



Mayors for Peace News Flash

August 2022 / No.152

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,200 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of August 1, 2022)

[Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!](#)

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10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace: Registration deadline extended to September 9



As we wrote to all member cities in our email in June, the registration for the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which will be held in Hiroshima City on Wednesday, October 19, and Thursday, October 20, 2022, is now open.

It is our sincere hope that your city will give favorable consideration to attending. Please refer to the webpage below for details, including the registration guide and the outline of the conference. Please kindly note that the registration deadline was extended to Friday, September 9.

We very much look forward to your attendance.

 Announcement of the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace (Mayors for Peace website):
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2022/post-220610/>

Attendance of Mayors for Peace delegation at the 10th NPT Review Conference

In early August, a Mayors for Peace delegation attended the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (10th NPT Review Conference) in New York. Headed by Vice President Taue (Mayor of Nagasaki) and Secretary General Koizumi, the delegation called on the representatives of national governments to adopt a final document that will advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures and to respect what had been agreed on at the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). In addition, the delegation also requested a greater understanding of and continued support for the initiatives of Mayors for Peace.

Mayors for Peace also hosted the Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibition at the venue of the Conference, aimed at building momentum for achieving a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

Representing the Mayors for Peace network, on August 5, Vice President Taue delivered a speech at the NGO presentations session. He stated that what prevented another Hiroshima and Nagasaki from happening for the past 77 years is the *hibakusha*'s long-standing call for the abolition of nuclear weapons—which has resonated throughout the world, raising awareness of their inhumanity. Nevertheless, decades of such effort can be undone if just one nuclear-weapon state decides to use all of its power to tyrannize other states, he continued. He then addressed the complementarity of the TPNW with the NPT, appealing that the two treaties reinforce each other and that they both are integral for international society to realize a world without nuclear weapons. Furthermore, he urged the attendees to fulfill the nuclear disarmament obligations as stipulated in Article VI of the NPT, as well as to propose concrete strategies to ensure progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures. He also expressed the determination of Mayors for Peace, to continue striving for a world without nuclear weapons. He closed his statement by imparting a message: *May Nagasaki be the last wartime atomic bombing site.*



Speech by Vice President Taue



Speech at the Conference Hall (UNGA hall)

On this occasion, the delegation members had opportunities to meet the President of the Conference and representatives of national governments to exchange views on the unfolding situation of the world concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In the meeting, the delegation sought their understanding of the complementarity and compatibility of the TPNW with the NPT; urged them to make efforts to adopt a final document at this Conference; and requested their support for Mayors for Peace initiatives.

Mayors for Peace will continue seeking to have more and more people stand with us in the pursuit of a peaceful world by strengthening its initiatives to cultivate a culture of peace in international society. We will further and strongly promote both the NPT and the TPNW to states in various positions. We will keep moving steadily toward our goal of achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons and realizing lasting world peace.

[!\[\]\(870f5d5e9c0d57485634be3ecf52f3ca_img.jpg\) Mayors for Peace statement at the 10th NPT Review Conference by Vice President](#)

[!\[\]\(4fe57c3593bf1b21d272ae7ac8dfaf77_img.jpg\) Reports on Mayors for Peace activities in New York \(Mayors for Peace website\): <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2022/post-220826/>](#)

Commemorative events around the world marking 77 years since the atomic bombings

The annual Peace Memorial Ceremonies were held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, marking 77 years since the atomic bombings.



Peace Memorial Ceremony of Hiroshima
(Photo: courtesy of the City of Hiroshima)



Peace Memorial Ceremony of Nagasaki
(Photo: courtesy of the City of Nagasaki)

Taking thorough measures against the spread of the COVID-19, this year’s ceremonies were held on a larger scale than in the last two years of 2020 and 2021—in which the pandemic prevented the both cities from inviting guests from all over the world.

The current international security environment sees the possibility of using nuclear weapons being implied, and the notion of nuclear deterrence as indispensable for maintaining peace spreading worldwide. At this challenging moment, the movement for nuclear disarmament must not be allowed to stagnate, and we shall promote a ‘culture of peace’ all around the globe to create an environment that urges policymakers to demonstrate decisive leadership to effect peace-oriented policy changes.

At each city’s ceremony, each mayor delivered his Peace Declaration, calling for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace.

