



Mayors for Peace News Flash

December 2023 / No.168

Mayors for Peace Member Cities

8,342 cities

in **166** countries and regions

(as of December 1, 2023)

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

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

Table of Contents

- **Mayors for Peace delegation attends the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**
- **Congratulations to the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023 winners!**
- **Member city activities**
- **Regional chapter activities**
- **Request for payment of the 2023 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee**
- **Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,342 cities in 166 countries/regions**
- **Report by Executive Advisor**
- **Request to implement initiatives outlined in the Mayors for Peace Action Plan**
- **Call for input: examples of peace education initiatives**
- **Peace-related news from Hiroshima
(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)**
- **A closer look at the “World’s Fissile Material Inventory in 2023” Part 1:
Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)**

Mayors for Peace delegation attends the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

A Mayors for Peace delegation, including President Matsui (Mayor of Hiroshima), Vice President Suzuki (Mayor of Nagasaki), and Secretary General Kagawa, attended the Second Meeting of States Parties (2MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which met in New York from November 27 to December 1. At the 2MSP, they expressed their profound concern regarding the devastating humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons; called for increased efforts to further assure the effective implementation of the TPNW; and emphasized the need for advancing nuclear disarmament toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons—to the representatives of national governments and the UN.

Mayors for Peace also hosted a joint side event for the 2MSP with ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), as well as the Atomic Bomb Exhibition at the venue (UN Headquarters), both aimed at building momentum for achieving a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

President Matsui and Vice President Suzuki delivered the Mayors for Peace statement during the General Exchange of Views session on November 29. In his speech, President Matsui pointed out that distrust is escalating between nuclear-armed states and non-nuclear-weapon states, and this could potentially lead to a situation that completely undermines the fervent plea of the *hibakusha* that “no one else should suffer as we have.” Articulating the importance of further ensuring the effective implementation of the TPNW, he called for the advancement of initiatives to ensure that both the NPT and the TPNW fully function while maintaining their compatibility and complementarity. Our further reaffirmed determination to promote the culture of peace—a culture that renounces all forms of violence—and raise peace consciousness among citizens was also expressed. He concluded his speech by appealing to all delegations to share the same goal of realizing a nuclear-weapon-free world and to take steady steps together to achieve it.

📄 [Mayors for Peace statement at the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by President \(Mayor of Hiroshima\) and Vice President \(Mayor of Nagasaki\)](#)



President Matsui (left) and Vice President Suzuki (right) delivering Mayors for Peace statement



With UN Secretary-General Guterres (center)
Credit: UN Photo/Evan Schneider

On this occasion, the delegation had opportunities to meet with representatives of national governments and the UN to exchange views on the unfolding situation of the world concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In the meetings, the delegation called on the representatives to take concrete actions toward a world without nuclear weapons and requested support for the expansion of Mayors for Peace membership.

In order to further promote the culture of peace as outlined in its [PX Vision](#), Mayors for Peace will, in close collaboration with the member cities, the UN, and other NGOs, continue to develop youth leadership by utilizing its network and establish a civil society which urges policymakers to demonstrate decisive leadership to effect peace-oriented policy change.

📄 [Reports on Mayors for Peace activities in New York \(Mayors for Peace website\): https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2023/post-231221/](https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2023/post-231221/)

Congratulations to the Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023 winners!



In order to expand peace education efforts in its member cities, Mayors for Peace holds an annual Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” for children from 6 to 15 years old in all member cities.

For the 6th competition in 2023, out of a total of 4,766 submitted artworks, 15 were selected to receive awards. Congratulations to all the winners!

We invite you to check out the award-winning artworks on the Mayors for Peace website, each with the artist’s message of peace that inspired them. The Mayors for Peace President’s Award–winning artwork will be printed on plastic folders, which will be used on a variety of occasions, including when Mayors for Peace delegations attend conferences of the United Nations.



The Mayors for Peace President’s Award–winning artwork by Hina Suemitsu (8 years old) from Seiyo, Japan

< Message from the artist >

I made sunflowers by cutting paper. In the language of flowers, sunflowers have a meaning of “Looking into the future”.

