

2020 Vision Outline and Initiatives

1. Objectives set in the 2020 Vision (Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons)

(1) Immediately de-alert all nuclear weapons

Even today, thousands of nuclear weapons around the world stand ready to launch on warning. This level of alert is madness, and stepping down is the quickest, easiest way to prevent an accidental nuclear holocaust.

(2) Immediately start substantive negotiations toward a universal nuclear weapons convention

After repeated promises at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conferences and other occasions by the nuclear-weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, we call on national governments to start substantive negotiations now to achieve a nuclear weapons convention.

(3) Conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention

We call on national governments and other institutions to work toward the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention that comprehensively prohibits the development, production, testing, stockpiling, or use of nuclear weapons and provides for their elimination.

(4) Physical destruction of all nuclear weapons by 2020

The weapons can be destroyed. Fissile materials can be rendered unusable. Strict international control is technically feasible. A nuclear-weapon-free world is possible.

2. Initiatives implemented under the 2020 Vision

(1) Attending NPT Review Conferences and Preparatory Committee sessions

Since 2004, a Mayors for Peace delegation, including the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, has attended every NPT Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee sessions. Through meetings with government delegations and UN representatives and by delivering speeches from the floor during the NGO sessions, Mayors for Peace representatives have conveyed the *hibakusha*'s unshakable conviction of the need for the abolition of nuclear weapons. While consistently emphasizing the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, we have urged all NPT States Parties to fulfill their obligations to negotiate in good faith for nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, and have stressed the importance of concluding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the earliest possible date. On such occasions, Mayors for Peace also has hosted A-bomb Poster Exhibitions to deepen attendees' understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings, Mayors for Peace Youth Fora to foster future leaders of peace activism, and meetings with Executive Cities. We also have taken part in public rallies and marches organized by international NGO coalitions.

(2) Collaboration with the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)

The USCM is the official non-partisan organization of cities with populations over 30,000 in the United States, a nuclear superpower. It has unanimously adopted resolutions supporting Mayors for Peace's initiatives and the abolition of nuclear weapons for 15 consecutive years since 2006.

In 2018 and 2019, the President and the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace attended the USCM's annual meetings, where the President made speeches conveying the *hibakusha*'s fervent desire for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. He also stressed the necessity for the nuclear-armed states to redirect funds currently allocated to modernizing and upgrading nuclear arsenals to more constructive use that meets the needs of cities and their people. He shared his sincere wish for the attendees, fellow mayors who make daily efforts to protect the safety and welfare of their citizens, to walk together with Mayors for Peace on the path toward a world without nuclear weapons.

(3) The Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) Petition Drive

In February 2007, Mayors for Peace launched the Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) Project Petition Drive, demanding assurances from the nuclear-armed states that cities are not to be targeted for nuclear attacks. A total of 1,024,820 signatures from all around the globe had been collected by the time of the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, at which the attending Mayors for Peace delegation submitted the signatures to UN officials.

In March 2011, the submitted signatures were exhibited as two three-meter-high towers of petition forms at UN Headquarters in New York. This became part of a UN permanent exhibition, demonstrating the importance of the cooperative relationship between the UN and international NGOs for the first time.

(4) Announcing the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol

In preparation for the UN "Disarmament Decade" (from 2010 to 2020), Mayors for Peace announced the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol at the 2008 NPT Preparatory Committee meeting. The Protocol stipulates a process leading toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020, and was drafted with a target of adoption at the NPT Review Conference in 2010. Based on obligations set forth in the NPT, including under Article VI, the Protocol calls on national governments to negotiate in good faith for nuclear disarmament, to standardize and legally codify measures to immediately cease to acquire, develop or deploy nuclear weapons, and to abolish nuclear weapons by the year 2020. The Protocol was supported by the Yes! Campaign led by the citizens of Hiroshima, who published a book and collected signatures in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol. The campaign's "caravan" visited many municipalities, mainly our member cities, resulting in over 1,000 mayors signing the petition. Although the Protocol was not adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the final document of the conference made a reference for the first time to a "nuclear weapons convention", which had been proposed by the Protocol.

(5) Petition drive for the TPNW

In December 2010, we launched a petition for citizens to call on national governments to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention. After the TPNW was adopted at the United Nations in July 2017, the petition was modified to call for its conclusion at the earliest possible date. We continue to call for all states to join the treaty through this petition in partnership with the Hibakusha Appeal signature campaign. Taking the opportunity presented by the Mayors for Peace delegation's attendance at the NPT Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee sessions, we submit collected signatures to UN officials, conveying the fervent desire of citizens for the abolition of nuclear weapons behind each and every signature.