🔗 “Peace Declaration” by Mayor of Hiroshima (YouTube):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-IcO4WQzd4>

🔗 “Nagasaki Peace Declaration” by Mayor of Nagasaki (YouTube):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRU8-e6iq2c>

Many member cities all around the world joined the two atomic-bombed cities to commemorate the bombings, as illustrated by the following reports. Mayors for Peace sincerely appreciate the efforts of those organizing these events to console the souls of atomic bomb victims and pray for peace.

● Imphal, India

Report by Mr. Ph. Nandakumar Sharma, Imphal City, India

The City of Imphal, India, observed the 77th Hiroshima Day at Imphal on 6th of August, 2022. The commemorative event, which I presided over, was attended by Minister Y. Khemchand of Municipal Administration, Housing and Urban Development (MAHUD), State of Manipur as the Chief Guest, and Mayor Lokeshwor of Imphal City as the Guest of Honor.

1. Children’s Art Competition was held.
2. Ms. Meena Longjam gave a speech on Peace Education in Hiroshima.
3. The decision was made to construct a Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Memorial in Kakching, 42 kilometers away from Imphal.
4. Art Exhibition on Peace was also held.



In the 77th Hiroshima Day, attended by Minister Khemchand (center) and Mayor Lokeshwor (right), Ph. Nandakumar Sharma (left) read out the Peace Declaration by the Mayor of Hiroshima.

Photo: courtesy of Imphal City

The 77th Nagasaki Day was also held on the 9th of August at Kakching. The program included: reading out of the Nagasaki Peace Declaration by the Mayor of Nagasaki, planting of a tree, video screening of *Children of Nagasaki*, and *hibakusha* testimony.

● Montreal, Canada

Report by Ms. Lucie Lavoie, the City of Montreal

On Friday, August 5th at 19:15, which corresponds in real time to August 6th, 8:15 am in Hiroshima, the president of Montreal's City Council, Mrs. Martine Musau Muele, accompanied by the Consul General of Japan in Montreal, Mr. Jun Saito, marked the 77th year of Hiroshima bombing in solidarity with our sister city's citizens. As a city proud to be an executive and lead member city of Mayors for Peace, the two dignitaries rang the Hiroshima peace bell.

President Musau Muele said, "By perpetuating the memory of Hiroshima, we underline the importance of a lasting peace and the hope that such a tragedy will never be perpetrated again." Consul General Saito added that this year's ceremony takes on particular significance in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Russia's repeated threats to use nuclear weapons. He added that next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the twinning between Montreal and Hiroshima, and hoped that this would be an opportunity to renew the friendship exchanges between the two cities.



Mrs. Muele, President of the Montreal City Council (right) and Mr. Saito, Consul General of Japan in Montreal, ringing the Hiroshima peace bell
Photo: courtesy of the City of Montreal

● Hannover, Germany Hiroshima Day 2022—Commemorations of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in Hannover, Germany

Report by Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, The City of Hannover, Germany

This year marks the 77th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hannover's twin city Hiroshima on August 6. As a sign of solidarity, the peace bell at Hannover's *Aegidienkirche* (Aegidien Church) was struck at 8:15 a.m., the time at which the bomb was dropped and detonated.

Guests from Hannover's twin city Hiroshima enriched the Day of Remembrance with their own program items. As every year, Hiroyo Nakamoto, tea master and cultural ambassador of the City of Hiroshima, offered a mourning tea ceremony in the Aegidien Church.



Tea ceremony in the Aegidien Church, Hannover
Photo: courtesy of the City of Hannover

Ryutaro Fujie from the Faculty of Arts, Hiroshima City University, led two meditation workshops in the morning. Clear and soothing sounds of a stone chisel and a hammer invited participants to meditative prayer. In the afternoon, he held another workshop, "Creating Peace through Light and Sound in Memory of the Deceased," at the City Hall.

The German-Japanese Friendship Circle exhibited "Pictures of the Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki" and screened the film, "A Mother's Prayer."

The day ended with a multireligious peace prayer, "DONA NOBIS PACEM," and setting out paper lanterns on the Mash Pond in the Park of the Twin Cities.