I created this work hoping that the peaceful days, when we hold hands with our family and people around us and smile together, will continue forever.

 Selection results: Mayors for Peace Children’s Art Competition “Peaceful Towns” 2023 (Mayors for Peace website): <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/2023/post-231208/>

Member city activities

● Occitanie/Pyrénées-Méditerranée (Région) and Montpellier, France Mayors for Peace Day and Peace ceremony during the Japan Fortnight in Occitanie Report by Ms. Lorena Schlicht, Mayors for Peace France (AFCDRP)

On Wednesday, November 15th, as part of “Japan Fortnight in Occitanie”, a day was dedicated to the Mayors for Peace network at the Maison de la Région in Montpellier. A meeting among elected officials was held in person and through video conferencing to discuss the best practices of the Mayors for Peace members from France, Europe, and around the globe. The aim was to emphasize the importance of sharing these experiences in strengthening our connections and expanding the network.

The day concluded with a peace ceremony in the Garden of Armenia, where 200 students from Charles Dickens School (Rauze district) marched with lanterns and enveloped the last two speakers, Mayor Delafosse of Montpellier and Akihiro Takazawa, Deputy Consul General of Japan. This lovely procession brought a note of hope and embodied the desire for peace advocated in the speeches of the various participants.

The present representatives agreed with the following commitment: *Cities can and must work for peace; it is not solely the responsibility of our heads of state. Peace is built, defended, promoted. Peace is challenging but possible.* Deputy Consul General Takazawa of Japan emphasized in his speech “the need for empathy and memory” to avoid wars. This message was reinforced by the lantern gathering of children and participants accompanied by John Lennon’s “Imagine.” The ceremony was held around the balanced stone sculptures (provided by the association Sentinelles de la Paix) that symbolize the ruins of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as those of all wars, representing the fragility of many balances of life in our world.

Another initiative: The Maison de la Région Occitania in Alès and its partners organized an initiative with local primary schools, middle schools, and high schools: 2,000 origami cranes were made by young students and sent to Hiroshima, where they were dedicated to the Children’s Peace Monument in Peace Memorial Park.



The representatives present at the meeting, surrounded by students from Charles Dickens School
 Photo: courtesy of the City of Montpellier



Photo: courtesy of the Peace Promotion Division, the City of Hiroshima

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

Share your city’s peace activities with fellow member cities! 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 ‘the culture of peace’ are especially welcome! We look forward to your submissions!

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

● Japan Chapter

Japan Chapter submits letters of request to the Japanese government

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 20, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima (President of Mayors for Peace) visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan accompanied by representatives from Nagasaki City, Vice President City of Mayors for Peace, and Himeji City, the host city of the 11th Mayors for Peace Japanese Member Cities Meeting held in October 2023. There they met with Parliamentary Vice-Minister Yoichi Fukazawa for Foreign Affairs, and directly handed him the Letter of Request to the Japanese Government Calling for the Promotion of Actions to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted at the Japanese Member Cities Meeting.

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

- fulfill its role in establishing common ground for a dialogue toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons, reaffirming that every effort taken for this goal must be based on the devastating consequences nuclear weapons have inflicted upon humanity;
- participate in the second Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW as an observer, and, heeding calls from the participants including states parties to the treaty, make efforts to abolish nuclear weapons; and
- sign and ratify the TPNW at the earliest date.

On the same day, the representatives of the Japan Chapter also visited the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan. They met with Minister Junji Suzuki for Internal Affairs and Communications, and directly handed him the Letter of Request to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Calling for Financial Support for Municipalities to Promote the Culture of Peace, which was adopted at this year's Japanese Member Cities Meeting as well.