By the end of 2020, we had received more than 3,112,822 signatures from all around the world.

(6) Attending international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons

In February and December 2014, the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace attended international conferences held in Nayarit, Mexico, and Vienna, Austria, at which governments, international organizations, and civil society actors addressed the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. At these two conferences, the Secretary General delivered speeches amplifying the heartfelt message of the *hibakusha* that “no one else should suffer as we have,” stressed the fierce urgency of the need to abolish nuclear weapons, and called for political leaders to visit the atomic bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

(7) Attending the UN Open-ended Working Group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

In 2016, the President and the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace attended the February and May sessions of the UN Open-ended Working Group, “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations,” which were convened to substantively address concrete and effective legal measures to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. At both sessions, we encouraged policymakers to take the lead on accelerating shifts toward achieving the legal prohibition of nuclear weapons.

At the second session in May, we called on leaders worldwide to visit the atomic bombed cities, and *hibakusha* and representatives of the Japanese and Swedish governments voiced their support. The importance of visiting the atomic bombed cities came to be widely recognized in international society, and on May 27, 2016, the first and historic visit to Hiroshima by a sitting U. S. President, Barack Obama, the President of a nuclear superpower, had come true.

In addition, prior to the opening of the May session, the President of Mayors for Peace presented Mr. Michael Moller, Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, with a second-generation atomic bomb survivor ginkgo seedling. It was later planted on the compound of the UN Office in Geneva by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other political leaders.

(8) Attending sessions of UN Negotiations on the TPNW

In 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to convene a conference in 2017 to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. The President and Secretary General attended sessions of this conference in March and June 2017, during which they made proposals to add an article or clause to enable later development of the treaty as circumstances evolve in order to make the treaty a comprehensive and fully effective legally binding instrument. In this way, with later amendments specifying concrete measures, the treaty would be able to cover crucial issues such as verification, environmental protection and victims compensation, as well as to extend invitations to actors such as States not party to the treaty, international organizations, and NGOs to participate in meetings of the States Parties. Subsequently, such an amendment was made to the draft treaty, and the TPNW was successfully adopted at the UN on July 7 of the same year.

(9) Developing youth leadership for future peace activities: Passing down our philosophy

(a) Hosting interns from the member cities

Since 2014, we have hosted a total of 24 young officials from the member cities in Hiroshima as interns. Internship participants deepen their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and work at the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in order to develop peace activities and initiatives in their cities.

(b) Enriching the Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program

The Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program stimulates youth in member cities to be engaged in peace activities in their own cities by inviting them to Hiroshima, an atomic bombed city. Since 2016, we have hosted a total of 34 young people from member cities around the world in the annual Hiroshima and Peace course at Hiroshima City University. Through this course, held entirely in English, participants deepen their understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings, learn about the current international situation surrounding nuclear weapons and peacebuilding, and take part in discussions and presentations. A second program, the annual International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future, run by the Board of Education of the City of Hiroshima, is held alternately in Hiroshima and abroad. Since 2017, we have supported a total of 10 young people participating in the Hiroshima program.

(c) Further promoting peace education in member cities

Since 2018, we have held an annual Children's Art Competition, "Peaceful Towns," inviting children from all our member cities around the globe. A total of 6,420 artworks from 153 cities in 31 countries and regions were submitted to the past three competitions. The artworks that win the Mayors for Peace President's Award are printed on Mayors for Peace plastic folders distributed at various events including UN conferences, to conduct outreach regarding the significance of peace education.

(10) Expanding our membership

We devoted ourselves to expanding our membership through various channels, for example, in close partnership with associations of local governments in and outside of Japan, and working with our Lead Cities in each region or country as well as embassies in Japan. Consequently, our network has grown from 554 member cities in 107 countries and regions in October 2003, when the Vision was developed, to 7,974 member cities in 165 countries and regions as of December 2020, an increase of 7,420 cities in 58 countries and regions.

(11) Cultivating peace consciousness through disseminating atomic bomb survivor tree seeds and seedlings

We distribute seeds and seedlings of atomic bomb survivor trees to member cities on request. This project is designed to raise public peace consciousness through citizens' nurturing of trees in their cities as symbols of peace. To date, we have sent seeds and seedlings to 193 cities and 4 organizations in 19 countries. Some cities have effectively involved children and students in their initiatives, using descendant trees as teaching aids for peace education.