 Website of Mayors for Peace Germany (in German):

<https://www.hannover.de/Service/Presse-Medien/Landeshauptstadt-Hannover/Aktuelle-Meldungen-und-Veranstaltungen/Gedenkveranstaltungen-zum-Atombombenabwurf-auf-Hiroshima>

● Manchester, United Kingdom

Report by Mr. Richard Outram, UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary

Manchester held a Hiroshima Day commemorative event on 6 August in the new Peace Gardens in Lincoln Square. This was the first such event to be held here.

Over 40 participants joined the Lord Mayor of Manchester and Vice-President of Mayors for Peace, Councillor Donna Ludford, Mayors for Peace permanent representative, Councillor Eddy Newman and Chapter Secretary Richard Outram.

Richard presided over the event. Steve Roman, a guide of the Manchester Peace Trail, spoke about what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on those fateful days of 6 and 9 August. The Lord Mayor laid a wreath after speaking about Manchester as a city of peace. A minute's silence followed. Councillor Newman then read out the Mayor of Hiroshima's annual declaration.

Qaisra, Rae, and Hazel from the Friends of the Peace Garden and Gerry from Peace Talks Manchester then movingly read out testaments from young *hibakusha*. Manchester MP Afzal Khan read a quotation from Dr. Martin Luther King. Anna Bunney from Manchester Museum spoke of plans to reopen the Hiroshima exhibition next year.

Fittingly, the event concluded after British atom bomb test veteran John Morris called for children to be educated about the impact of atomic bombs and testing.



Lord Mayor Ludford speaking


Cllr. Newman reading Hiroshima Declaration


Photos: courtesy of the City of Manchester

Call to hold events to mark the 2022 International Day of Peace on September 21

The United Nations has established September 21 as the International Day of Peace (IDP), which is dedicated to world peace, specifically 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Mayors for Peace has been a long-time supporter of the IDP through holding commemorative events and also encouraged all member cities to hold their own events on the International Day of Peace.

This year, too, we invite all member cities to join us commemorate the 2022 International Day of Peace in their cities on September 21.

 100-Day Countdown Message for the International Day of Peace (September 21, 2022), issued on June 13: https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/file-2206-220613_IDP100day_message_E.pdf

 International Day of Peace 21 September (UN website): <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

Please share information on your city's 2022 IDP events!

The Secretariat welcomes reports on your city's events commemorating the IDP. After you host commemorative events, please share event reports with the Secretariat, so that we could share the information with other member cities on [our website](#), News Flash, and/or other forms of media.

The Secretariat also highly appreciates to you for informing us of any plans for commemorative events in advance.

Please share the information with the Secretariat via email at: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

Request from Takayama City

The City of Takayama, Japan, a member city of Mayors for Peace, requests other member cities to join in a bell ringing for peace at noon on September 21, in each city's local time.

We humbly ask you to consider calling for the ringing of bells at noon on September 21, at facilities and organizations which own bells in your city.



 Request letter from the President of Mayors for Peace https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/file-2208-Request-from-MfP_E.pdf

The Mayors for Peace European Chapter also invites member cities to join their campaign.

● European Chapter

International Day of Peace 2022: The Mayors for Peace European Chapter invites local governments and peace activists to join the social media campaign #PeaceStartsHere

Report by Mr. Jaume Puigpinós, the City of Granollers, Spain

The [Mayors for Peace European Chapter](#) invites local authorities and peace organizations to join its communication initiative, #PeaceStartsHere, on the 21st of September, International Day for Peace.

The campaign aims to highlight the role of municipalities and local perspectives in achieving peace from the bottom-up. Consistent with this vision, the key message of the campaign will be “Peace in the world starts here: In cities and towns.” Through this initiative, the Mayors for Peace European Chapter aims to revamp the municipal peace narrative based on the “culture of peace” that Mayors for Peace members from across the world promote through different approaches.

Interested in joining this initiative? [Check the full article here](#) (Mayors for Peace European Chapter website).

Member city activities

● Zusmarshausen, Germany

Zusmarshausen stands together for Peace

Report by Ms. Beate Wagner, Zusmarshausen, Germany

On Sunday, May 22, 2022, Zusmarshausen held a peace celebration event.

