



Mayors for Peace Update **Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting May 23, 2020**

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Mayors for Peace was established in 1982, during the UN Second Special Session on Disarmament, by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. With active support from civil society, membership has grown from 554 cities in 107 countries in October 2003, to 7,905 cities in 163 countries as of May 1, 2020. Mayors for Peace has set a new goal of reaching 10,000 member cities by the end of 2020.

Mayors for Peace seeks to achieve two key objectives: “realization of a world without nuclear weapons;” and “realization of safe and resilient cities,” which they believe, will lead to their ultimate goal, lasting world peace. The second objective facilitates cooperation among Mayors working across a variety of issues and is especially relevant during this COVID-19 pandemic.

In April – May 2019, a Mayors for Peace delegation led by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki participated in the third Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting for the 2020 NPT Review Conference (RevCon) in New York. Mayors Matsui and Taue made statements during the NGO session, voicing their grave concerns about stagnant nuclear disarmament efforts. With the NPT’s 2020 RevCon coming up, they appealed to representatives of national governments and the UN take to heart the calls of the *hibakusha* and civil society, urging good faith negotiations in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and stressing the importance of supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Mayors for Peace also hosted an A-bomb poster exhibition in the UN and a Youth Forum with presenters from Hiroshima, Nagasaki and three NGOs. The young people from Hiroshima presented the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs with a certificate representing 120,000 signatures collected during the past year on a petition encouraging all states to join the TPNW.

At the close of the PrepCom, Mayors for Peace released a Joint Appeal for Common Ground on the NPT, expressing strong support for the success of the NPT RevCon in 2020 and urging its parties to put aside their differences and focus on expanding their common ground on the fundamental objects and purposes of the Treaty.

While in New York, Mayors Matsui and Taue and U.S. Vice-President Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa, received a Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Award on behalf of Mayors for Peace. Mayors for Peace received the Hersey Prize in recognition of its contributions in the field

of nuclear disarmament and world peace. When President Matsui accepted the trophy, a hammer with a red head, he pretended to bring it down, declaring: “Let’s smash the doctrine of nuclear deterrence!”

Mayors for Peace works closely with national and international municipal associations. At its annual meeting in July 2019, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the non-partisan association of cities with populations over 30,000, unanimously adopted a resolution sponsored by Mayors for Peace members, “Calling on All Presidential Candidates to Make Known Their Positions on Nuclear Weapons and to Pledge U.S. Global Leadership in Preventing Nuclear War, Returning to Diplomacy, and Negotiating the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.”.

The contribution of Mayors for Peace in building inclusive and effective institutions and violence-free environments at the local level was recognized in a report issued by United Cities and Local Governments, “Towards the localization of the SDGs,” during the July 2019 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

In addition to the annual August 6 and 9 commemorations, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Mayors for Peace member cities around the world held commemorative events on the UN International Day of Peace, September 21, 2019.

Mexico City, a Mayors for Peace Vice-President, commemorated the September 26, 2019 UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons with a Peace Festival promoting its “Yes to Disarmament, Yes to Peace” voluntary disarmament program.

A transnational European Chapter of Mayors for Peace was formally launched in January 2020.

Mayors for Peace hosts an annual children’s art competition on the theme, “Peaceful Towns”. In 2019, children from 70 member cities in 21 countries submitted 2,829 artworks. The winners were announced in January 2020. The first prize winner’s artwork will be printed on plastic folders Mayors for Peace uses to promote its work.

In light of the postponement of the 2020 NPT RevCon due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on April 27, Mayors for Peace issued a Joint Appeal on the NPT, urging the States Parties to make the most of the time allowed by the postponement to hold sincere and constructive dialogue aimed at reaching an agreement when the RevCon is eventually held.

In early May, Mayors for Peace was among more than 80 civil society organizations that endorsed a Joint Statement from Civil Society to the States Parties of the NPT.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayors for Peace has postponed its 10th General Conference, which had been planned for August 2020 in Hiroshima. The Conference will be rescheduled for August 2021.