



Briefing paper

Date: 16th August 2017

No.11

Subject: The 9th General Mayors for Peace Conference in Nagasaki – outline report of key events

1. Introduction

This report by the Chapter Secretary provides a brief overview of the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, which was held in Nagasaki, Japan from the 8th – 10th August. The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Eddy Newman, and the UK & Ireland Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris, represented Manchester City Council at the conference. The report also notes the linked and important decision-making Executive meeting of Mayors for Peace on the 7th August and the 72nd anniversary commemorations of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Ceremonies on the 6th and the 9th August. In addition the report highlights the Manchester commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day, at a special event in Manchester Museum. Many such events were held across the UK, Republic of Ireland and around the world.

2. Mayors for Peace and the importance of its Executive and General Conferences

Mayors for Peace was established in 1982 following an appeal made by the Mayor of Hiroshima at the United Nations Special Conference on Disarmament in New York to encourage inter-city solidarity to promote a nuclear weapons free and more peaceful world. As of August 1st 2017 there are 7,417 members of Mayors for Peace, from 162 countries, effectively representing over 1.1 billion people worldwide.

Mayors for Peace holds General Conferences ever four years, rotating between Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Executive Conferences are held in the mid-points between the General Conferences, but an Executive meeting is always held prior to a General Conference. Manchester City Council is a Vice President and Lead City of Mayors for Peace and has played an executive role in the leadership of Mayors for Peace for over two decades. Manchester also organises and chairs the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter, which meets twice a year and organises other local and relevant events.

At the Executive meeting of Mayors for Peace in Nagasaki, the following cities were confirmed as its Executive members for the period 2017 – 2020:

- President – Hiroshima (Japan)
- Vice Presidents – Nagasaki (Japan), Manchester (UK), Hanover (Germany), Volgograd (Russia), Malakoff (France), Muntinlupa (Philippines), Ypres (Belgium), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Granollers (Spain), Halabja (Iraq), Fongo-Tongo (Norway), Des Moines (USA), Mexico City (Mexico), Frogn (Norway).
- Executive Cities – Bangkok (Thailand), Fremantle (Australia), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Hercegovina), Semey (Kazakhstan), Cochin (India), Montreal (Canada), Wellington (New Zealand), Santos (Brazil), Cartago (Costa Rica), Tehran (Iran), Grigny (France), Brussels (Belgium).

16 of these 27 cities were represented at the Executive and General Conference in Nagasaki.

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3. Key decisions made at the Executive meeting and endorsed by the General Conference

There were three main agenda items for the Executive meeting that were fully supported and unanimously endorsed by the General Conference:

- a) Election of Executive Officials (2017 – 2020) – as noted in section 2, 27 members of the Mayors for Peace were appointed. The Mayor of Des Moines replaces the Mayor of Akron on the Executive Board. The Mayor of Grigny, who is also Chair of the French Mayors for Peace Chapter, is a new member of the board. The position of Brussels is to be clarified given recently held elections.
- b) Membership fees – in 2013 it was agreed to institute voluntary, annual membership fees to increase available finance to the Mayors for Peace International Secretariat. In the financial year 2016-17 this raised an additional £30k to the organisation. Such fees were used to distribute seeds and seedlings from Hiroshima to member cities, promote a nuclear weapons convention petition, improve the Mayors for Peace Information System and provided some preparatory work for the General Conference. It was agreed to increase voluntary fees to around £60 a year. The UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter has already agreed to a voluntary fee of £160 / €150 to larger Councils and £80 / €75 for smaller parish councils.
- c) Mayors for Peace Action Plan 2017 to 2020 – the Action Plan outlines the core activity and plans of the organisation to the next General Conference of Mayors for Peace in 2020. For the first time it was agreed to have two important and overlapping aims to the ultimate goal of achieving lasting world peace:
 - **The realization of a world without nuclear weapons** – following on from this July’s successful Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty at the United Nations, Mayors for Peace will work with other groups to continue to attempt to bring governments together to seek a world free from nuclear weapons. This will include various measures to foster and grow international public opinion around the benefits of such an outcome, whilst strengthening internal organisational systems and functions.
 - **The realization of safe and resilient towns and cities** – taking advantage of the increased development of national, cross-national and continental chapters Mayors for Peace will support at the local level measures which encourage peace education and address issues of real concern including terrorism, refugees, climate change and the destruction of the environment, development and disarmament and so forth. This will include encouraging local, proactive chapter initiatives, regional conferences and encouraging new networks with NGOs and civil society.