In his speech, Mayor Bernhard Uhl welcomed the Ukrainian guests in their native language. Touching on the war in Ukraine, he said, “Let us live peace together, in the community, in solidarity with the Ukrainian people.” Igor Meisner, from the Ukrainian Association of Augsburg, expressed his heartfelt thanks for the peace festival, and urged the participants to support the Ukrainians with all the means at their disposal. Ukrainian student Katja Parhidco thanked Zusmarshausen for its commitment warmly. Pastor Ulrich Funk’s words moved the participants—“Where does peace come from, and where does peace go? Peace is a gift and a task—let us stand together!” A Ukrainian choir let the Ukrainians be at home for moments, with emotional tears flowing on their cheeks. Marktkapelle Zusmarshausen further garnished the celebration solemnly. A peace demonstration followed, in which participants felt the sense of community that exists between all people beyond language barriers. The demonstration was concluded by Franziska Schechinger singing “Give peace a chance” by John Lennon.

After the blessing of the fountain by Father Philip, a linden tree in the Moosdreieck, designated as a peace tree, was decorated with peace wishes.



Photos: courtesy of the City of Zusmarshausen

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.

Regional chapter activities

● German Chapter

Flag Day of German members

Report by Ms. Evelyn Kamissek, the City of Hannover, Germany

As every year, the Mayors for Peace flag was hoisted in front of many German town halls on July 8th, 2022. Flying the flag signifies opposition to nuclear weapons and the hope for a peaceful world, especially in this unstable time. Out of over 800 German members, a total of 520 joined in the national Flag Day of Mayors for Peace.

The Flag Day is a reminder of an advisory opinion handed down by the International Court of Justice on July 8th, 1996, which concluded, “the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict.”



The 11th German Flag Day was organized by the Mayor’s Office in the City of Hannover in cooperation with the *Deutsch-Japanische Gesellschaft* (German-Japanese Association), *Freundeskreis Hannover-Hiroshima* (Friendship Organisation), and the *Hiroshima Bündnis* (Hiroshima Alliance). These organizations were recently awarded with the honorary plaque of the city of Hannover for their excellent initiatives.

The previous day, July 7th, marked the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the TPNW, and saw a panel discussion in the town hall of Hannover. Dr. Oliver Meier (Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, Hamburg/Berlin) delivered a lecture under the title, “How to continue on the path to Global Zero?,” and then had a discussion with disarmament expert Xanthe Hall from IPPNW/ICAN, Berlin.



Photos: courtesy of the Mayors for Peace German Chapter

🔗 11th German Flag Day (German Mayors for Peace website, in German):

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Flaggentag/B%C3%BCrgermeister-f%C3%BCr-den-Frieden-Hannover-zeigt-wieder-Flagge-gegen-Atomwaffen>

🔗 Panel Discussion in Hannover (German Mayors for Peace website, in German):

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Mayors-for-Peace/Aktivit%C3%A4ten/F%C3%BCnf-Jahre-Atomwaffenverbotsvertrag-Wie-geht-es-weiter-auf-dem-Weg-zu-Global-Zero>

● Catalan Chapter

The Mayors for Peace Catalan Chapter organizes a local conference on the role of historical memory policies to advance a culture of peace in small and medium-sized municipalities

Report by Mr. Jaume Puigpinós, the City of Granollers, Spain

The event will take place on Friday 7 October at the Penyafort Castle of Santa Margarida i els Monjos (Barcelona Province, Catalonia). It will welcome representatives from local and regional governments, civic leaders and researchers to explore emerging and innovative municipal experiences on historical memory, heritage and peace.

The event will combine cultural visits, presentations on local policies implemented in Catalonia, France, Brazil and Chile and an open debate with the audience. Key issues to be addressed during the event include the memory of the Spanish Civil War and the Franco Dictatorship repression, but also rural identity, intergenerational dialogues, foreigners inclusion as well as human rights promotion.

The event aims to develop the Mayors for Peace narrative related to this key subject for our entire network, which can help boost our implementation of “culture of peace” agendas.

Check the event’s concept note [here \(Only available in Catalan\)](#). Reach jpuigpinos@externs.granollers.cat to know more about this event.



Image: courtesy of the Mayors for Peace Catalan Chapter

● French Chapter

Michaël Delafosse, Mayor of Montpellier, represented Mayors for Peace France (AFCD RP) at the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima

Report by Ms. Loréna Schlicht, AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France

On August 5 and 6, 2022, Michaël Delafosse, Mayor of Montpellier, President of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole and Vice-President of Mayors for Peace France, participated in the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima. Mayor Delafosse officially represented AFCD RP–Mayors for Peace France at the request of its President, Mayor Philippe Rio of Grigny. In the ceremony, Mayor Delafosse honored the *hibakusha*, victims of the nuclear bombs, and testified in favor of lasting world peace, and offered a wreath of flowers on behalf of the city of Montpellier.



