.

 Open Letter from Mayors for Peace:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statements/calling/data/2021/211213_openletter_en.pdf

Please share this Open Letter with as many people as possible, including citizens, governmental representatives, and civil society partners in your community.


The release of this letter was covered by many medias, including the followings:

Report by “Pressenza,” an international news agency that issues daily news service in 8 languages with a presence in 24 countries:

<https://www.pressenza.com/2021/12/open-letter-from-mayors-for-peace-to-npt-states-parties/>

Report by “IDN-InDepthNews,” an agency of the non-profit international press syndicate:

<https://www.indepthnews.net/index.php/opinion/4948-mayors-for-peace-say-the-danger-of-nuclear-war-is-real-and-growing>

 To learn more about the NPT and how it differs from the TPNW, visit the “Nuclear Disarmament Archive” page on the Mayors for Peace website:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/library/index.html#section03>

Japan Chapter submits a letter of request to the Japanese government

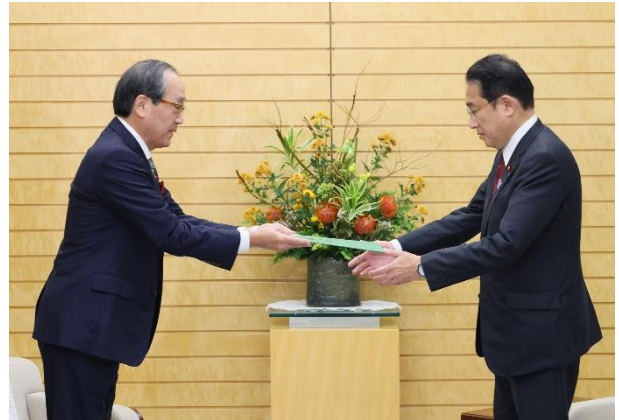
November 18, 2021

The Japan Chapter annually submits a letter of request to the Japanese government calling for the promotion of actions to realize the abolition of nuclear weapons.

On November 18, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima (President of Mayors for Peace) and Mayor Taue of Nagasaki (Vice President of Mayors for Peace) visited the office of Prime Minister of Japan. There they met with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan, and directly handed him a letter of request.



(from left to right) Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima,
Prime Minister Kishida, and Mayor Taue of Nagasaki
(Photo: courtesy of the Cabinet of Japan's Public Affairs Office)



Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima handing in the letter to
Prime Minister Kishida
(Photo: courtesy of the Cabinet of Japan's Public Affairs Office)

In the letter, the Japanese Chapter calls on the Japanese government to:

- fulfill its role as a “bridge” between nuclear- and non-nuclear weapon states, for the States Parties to make substantial progress on nuclear disarmament in the upcoming NPT Review Conference;
- participate in the first Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW as an observer, and take leadership to advance nuclear disarmament; and
- sign and ratify the TPNW at the earliest date.

Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Posters update

Following the adoption of our new Vision at the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace in July this year, some of our atomic bomb posters have been updated. These include poster 1 and posters 15-18. The newly-added sections include a call on citizens to take actions to help create a peaceful future free from nuclear weapons. The updated posters in English and Japanese languages are now available on our website. Other languages are now being updated, and the updated version will be available for download by the end of next month.

We have received reports from many member cities about their poster exhibitions this year as well. If your city has not yet held an exhibition, please consider doing so, so that more citizens can deepen their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and share the importance of realizing the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The posters can be downloaded at any time throughout the year from the link below. When downloading the posters, you will need to enter an ID and password of your city. If your city needs to receive them, please contact the Mayors for Peace Secretariat. We look forward to hearing about your exhibitions!

🔗 Download the Mayors for Peace Atomic Bomb Posters (Mayors for Peace website):
http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives_poster.html

🔗 Contact: Mayors for Peace Secretariat (email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp)

Mayors for Peace

Toward a peaceful future free from nuclear weapons

Mayors for Peace believes it is important to foster a culture of peace amongst the public, so that their everyday actions will be grounded in thinking about peace. So, join Mayors for Peace, and the youth of today, in creating a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons.



Children listening to an atomic bomb survivor's testimony



Children planting a second generation atomic bomb survivor tree



A child's drawing of a "Peaceful Town"



Young participants in a peace education webinar



A presentation in Hiroshima by young people on their ideas of peace



Citizens at an event calling for nuclear weapons abolition



Member city activities

● Cervia, Italy

Cervia wins the “Blooming Cities” Contest: Primary School M. Buonarroti from Montaleto is awarded first place and the special prize “Scuola Fiorita” 2021

Report by Ms. Bruna Rondoni, the City of Cervia, Italy

The Asproflor Association awarded prizes for “Comuni Fioriti” (Blooming Cities) during the International Exposition of Machinery for Agriculture and Gardening (EIMA) 2021. At the national award ceremony for the “School in Bloom” Contest, Primary School M. Buonarroti from Montaleto won first place and the Special Diploma “School in Bloom” for their educational project “Pacifico” (Pacific), which is dedicated to the environment and nature, that all students at the school continuously engage in.