Manchester is very pleased with the outcomes from the Executive meeting, which received unanimous endorsement in the first session of the General Conference. The development of a dual campaign for a nuclear weapons free and more peaceful world has been encouraged in meetings of the UK and Ireland Chapter and in previous discussion with all Executive Members. Manchester thanks the International Secretariat for the development of this broad agenda.

4. The General Conference – ‘Towards a World without Nuclear Weapons: What we can do by 2020’

The General Conference of Mayors for Peace is the core opportunity to consider its direction of travel. This year’s conference came shortly after the decision of 122 states to agree at the United Nations to an international treaty that prohibits nuclear weapons. It also came around an increase in tensions between North Korea and the United States over nuclear weapons, which threatens both regional and global security.

The keynote speaker of the Conference was Mrs Izumi Nakamitsu, the UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. In a wide-ranging speech, Mrs Nakamitsu looked at the challenges and threats in realizing a nuclear weapons free world. She first complemented the work of Mayors for Peace, noting: “I wish to pay tribute to the contribution of Mayors for Peace towards realizing a world without nuclear weapons. Civic leaders are by definition a core vanguard of civil society. I have witnessed in the places where I have worked or visited – Sarajevo, Kabul, Kandahar, Mosul or Juba alike – it is cities and their populations that bear the brunt of suffering caused by armed conflict. I commend your efforts to elevate the

voices of cities and their citizens around the world, who are among the main stakeholders in the cause of disarmament.”

Mrs Nakamitsu talked about the elimination of nuclear weapons within the wider context of general disarmament, as it is outlined in the Covenant of Mayors for Peace. At present over \$1.7 trillion is spent on global military expenditure and the ‘realists’ see disarmament as a ‘utopian dream’. The key for the United Nations in disarmament “is not to bring us heaven, but rather it is to spare humanity from ever again suffering from horrors like those experienced by the Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors and those exposed to nuclear weapon tests).

Mrs Nakamitsu spoke on three key issues:

- The imperatives for disarmament – there is an over-riding security imperative to find solutions to political disputes and reduce tension like with the North Korea nuclear programme and in the ongoing issues within the Middle East. Nuclear weapon states have a greater responsibility to make progress on nuclear disarmament, from which they and the wider world would benefit. The non-nuclear weapon states have shown their capacity for change in agreeing to the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. There is also a humanitarian imperative to seek disarmament, and the progress in the past two decades with treaties to ban landmines, chemical and biological weapons and cluster munitions show that the world is going in the right direction. Thirdly, there needs to be a greater link between development and environmental imperatives for disarmament. A recent UN study on the environmental impact of armed conflict has emphasised this, and it is important to link disarmament in with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals – a universal and integrated framework bringing together development, peace, security and environmental objectives comprehensively.
- Emerging challenges and threats – a number of new challenges and threats are emerging which threaten positive moves for disarmament. These include the use of illegal weapons (such as chemical weapons in the current Syrian civil war) coupled with an increased illicit trade in arms and ammunition. Secondly is the emerging technological innovation in weaponry with cyber weapons and longer-range conventional missiles. The use of drones and technology that could see an increased use in artificial intelligence and bio-synthetic engineering is also of great concern to the UN.
- A possible way forward – efforts to control arms have become increasingly recognised as intersecting with achieving priorities in the fields of sustainable development, humanitarian principles, human rights, peace and security. Mrs Nakamitsu argued that the world’s ability to respond effectively to current and emerging security challenges of the 21st century requires a renewed, redoubled commitment, a new vision and concrete actions for disarmament. This includes repositioning disarmament as a key and integral part of the international peace and security agenda that can deal more effectively with crises in places like North Korea and Syria. The Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty is a critical and positive move forward in normalising the need for nuclear disarmament and putting it on the same level as other weapons of mass destruction. Finally, there is a real need to develop a new cooperation amongst states, building new coalitions, as well as partnerships between states and civil society for disarmament.