Mayor Delafosse at the Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima

“In the current context of war in Ukraine and the threat of nuclear weapons, the commitment of democratic states, but also of peaceful territories is crucial. We have both a duty to remember, as we do today the Hiroshima bombing victims, and the responsibility to act collectively by committing ourselves to eternal peace by addressing current issues, such as poverty, refugee welfare, abuse and environmental protection,” said Michaël Delafosse.

To close this commemoration, Mayor Delafosse participated in the floating lantern ceremony on the banks of the Motoyasu River in the Peace Memorial Park.

A day before, on August 5, Mayor Delafosse was received by Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, Kazumi Matsui. In the meeting, Mayor Delafosse discussed a number of ongoing initiatives and public policies in Montpellier.

● French Chapter

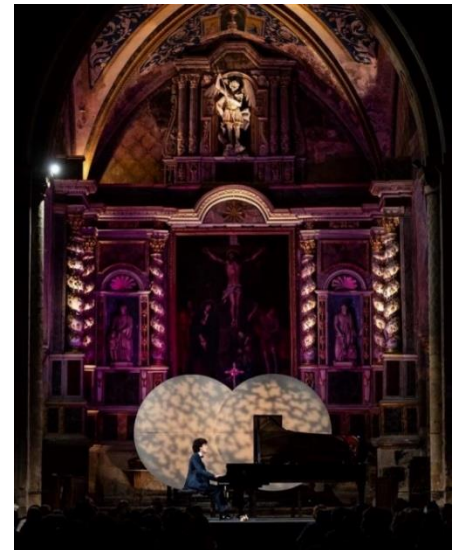
The City of Cordes-sur-Ciel joins the Cordes sur Ciel Festival 2022 to promote a culture of peace

Report by Ms. Loréna Schlicht, AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France

The Cordes-sur-Ciel Festival, initiative undertaken in partnership with the City of Cordes-sur-Ciel, has been held annually since 1971 based on the firm conviction that music, through its universal and collective dimension, is also an instrument of peace. This year’s festival, Cordes-sur-Ciel Festival 2022, took place from July 23 to July 29, featuring artists and musicians who embodied solidarity and empathy in the face of war. Artists from Ukraine, Russia, France, and other countries were invited to share their melodies and to reaffirm our humanity and our connected destinies. The festival offered 10 concert tickets to Ukrainian families housed in the city.

A festival poster placed at the entrance of Cordes-sur-Ciel Church, festival venue, showed the Mayors for Peace logo and introduced the message of Danièle Devinck, President of ACADOC (Cordes-sur-Ciel Festival).

“The City of Cordes sur Ciel, member of Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP) since 2019, joins the Cordes sur Ciel Festival 2022 to promote a culture of peace. The 51st Festival opens with Slavic music, thus affirming the role of music in dialogue between peoples. [...] By welcoming French, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Belarusian and Russian artists, and by giving the opportunity to hear composers of Slavic origin whose repertoire belongs to the heritage of Western music, the festival affirms the role of this form of art in our steps toward peace.” (Excerpts)



Roman Borisov, young Russian pianist,
playing in Cordes-sur-Ciel Church
Photo: courtesy of AFCDRP–Mayors for Peace France,
ACADOC, and photographer [@ludwigraynal](#)

Request for payment of the 2022 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee

In order to facilitate future activities and strengthen the sense of solidarity amongst member cities, Mayors for Peace introduced an annual Membership Fee in 2015.

This year again, we ask each member city to pay a fee of 2,000 Japanese yen (about 17 USD/15 Euro as of March 2022) per city. If your city has not paid their Membership Fee in previous years, we ask your city to pay the total amount owed for each unpaid year since 2015. The collected Membership Fees will be allocated toward new and existing projects listed on the [Mayors for Peace Action Plan](#).

A request for payment of the 2022 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 1. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

* If you want to know your city’s payment status or if you have not received the email of request for payment, please contact the Secretariat.

