



Mayors for Peace Update
Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting July 23, 2022
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Mayors for Peace was established in 1982, during the United Nations (UN) Second Special Session on Disarmament, when the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki announced their Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities Toward the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and issued a joint call to cities everywhere to support this program.

Over its 40-year history, Mayors for Peace has organized and been involved in events ranging from diverse memorial gatherings commemorating the August 6 and 9, 1945 U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to protests against French, Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons tests, to numerous appeals submitted to the UN and presentations at Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) meetings. Examples of Mayors for Peace activities include: youth education; internships by staff of member cities at the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; petition campaigns; declarations, joint statements; speeches at UN and other international events; publicizing testimonies of *hibakusha* (A-Bomb survivors); poster exhibitions; distribution of A-bomb tree seedlings; dissemination of information through a [monthly electronic Newsflash](#), and a [newly updated web site](#).

Mayors for Peace obtained Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council in 1991 and has supported the UN's sustainable development goals and major disarmament initiatives put forward by Secretary General and the UN disarmament machinery. In June 2022, Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima, the President of Mayors for Peace, and Vice-President Mayor Taue of Nagasaki, addressed the First Meeting of the States Parties to the TPNW in Vienna. In August, Mayor Taue will lead a Mayors for Peace delegation to the 10th Review Conference of the NPT in New York.

In 2003, Mayors for Peace launched its 2020 Vision Campaign, with a visionary goal of eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2020. At that time there were about 600 members of Mayors for Peace. In 2008, Mayors for Peace reached its short-term goal of 2020 Mayors, with members in 126 countries and regions.

As of July 1, 2022, Mayors for Peace membership has reached 8,188 cities in 166 countries and regions – representing in total over one billion people. A new European regional chapter was established in 2019. Mayors for Peace has set its next membership goal at 10,000 members.

[Please help us reach this goal!](#)

Mayors for Peace has 27 Executive Cities around the world, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that seek to promote its goals within their regions. They meet every two years to discuss activities and plans. Mayors for Peace convenes a General Conference every four years, alternating between Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After several postponements due to the pandemic, the [10th General Conference](#) will be held in Hiroshima this October.

Mayors for Peace adopted a new five-year Action Plan, “[Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World \(PX Vision\)](#)” in July 2021. Resonating with its original Covenant, the plan includes three objectives: 1) achieving a world without nuclear weapons; 2) promoting safe and resilient cities (echoing the UN’s SDG goal #11); and 3) promoting a culture of peace. These are seen as essential measures for the realization of lasting world peace.

The twin themes of “catastrophic consequences” and “lost revenues” have motivated many initiatives by mayors, including in the U.S. We have had some real success working with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the official nonpartisan association of U.S. cities with populations over 30,000 (there are about 1,400 of them). For seventeen consecutive years, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has adopted strong resolutions submitted by U.S. members of Mayors for Peace calling for bold U.S. leadership on nuclear disarmament. These resolutions constitute the official policy of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. On June 6, 2022, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a sweeping new Mayors for Peace resolution, titled “[Forging a Path to Peace and Common Security](#).”

Mayors for Peace, with its growing membership around the world, offers an unprecedented opportunity to give voice to the aspirations of the ordinary people everywhere for the abolition of nuclear weapons and new priorities - peace and justice. However, it also presents a major challenge - how to increase not just the numbers of members, but also the level of involvement of mayors with their citizenry on this crucial matter of global survival.

As the U.S. Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor Frank Cownie often says, “If you don’t think nuclear weapons are a local issue, just ask the Mayors for Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”