President Matsui (left) and Parliamentary Vice-Minister Fukazawa for Foreign Affairs
(Photo: courtesy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)



President Matsui (second from left) and Minister Suzuki for Internal Affairs and Communications (second from right)

Request for payment of the 2023 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 16 USD/15 Euro as of March 27, 2023) 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 2023 membership fee was sent to each city by email on April 4. We deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

 Request for the 2023 Mayors for Peace Membership Fee (Mayors for Peace website):
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/joins/fees/>

Mayors for Peace member cities: 8,342 cities in 166 countries/regions

On December 1, we gained 21 new member cities, bringing our total membership to 8,342. 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
Albania	Tirana	4	The Secretariat issued an invitation letter on the occasion of an event held by Pathways to Peace.
Germany	Amtzell and 3 other cities	873	Thanks to efforts by Hannover, a Vice President and Lead City.
Jordan	Abdallha Bin Rawaha and 12 other cities	25	Thanks to a request from Ambassador of Jordan to Japan, who attended the Peace Memorial Ceremony of Hiroshima this August.
Netherlands	Veere	177	
Portugal	Odemira and Velas	51	Thanks to efforts by Evora, an Executive and Lead City.



21 new cities from 5 countries

- Albania** 1 city
- Germany** 4 cities
- Jordan** 13 cities
- Netherlands** 1 city
- Portugal** 2 cities

Member Cities
8,342 member cities

166 countries & regions

As of December 1, 2023

Help us achieve 10,000 member cities!

List of new members (PDF): https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/file-2311-newmembers2312_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 **11 different languages**: Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (BZ), Portuguese (EU), 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!

Report by Executive Advisor

● Local and state officials to President Biden: “It’s Time to Get Serious About Nuclear Disarmament”

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

On November 16, an Open Letter from U.S. local elected officials, “It’s Time to Get Serious About Nuclear Disarmament,” was delivered to President Biden. The letter, organized by the Back from the Brink Campaign, with cooperation from US Mayors for Peace member cities, was signed by 228 mayors, city councilors, alderpeople, county commissioners and state legislators from around the United States, urging Biden to send a U.S. observer delegation to the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and to initiate negotiations with all nuclear-armed states toward a verifiable, timebound agreement to eliminate all nuclear weapons from the planet. There has been no response from the Biden administration, and the U.S. did not send an observer delegation to the TPNW meeting.

Back from the Brink: Bringing Communities Together to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is a U.S.-based grassroots coalition of individuals, organizations and elected officials working together on a multi-year campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons and secure a set of common sense U.S. nuclear weapons policies that will make the world safer, healthier, and more just. Mayors for Peace Executive Advisor Jackie Cabasso serves on the Steering Committee of Back from the Brink.

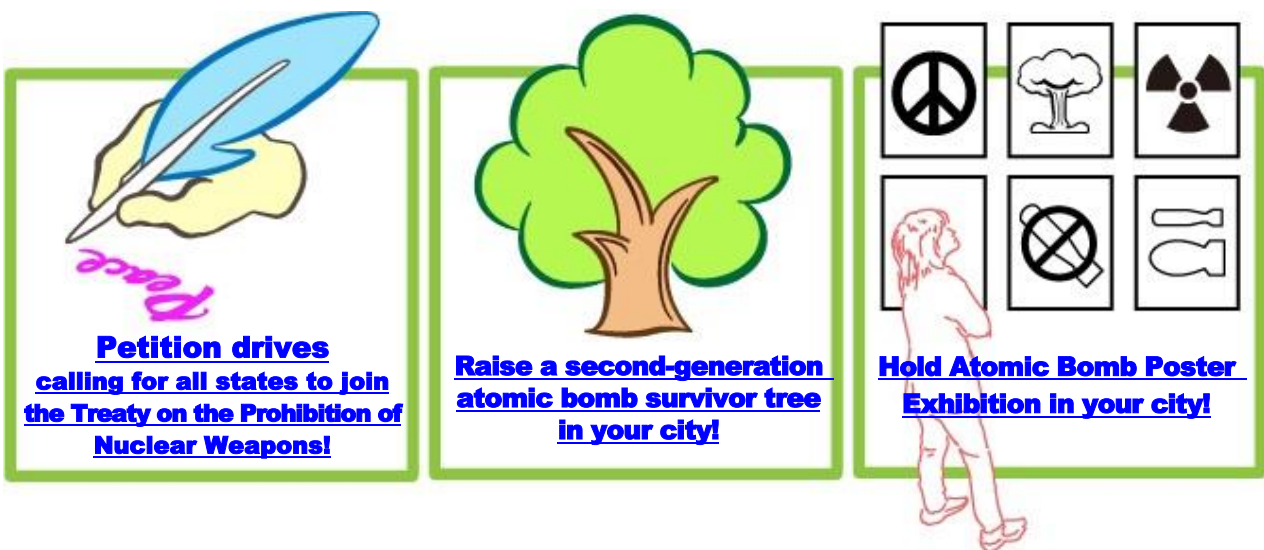
🔗 It’s time to get serious about nuclear disarmament: An open letter from local, county, and state officials to President Joe Biden: [Open Letter 2023 | Back from the Brink \(preventnuclearwar.org\)](https://www.backfromthebrink.org/open-letter-2023)