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

 Request for the 2022 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/joins/fees/>

Mayors for Peace member cities - 8,200 cities in 166 countries/regions

On August 1, we gained 12 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,200. We thank all involved in promoting expanded membership for their invaluable support. Below is the breakdown of the new members.

Country/Region	New Members	Total No.	Remarks
Germany	Angermünde and 9 other cities	836	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Italy	Albiano d'Ivrea	519	Thanks to efforts by Ivrea, a member city in Italy.
Spain	Belorado	401	



🔗 List of new members (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/file-2207-newmembers2208_en.pdf

🔗 Membership by country (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/monthly/file-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

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/resources/#recruit>


Your continued cooperation is highly appreciated!

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

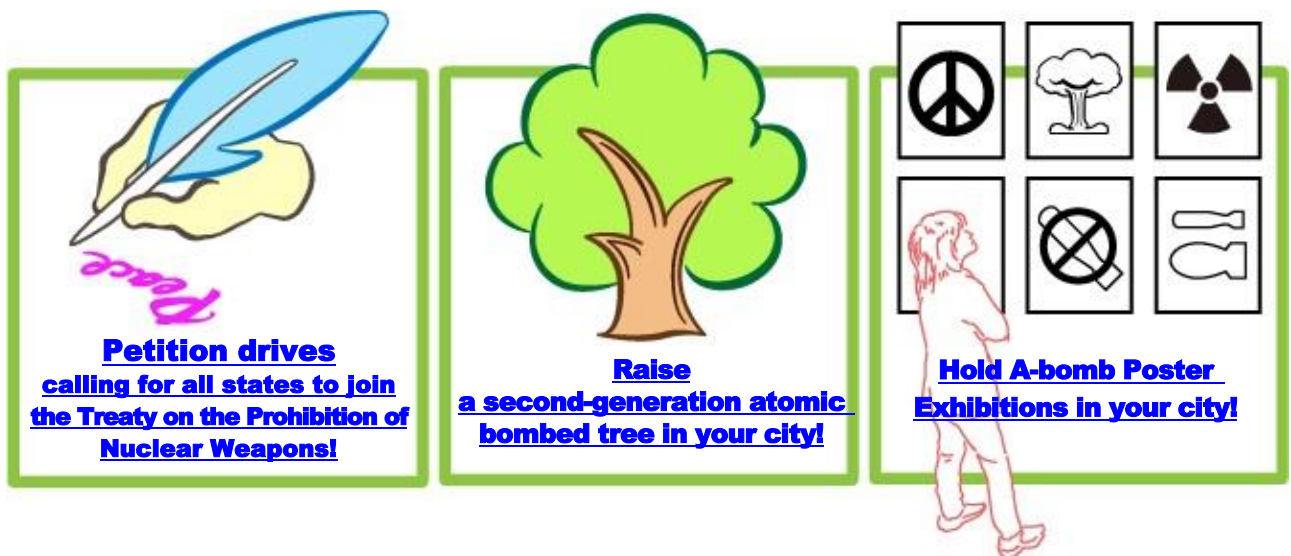
At the 12th Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace held online in July last year, we adopted our new Action Plan (2021–2025). Together, let us continue our utmost efforts toward our ultimate goal of realizing lasting world peace. Please implement initiatives outlined in the Action Plan within your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

 Mayors for Peace Action Plan (PDF):

https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/file-PX_Vision_Action_Plan_en.pdf

 Initiatives implemented under the Action Plan:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/>



Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives

The Mayors for Peace Secretariat has been seeking examples of peace education initiatives conducted by any organization (city government/school/NGO, etc.) in Mayors for Peace member cities. 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:

<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/edu-examples/>

A closer look at the “World’s Nuclear Warheads Count in 2022” Part 2: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