The project is about a plant that the students named “Pacifico,” grown from the seed of a ginkgo biloba that survived the atomic bombing in Hiroshima. Its parent plant is close to 200 years old. Donated by the German city of Aalen, which collaborates with Cervia to work together for a world free of nuclear weapons, the tree was planted in 2015 in Dondini Park at M. Buonarroti Primary School in Montaleto di Cervia. It now measures 2.2 meters tall, and it continues to be cultivated by the students with great care and passion, as one should cultivate “peace.”

The Councilor Cesare Zavatta and the Green Delegate Patrizia Petrucci declared at the ceremony: “It is a distinction that fills us with joy and satisfaction. The children of the school and the whole community cherish the values of peace and environment.”



Photo: courtesy of the City of Cervia

● Ypres, Belgium

Ypres Awards Its Triennial Peace Prize for the Seventh Time

Report by Mr. Filip Deheegher, the City of Ypres, Belgium

On the 11th of November - following a one-year postponement due to COVID-19 - the city of Ypres presented its triennial Peace Prize 2020 to the worldwide campaign “Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.”

The campaign’s members, whose project was chosen by the youth in Ypres from a list of five nominees, took the time to visit all schools in the area and talked to the students about their campaign. They stressed that there is a real need to negotiate an international treaty banning killer robots before they are used, since there was a reference for the first time in a UN report about the deployment of these weapon systems.



Photo: courtesy of the City of Ypres

Killer robots, or lethal autonomous weapons systems, are robots that would be able to make life or death decisions without human intervention, and are considered the third revolution in weapons technology after gunpowder and nuclear weapons. Through their choice, young people in Ypres have sent a clear signal that the human race should never relinquish control over weapons systems.

● Volgograd, Russia

Mayors for Peace Member Cities Became Panelists at People's Diplomacy Forum in Volgograd

Report by Ms. Maria Deeva, the City of Volgograd, Russia

From October 31st - November 1st, Volgograd, the Russian Lead City and a Vice President City of Mayors for Peace held an International Forum of People's Diplomacy called "Dialogue on the Volga: Peace and Mutual Understanding in the 21st Century." This online event featured two panel discussions, one of which united Mayors for Peace members cities with each other.

The "Dialogue on the Volga," co-organized by the administration of the City of Volgograd, the administration of the Volgograd Region, and the "Rossotrudnichestvo" Federal Agency for International Humanitarian Cooperation, aimed to strengthen ties, to expand international civic links, and to contribute to resolutions of global and regional problems as well as the safe development of people and countries.

The event was timed to the World Cities Day. On that very day, a discussion on "Cities for Peace and Mutual Understanding" took place with an opening video message by the Mayors for Peace President Kazumi Matsui. Its experts, including Secretary General Koizumi, mayors, deputy mayors, and international officers from Volgograd (Russia), Granollers (Spain), Tehran (Iran), Hannover (Germany), Muntinlupa (Philippines) and Bangkok (Thailand), discussed Mayors for Peace's initiatives and roles in achieving the SDGs as well as inter-city solidarity during the pandemic.

The event was concluded with Secretary General Koizumi's remarks about what cities can do to promote peace and mutual understanding amid the global crisis.



Photos: courtesy of the City of Volgograd

Regional chapter activities

● French Chapter

Philippe Rio, World's Best Mayor: "Poverty makes it impossible to realize human rights"

Report by Lorena Schlicht, AFCD RP-Mayors for peace France

Philippe Rio, mayor of Grigny and president of the AFCD RP-Mayors for Peace has been elected World's Best Mayor 2021 together with the mayor of Rotterdam, Ahmed Aboutaleb. This prize, awarded by the City Mayors Foundation and the World Mayor Project, recognizes his actions and those of the Grigny community in the fight against poverty.

Co-chair of the "Committee for Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights," a commission of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), he works for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on human rights. This commitment was brought to the 2021 edition of the UCLG World Council held in Barcelona from 15 to 18 November, which saw the birth of a partnership between UCLG and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). To see the article: <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/united-nations-and-uclg-partnership-human-rights-ten-points-advance-common-agenda-local>

Philippe Rio addresses a message today for the members of Mayors for Peace, reaffirming the convergence of actions in favor of human rights and the culture of peace:

"Dear Mayors for Peace,

The difficult work on human rights that we do every day in our cities is inseparable from the promotion of a culture of peace.