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 2021, we adopted the latest 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 programs.

 Call for Input on the Mayors for Peace website:
<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/visions/initiatives/edu-examples/>

Peace-related news from Hiroshima

(provided by the Chugoku Shimbun Hiroshima Peace Media Center)

On August 6, 1945, the day an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, citizens and newspaper reporters took photographs of the tragedy unfolding underneath the mushroom cloud even as they themselves were affected by the bombing. Subsequently, reporters and professional photographers came to Hiroshima from such cities as Tokyo and Osaka. The many photos and the documentary films that were shot by the end of that year graphically depict the reality of the devastation resulting from the bombing, which is estimated to have claimed the lives of 140,000 people. Miraculously, avoiding dispersal and loss, the materials still exist today, 78 years after the bombing, and can be found displayed at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and reported in the news media.

Japan's government recently submitted an application for international registration of the 1,532 photos and two films related to the atomic bombing taken by the end of 1945 with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s program known as "Memory of the World." For application of the collection of materials, titled "Visual archives of Hiroshima atomic bombing—Photographs and films in 1945," six organizations involved in the possession, preservation, and utilization of the materials served as joint nominators—the Hiroshima City government, the Chugoku Shimbun, the Asahi Shimbun, the Mainichi Newspapers, RCC Broadcasting, and the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK).

The photos and films in the collection represent a documentary record only possible at that place and at that moment in time. Needless to say, the materials are of singular value. The application for registration is anticipated to increase opportunities into the future for people around the world to come into contact with that visual record of the atomic bombing. UNESCO's final decision from its review of the application is expected to be announced in the spring of 2025.

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

English version of the Video "Hiroshima Peace Song" produced by organizations such as Hiroshima City
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=137618>

A-bomb survivor Keiko Ogura receives pocket notebook from U.S. president in return for her dialogue with leaders at G7 summit
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=137624>

Junior and senior high school students from Hiroshima and Daegu, its sister city in South Korea; the next generation to lead the future of the two nations, share a history of the atomic bombing
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=138014>

15 leading and local financial institutions ban nuclear weapons-related loans and investments, survey shows
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=137772>

Registration with "Memory of the World" of Hiroshima A-bombing photos, bolstered by Japan government's recommendation, to be decided by UNESCO in spring 2025
<https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=138196>

Atomic bombing as seen from photographs
https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?post_type=gallery&lang=en

A closer look at the “World’s Fissile Material Inventory in 2023” Part 1: Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)

Until the last issue of this newsletter, we explained the World’s Nuclear Warheads Count across four issues. In the next few posts, we would like you to have a closer look at the World’s Fissile Material Inventory.