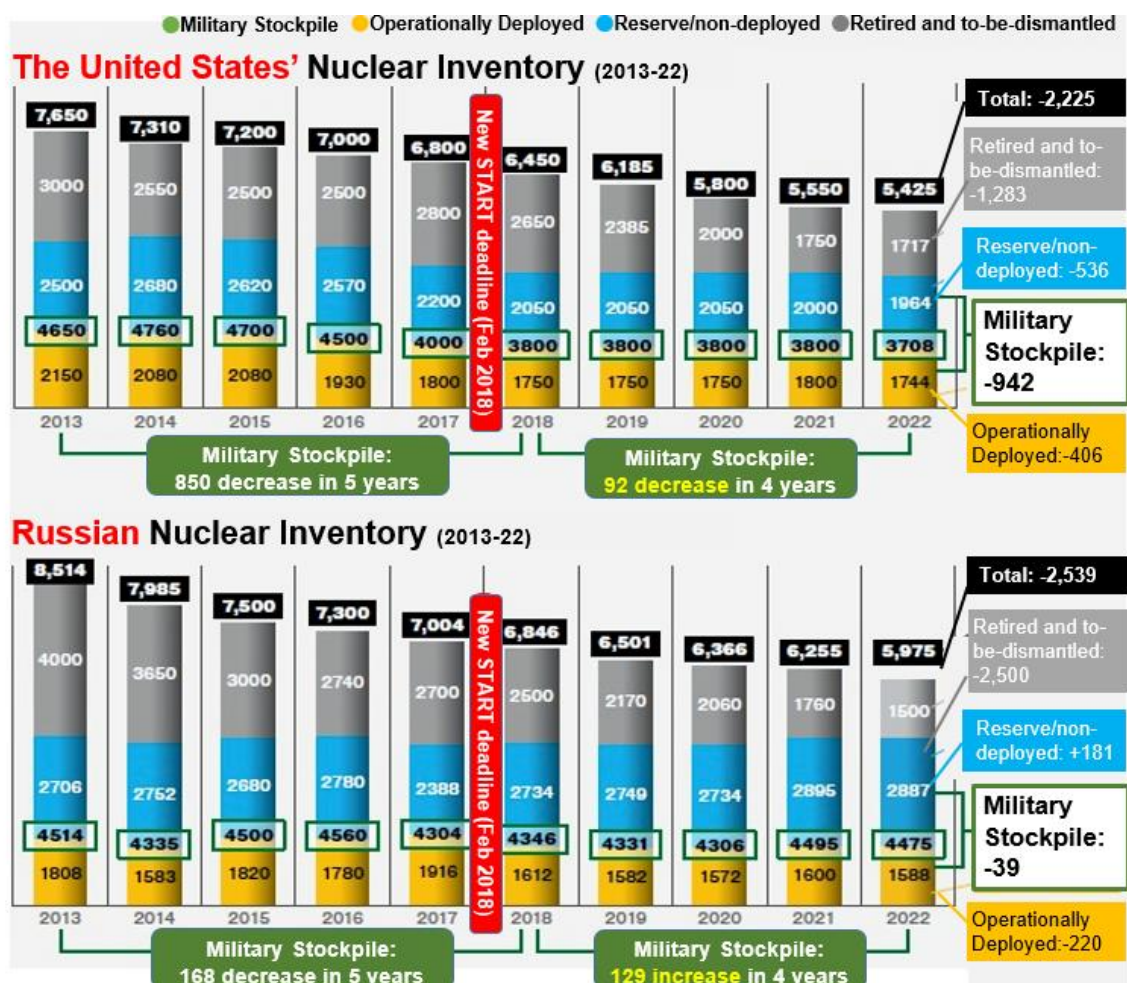
Building on the article in the previous issue, let us continue to have a look at the nuclear landscape of the United States and Russia.

The Figure below shows the change in the number of warheads held by both countries from 2013, when the “World’s Nuclear Warheads Count” poster first appeared, to 2022. Over the past nine years, the total number of U.S. nuclear warheads has been reduced by 2,225, but in terms of the Military Stockpiles, i.e. the total number of operationally deployed and reserve/non-deployed nuclear warheads, the reduction has been limited to 942. When it comes to Russia, the total number of nuclear warheads has been reduced by 2,539, but the military stockpile reduction amounts to only 39 warheads. In sum, even though total nuclear warheads count is on the decline, a substantial progress in nuclear disarmament is far from advancing.

In February 2021, the U.S. and Russia agreed to a five-year extension of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which entered into force in February 2011 and commits each country to reduce the number of operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads in its arsenal below 1,550. Both countries have met this goal by the February 2018 deadline. However, as the Figure above shows, the pace of reduction in the number of warheads in both countries’ militaries has slowed further since 2018.