From the city of Grigny, through networks such as Mayors for Peace, or UCLG, but also the UN, everyone has a role to play.

I let you discover my interview with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on this subject."

The article is available on the following link:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Philippe-Rio.aspx>



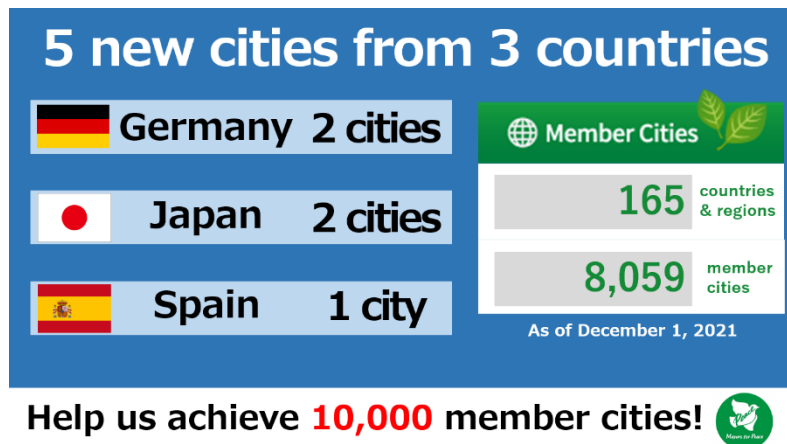
Please send us a report on your city's peace activities

Help us tell other members what you are doing! Please send the Secretariat a short report on a peace activity or initiative by your city based on the Action Plan so that we can share it on our [website](#) or the News Flash. Reports on your city's activity or initiative that stimulate youth to be engaged in peace activities or promote 'a culture of peace' are especially welcome! We look forward to receiving ones.

Email: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

*Please write a **SHORT** (up to 200 words long) report in English, and send it to the above email address with photos (if any). Please include key information such as the date, venue, description, and result.

Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,059 cities in 165 countries/regions



On December 1, we gained 5 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,059. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country	New Members	Total No.	Remarks
Germany	Gundelfingen, Kempen	728	
Japan	Otobe, Yonaguni	1,736	The Secretariat mailed an invitation letter to the seven municipalities that were not yet members, and two joined in response. Five more municipalities until all municipalities in Japan join us.
Spain	Santa Margarida i els Monjos	397	Thanks to efforts by Granollers, a Vice President and Lead City.

List of new members (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/03_newmembers/2021/newmembers2112_en.pdf

Membership by country (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/data/01_monthly Updating/07_membership_by_country_en.pdf

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

Mayors for Peace aims to achieve 10,000 member cities to foster international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. Invite other cities in your country, as well as your sister cities and any other cities with which you have relations to join Mayors for Peace. You can download a letter of request and document pack below.

The document pack is available in 10 different languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Letters of request to join Mayors for Peace and document pack

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/aboutus/join.html#section01>

Reports by Executive Advisors

- **Germany and Norway will participate at the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW as observers**

Report by Mr. Thomas Hajnoczi, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace

The new governments of Germany and Norway have announced that they will take part as observers in the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW from 22 to 24 March 2022 in Vienna. While other countries that have not signed the treaty yet like Finland, Sweden and Switzerland announced their participation as observers already before, these two countries are the first states under a nuclear umbrella to do so. Both are NATO members and given the use of NATO as a bulwark against the TPNW it is not a small feature that they went public with their decision to take part in the conference already now.

Whereas the observer status does not imply any obligation to sign and ratify the TPNW one day, it shows a positive interest in the TPNW. So, the ice is broken and it can be hoped that more umbrella states like the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg) and Japan will follow the German and Norwegian example.

- **New York City Adopts Major Nuclear Disarmament Legislation**

Report by Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, the Executive Advisor for Mayors for Peace




NYCAN campaigners outside New York City Council, 9 December 2021
Photo: Anthony Donovan

On December 9, 2021 the New York City (NYC) Council adopted a comprehensive package of nuclear disarmament legislation. [Resolution 976](#) calls on the NYC Comptroller to instruct the \$266 billion pension funds of public [employees](#) to divest from companies involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons. Introduction 1621 establishes an advisory committee to educate the public and recommend policy on issues relating to nuclear disarmament. The resolution also reaffirms NYC as a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone, supporting earlier City Council resolutions that prohibited the production, transport, storage, placement, and deployment of nuclear weapons within NYC. Finally, it also joins NYC to the [ICAN Cities Appeal](#), calling on the U.S. to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. [Read More](#)


Mayors for Peace congratulates NYCAN (New York Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and its allies for this tremendous achievement. We also extend our sincere congratulations to Eric Adams on his election as the next mayor of New York City. We wish him the best of luck and invite him to join Mayors for Peace.

Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan

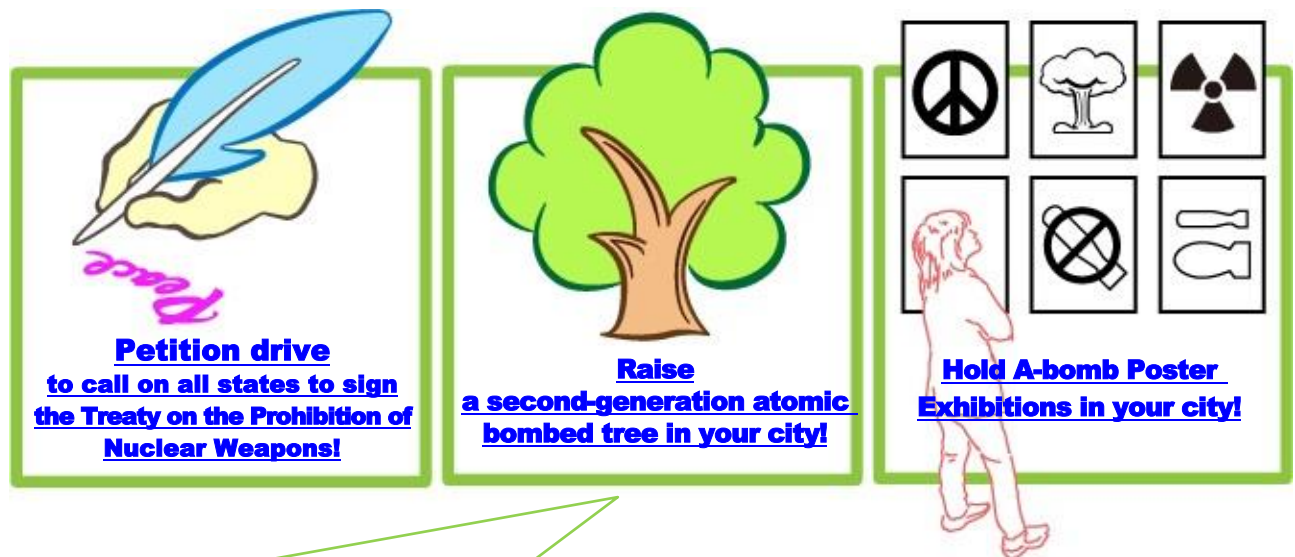
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July this year, we adopted our new Action Plan (2021-2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your own municipality or regional group.

 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/conferences/executive/data/12th_ec/PX_Vision_Action_Plan_en.pdf

 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives.html>



We distribute seeds of atomic bomb survivor trees to member cities on request, aimed at raising public peace consciousness through citizens' nurturing of trees in their cities as symbols of peace.

[Click/Tap here for details.](#)



Seeds shipped from Hiroshima



(Top Left)©The City of Rockingham, Australia (Top Right)©The City of Thiene, Italy
(Bottom Left)©The City of Gernika-Lumo, Spain (Center)©The City of Des Moines, US
(Bottom Right)©The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, UK

Call for input: examples of initiatives to foster peace-seeking spirit

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city hall/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities that are conducive to raising peace-seeking spirit among future generations. The Mayors for Peace Secretariat accepts reports on a rolling basis, so please send your report whenever your project is completed. The submitted reports will be posted on our website and in the Mayors for Peace News Flash as a source of information for other member cities that are planning to launch their own peace education program.

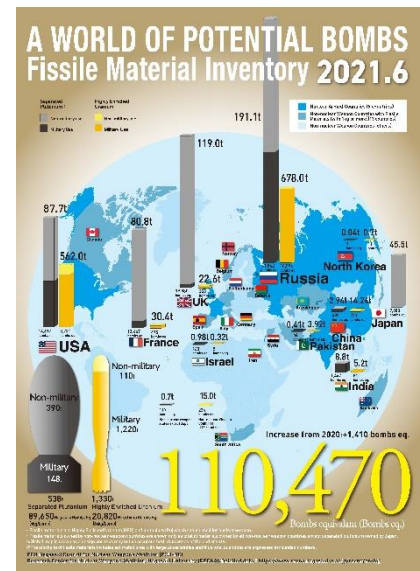
 Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:

http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/vision/initiatives_examples.html

A closer look at the “World’s Fissile Material Inventory” in 2021” Part 3 Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

As mentioned in the previous article, highly enriched uranium (HEU) or plutonium are materials essential for producing nuclear weapons. Facilities for uranium enrichment or reprocessing – chemical treatment of spent fuels to separate plutonium – are indispensable for obtaining these fissile materials. Even some of non-nuclear weapon states possess either or both of these facilities for peaceful use of nuclear energy. Having even small-scale uranium enrichment or reprocessing facilities – even if these facilities are operated under the safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – could raise the risk of nuclear proliferation by giving a country the capability to produce fissile materials for military purposes.