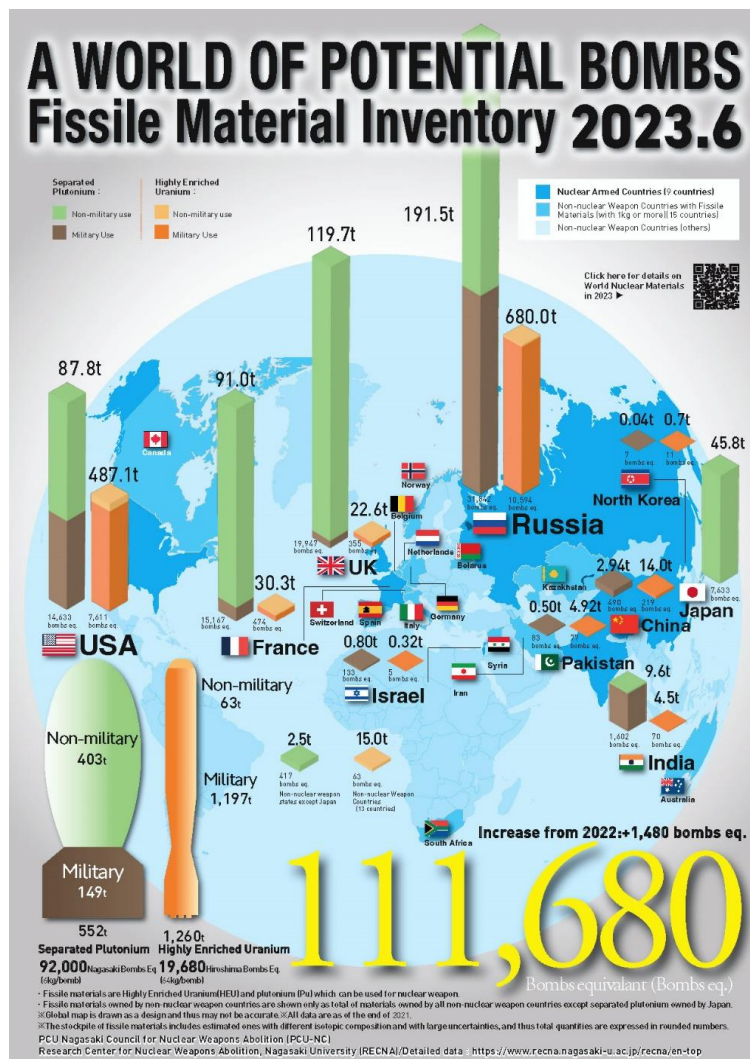
Since 2015, in collaboration with the Nagasaki Council for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (PCU-NC), RECNA has released a series of posters illustrating the inventory of the materials which can be used for nuclear weapons (namely highly enriched uranium (HEU) and separated plutonium) by country and by purpose.

As of the end of 2021, there are 1,260 tons of HEU and 552 tons of separated plutonium in the world, for both military and non-military use*. To facilitate a better understanding of this situation, the graphs illustrate how many of the Hiroshima- and Nagasaki-type atomic bombs the materials are equivalent to. It is estimated that the Hiroshima bomb contained 64kg of HEU and that the Nagasaki bomb had 6kg of plutonium. Thus, the global fissile materials combined are equivalent to 19,680 Hiroshima bombs and 92,000 Nagasaki bombs, adding up to more than 110,000 bombs. (Given that there are many uncertainties, they are only approximate and estimated values.)

As there are about 12,520 nuclear warheads in the world as of June 2023, we are able to develop many times more nuclear weapons than we currently possess. Of course, given today’s progress of technology, it is possible to produce an atomic bomb with a much smaller amount of nuclear material than 78 years ago. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) deems it possible to build an implosion-type nuclear weapon with 25kg of uranium-235 or 8kg of plutonium.

For more detailed information, please visit RECNA’s website:
<https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/en-topics/43755>

World’s Fissile Material Inventory in 2023



- * Military and Non-military Uranium:
 Military: HEU used in nuclear warheads, or for reactor fuel for naval nuclear propulsion.
 Non-military: HEU used for fuel for research and testing reactors; and that declared as “excess” for military purposes.

- Military and Non-military Plutonium:
 Military: Plutonium used in nuclear warheads.
 Non-military: Plutonium separated from spent nuclear fuel in nuclear reactor for non-military purposes; and plutonium declared as “excess” for nuclear weapons



Dear friends and colleagues,

As 2023 draws to a close, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks for continuing to support the initiatives of Mayors for Peace in contributing to the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

Wishing you happy holidays and a happy new year!

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

Mayors for Peace Official Social Media Accounts

<X (Twitter)>  @Mayors4Peace
<https://x.com/Mayors4Peace>



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



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<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/news/newsflashes/>

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