Both the U.S. and Russia must be faithful to their nuclear disarmament obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). In addition, disarmament negotiations must begin promptly. In future negotiations, a qualitative disarmament agenda, not just reductions in nuclear warheads and delivery vehicles, should be on the table. These include restrictions and bans on new types of weapons, such as hypersonic missiles and precision-guided weapons, which increase the risk of nuclear weapons use, and restrictions on military activities in the space and cyber domains. Involving China in these negotiations will also be important.

For further information, please see: <https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-top>



Courtesy of RECNA

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(Provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

On August 6, 77 years after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by the U.S. military, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony was held at the city's Peace Memorial Park.

In his Peace Declaration during the ceremony, Hiroshima City Mayor Kazumi Matsui expressed a sense of crisis about the current state of affairs in which the idea of reliance on nuclear deterrence is gaining momentum around the world. "We must immediately render all nuclear buttons meaningless," said Mr. Matsui as he called for the abolition of nuclear weapons. He sounded the alarm about the threat of nuclear weapons by borrowing from the Russian literary giant Leo Tolstoy. "Never build your happiness on the misfortune of others, for only in their happiness can you find your own," the mayor said. Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, elected from Hiroshima, was also in attendance, at what was his first Peace Memorial Ceremony as prime minister. UN Secretary-General António Guterres joined the day of prayer for the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima as the first head of the United Nations to attend in 12 years.

Later, on August 9, the commemorative date of the atomic bombing of that city, the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony was held in Nagasaki.

For those who experienced the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, little time remains to attend the peace ceremonies in person, share their A-bombing experiences, and call for the abolition of nuclear weapons with their own sense of urgency. On the other hand, the sense of crisis that nuclear weapons could really be used, triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is shared widely among many people around the world. If such weapons were to be used at this time, the very existence of humanity would be at risk. Together, we all must reaffirm our determination to achieve a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons and war, something A-bomb survivors have long sought.

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

A-bomb victim's certificate held by Kazuzo Tagashira, A-bomb survivor and rose breeder, delivered and to be exhibited at ICAN's headquarters

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=121394>

Japanese professor from Hiroshima tries to spread peace education in the U.S. by creating curriculum focusing on the A-bombings and nuclear issues

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=121680>

Kashiwa Sato designs "Hiroshima Appeals" poster, featuring ray of hope for future

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=121622>

Japan's Prime Minister addresses NPT Review Conference for first time, presenting action plan with five pillars and criticizing Russia's threats

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=122583>

Striving to fill voids in Hiroshima, evidence of victims remains—Seven photos of downtown devastation include shots taken around September 1945, shortly after atomic bombing

<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=122811>

A video clip of an atomic bomb survivor’s testimony with English subtitles is now available

Since 2019, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum has been working on an initiative to record videos of atomic bomb survivors communicating their first-hand experiences to visitors including students on school trips and post them on YouTube.

The museum has added English subtitles to Ms. Yoshiko Kajimoto’s video, which has a very high number of views, in the hope that this video will encourage people to maintain an interest in Hiroshima during the COVID-19 pandemic and visit the museum.

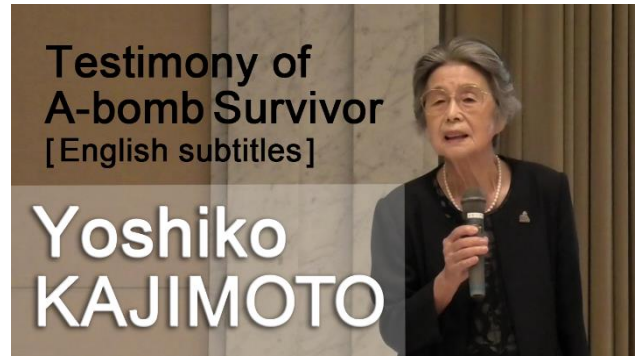







Image: courtesy of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

Ms. Kajimoto will be sharing her experience at the 10th General Conference of Mayors for Peace in October.

Our sincere hope is that this English-subtitled video would be utilized in your city to “pass down atomic bomb experiences through testimonies,” as set forth in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2021–2025).

 Video clip of Ms. Kajimoto’s testimony with English subtitles:
https://youtu.be/Tnvt9U_vBi0

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

<p>〈Twitter〉  https://twitter.com/Mayors4Peace</p>		<p>〈Facebook〉  https://www.facebook.com/mayorsforpeace</p>	
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 The latest and archived issues of Mayors for Peace News Flash are available at:
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/newsflashes/>

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