Indeed, the global plutonium stockpile accumulated through reprocessing for civilian use is increasing. As you can see in the poster, the amount of civilian plutonium as of the end of 2019 is 390 tons, an increase by 53 tons from 2009. As the Nagasaki-type bomb contains 6 kg of plutonium, we could produce approximately 8,800 Nagasaki bombs using 53 tons of plutonium.



Japan is the largest owner of plutonium among non-nuclear weapon states. As of the end of 2019, Japan owns 45.5 tons of civilian plutonium, which are equivalent to approximately 7,600 Nagasaki bombs. It has nearly 8% of the world’s separated plutonium, making it the fifth largest owner after Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and France. In contrast, other non-nuclear weapon states combined possess only 0.1% of world’s separated plutonium – an indication that Japan is a very unique outlier.

Three nuclear powers, namely the U.K., Russia, and France, operate large-scale reprocessing facilities for civilian use, and China plans to import this technology from France. Non-nuclear weapon states such as Germany and Belgium have operated research facilities in the past. Currently, only Japan has a large-scale reprocessing facility, which is scheduled to open in 2022. Other non-nuclear weapon states have ceased to operate such facilities, bringing their plutonium stockpile to virtually zero. However, South Korea is currently negotiating with the United States for the right to reprocessing.

For more detailed information, please visit RECNA’s website (<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-nwddata/worlds-nuclear-warheads-count>).

Peace news from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Hiroshima Peace Media Center of the CHUGOKU SHIMBUN)

The year 2021 will soon come to an end. This year for the A-bombed city of Hiroshima began with the important news in January that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) had entered into force. Hiroshima, however, also received news of the deaths of numerous A-bomb survivors who had persisted, with great effort, in sharing their experiences with Japan and the rest of the world. One such individual was Sunao Tsuboi, chairperson of the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-bomb Sufferers Organizations. Hiroshima citizens share the determination that A-bomb survivors' messages of joy and anguish must be passed on to future generations.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many people in Japan and throughout the world are still unable to fulfill their wish of visiting Hiroshima for peace studies or sightseeing. Nevertheless, next year, everyone in Hiroshima wishes to welcome more people to our city.

In January next year, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. In March, the momentous First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW is to be held. Such gatherings are important for getting a sense of the future of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. They also provide opportunities for Hiroshima and Nagasaki to communicate the reality of the horror wrought by nuclear weapons and, while joining with like-minded countries, cities, and members of the public, convey such a message to diplomatic corps and political leaders of countries around the world. That most such opportunities will be provided only online instead of in person is truly a shame, but there is no time to lament this misfortune.

The Chugoku Shimbun is a local newspaper based in Hiroshima. Next year as well, we will continue to communicate through our articles the public's hopes and support for peace. A number of such articles will be posted on this site. We truly hope people in regions and countries throughout the world have the opportunity to enjoy a calmer and more peaceful new year than was possible this year.

Please access the following websites and read our peace-related news.

Hiroshima local governments and HCCI bid to host 2023 G7 summit, considering it opportunity to abolish nuclear weapons

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=113949>

Hiroshima bids to host G7 summit in hopes of being selected based on city's previous experience

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=113711>

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima, evidence of victims remains 76 years after atomic bombing—Photos of A-bombing destruction, Part 1: Hondori shopping street devastation captured by Mitsugi Kishida

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=113830>

Germany moves toward participating in TPNW meeting as observer, while Foreign Minister Hayashi again demonstrates Japan's cautious stance

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=113364>

Season's Greetings

Dear Member Cities and supporters of Mayors for Peace,

As 2021 draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincerest thanks for your continued support for the initiatives of Mayors for Peace.

The year 2021 began with a historic event, the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We hope that in 2022, the membership of Mayors for Peace further expands and our desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace will be able to reach even more people.



Best wishes for 2022,

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

〈Twitter〉



<https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace>



〈Facebook〉



<https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace>



 The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/statements/newsflash.html>

If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at:

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