

## The Nagasaki Appeal

### In Commemoration of 80 Years Since the Atomic Bombings

We, representatives of 8,509 cities of 166 countries and regions around the world, met at the 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, held in Nagasaki from August 7 to 10, 2025 in commemoration of 80 years since the atomic bombings, and engaged in dynamic discussions on the theme “Towards a World without Nuclear Weapons—A peaceful future envisioned by global citizens.”

The peace efforts of the Mayors for Peace go back 80 years.

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb in human history was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, on August 9, the second atomic bomb exploded over Nagasaki. The bombs instantly leveled buildings and houses and reduced the cities to ashes, mercilessly claiming the precious lives of over 210,000 people in both cities by the end of the year.

Those who managed to survive the bombings – the *hibakusha* – have been continuing to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons by sharing their experiences across the world, with the strong determination that no one in the world will ever again suffer the same experience as theirs. In recognition of their dedicated efforts over many years, Nihon Hidankyo, Japan’s nationwide association of *hibakusha*, was awarded the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize. This recognition is a testament to the fact that the *hibakusha*’s efforts have instrumentally contributed to the non-use of nuclear weapons since the first atomic bombings. It also convinces us that although we may have little power as individuals, we can be a driving force to move the world forward if we work together without giving up.

However, now that 80 years have passed since the atomic bombings, the average age of *hibakusha* exceeds 86 years. This means that the day will soon come when there will no longer be any *hibakusha*, who have been leading the initiatives towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. Mayors for Peace is an organization founded by a call by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for solidarity among cities during the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament in 1982. Reflecting the *hibakusha*’s desire for peace, the call inspired cities around the world to work together for lasting peace and a world free from nuclear weapons and wars. Mayors for Peace has now grown to be the world’s largest network of cities and citizens striving for peace.

Today, the global security environment has become more dangerous than ever. There are still over 12,000 nuclear warheads on this planet, and the risk of another nuclear weapon being used has been increased to an unprecedented level, with the modernization of nuclear forces and the emergence of new types of weapons, and unceasing conflicts and rising tensions such as those in Ukraine and the Middle East.

In addition to the critical international situation surrounding the dangers of nuclear weapons, the world is now facing growing threats and challenges that cannot be solved by one country alone and must be addressed through international cooperation. These include global environmental problems such as climate change and pollution, as well as poverty, hunger, widespread infectious diseases, increasing numbers of refugees and displaced people and violations of human rights. In this light, it is even more important for us to recognize our responsibility as global citizens to work together for a peaceful future, while making steady efforts to find solutions to various issues in our respective cities by leveraging local strengths.

Considering the challenges of our time, Mayors for Peace adopted its “Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision)” in 2021 and has been working on various initiatives to achieve its three key objectives in the vision: A. Realize a world without nuclear weapons; B. Realize safe and resilient cities; C. Promote a culture of peace.

At this General Conference, we member cities discussed the role of cities in achieving these objectives and shared our initiatives, thus reaffirming the importance of deepening cooperation and solidarity. We are committed to further collaboration in strengthening such activities as fostering the next generation of leaders and promoting cultural exchanges.

Based on the discussions at this conference, Mayors for Peace adopted a plan which provides guidelines for action for the period from 2025 to 2029, together with the following keywords which all member cities will embrace in taking their actions.

VOICE: We will raise our voice for peace from cities.

LINK: We will work in unison and cooperation in various peace activities.

PEACE: We will promote a culture of peace deeply rooted in civil society.

In order to support these activities effectively and efficiently,

RISE: We will further reinforce our organizational foundation and move forward as a network of cities.

Using these keywords, we aim to strengthen solidarity among the member cities of Mayors for Peace and enhance our organizational foundation in undertaking concrete activities.

Peace is an aspiration and goal of all humankind. As global citizens, united across ethnicity, culture, religion, nationality and beyond, we pledge to continue dedicated efforts to uphold values rooted in human dignity through a people-centered approach, thereby creating a society where no one is left behind.

Therefore, we urge national governments and leaders around the world to take practical actions for peace.

Today, we are faced with the risk of collapse of the multilateral political, security and economic systems that have been in place since the end of World War II, with negative effects on our lives in many parts of the world. Against this backdrop, we hereby appeal to national governments and leaders around the world to seek to achieve peace through tireless dialogue and diplomatic efforts.

To prevent nuclear weapons from ever being used again, it is absolutely necessary for all States Parties to fulfill nuclear disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). With the NPT Review Conference scheduled for 2026, we urge national governments around the world to make tangible progress in achieving measurable results in fulfilling their respective obligations.

The first review conference for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into force in 2021 with the backing of the strong voices and robust support from civil society, will be held in 2026. The TPNW is an important step toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. We call on all States to sign and ratify the Treaty and increase international cooperation in achieving the goals of the Treaty.

In cooperation with national governments, the United Nations, its specialized agencies and civil society groups, Mayors for Peace aims to pursue peace step by step, not just as an ideal but as a reality, through grassroots actions by each individual city. This is the role of Mayors for Peace, which has now grown to be the world's largest peace network of cities and citizens.

Going forward, Mayors for Peace will endeavor to increase its international presence and further disseminate its messages. Specifically, in addition to calling on national governments to take action for peace, we will emphasize the roles of cities in bringing about a world free of nuclear weapons and communicate vigorously the importance of solidarity for peace at the levels of cities and citizens across national borders and ethnic boundaries. We will also undertake activities to convey the realities of atomic bombings to the whole world by passing down to future generations, the first-hand experiences, memories and desire for peace disseminated by the *hibakusha*, in order to ensure that they will never fade away.

Recent trends regarding climate change and global warming have given rise to various threats that affect our lives, such as the prevalence of tropical infectious diseases and damage to agriculture and fishery industries. The Covid-19 pandemic shook the entire world and exposed the vulnerability of healthcare and medical systems in each country and region. Due to the conflicts that continue in various parts of the world, the number of refugees has now risen to a record high of over 120 million. In order to address these global issues that undermine human dignity, we will extend support and cooperation to activities led by cities and citizens, while working in close collaboration with the United Nations agencies.

To realize a world free of war and achieve lasting peace, it is important that citizens grow more aware of the value of peace through daily activities to promote a culture of peace, whether through music, art, sports or other fields. We will also work to enhance the understanding of the realities of war around the world and promote peace education to ensure that human suffering caused by armed conflict be known to citizens, young people in particular. In addition, we, as global citizens, will remain committed to working for the abolition of nuclear weapons and a peaceful future, together with the next generation.

Our individual power is small. But we can be a great force in shaping the future by raising our voices for peace and working in cooperation.

In commemoration of 80 years since the atomic bombings, we, member cities of Mayors for Peace, pledge here, in the atomic-bombed city of Nagasaki, to continue to move forward in our efforts to realize a nuclear-free, peaceful world, keeping the flame of hope burning in our hearts and never giving up in our pursuit of peace.

Let Nagasaki be the last city to experience an atomic bombing. NO MORE HIROSHIMAS. NO MORE NAGASAKIS. NO MORE WAR. NO MORE HIBAKUSHA.

August 10, 2025

Nagasaki, Japan

The 11th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Commemorating 80 Years since the Atomic Bombings