In conclusion, she states: “As civic-focused advocates, I am sure you will agree on the power of building multi-stakeholder communities. And as much as the future of humanity resides in your cities, your work and your outreach will play a critical role in contributing to the elimination of nuclear weapons, to the future actions in disarmament and to our ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament. Let us work together towards this noble objective.”

The other sessions of the conference looked at the following issues:

- Session 2 considered the role of local government in promoting peace education and the values of Mayors for Peace. Speakers from Hanover, Muntinlupa, French Mayors for Peace and Ayabe City in Kyoto Prefecture talked of their positive roles in these areas.
- Session 3 involved an innovative group session considering the role of youth to promote the message of the hibakusha and peace in general. The Chapter Secretary talked of ‘Project G’ in Manchester and the Mayor of Granollers talked of how they brought out the

story of the Spanish Civil War to local schoolchildren. High school children from Hiroshima and Nagasaki then met with Executive Officers to talk about how they could develop action plans to promote peace education with Mayors for Peace members.

- Session 4 promoted the role of NGO's and civil society to co-operate with Mayors for Peace members. A German international art project '50 Cities, 50 Traces' was highlighted, as was the work of Jeju City in South Korea, an international island dedicated to peace. Representatives of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors Council talked of how they were recruiting children and grandchildren of the hibakusha as peace advocates spreading a message for peace.

5. The Nagasaki Appeal and Special Resolution on the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

General Conferences of Mayors for Peace always conclude with an agreed statement summarising the will and desire of conference delegates and promoting the future actions of the organisation.

The Nagasaki Appeal welcomed the creation of the UN Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty and committed Mayors for Peace to work at new ways of bringing nuclear weapon states – like the UK – and their supporters into this emerging disarmament process. It also promoted the need for renewed peace education initiatives and a common desire to promote peaceful ways forward at dealing with some of the world's most intractable problems.

The Appeal sees the next three years as a time of critical activity leading to 2020 – the 75th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons. It is important to look at ways to realise new attempts to move multilateral nuclear disarmament forward with the need for local towns and cities to be at the heart of new solutions to problems like terrorism, radicalisation, the refugee crisis, development and climate change.

In addition, a special resolution was approved at the General Conference to go to the 122 states that have agreed to the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. It requests them to urgently ratify the Treaty so that it becomes international law – a minimum of 50 have to do this for it to be a formal UN Treaty. An adapted letter will also be sent to those that have opposed the Treaty encouraging them to reconsider and actively engage in talks on multilateral nuclear disarmament. The full text of the Nagasaki Appeal and the Special Resolution are attached as Appendix 1.

6. The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Ceremonies and specific ceremonies held in Nagasaki around the General Conference

The General Conference of Mayors for Peace was held around two important, annual Peace Ceremonies held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On August 6th over 50,000 people attended the Hiroshima Peace Ceremony that remembers all those who were killed or affected by the atomic weapon attack on the city 72 years ago. The moving ceremony includes adding to the list of the hibakusha at the cenotaph and laying flowers to them (the Lord Mayor of Manchester lay a wreath with the Mayors of Ypres and Granollers). Following a minutes' silence, the Mayor of Hiroshima delivers an annual Peace Declaration and two primary school students gave a Children's Peace Declaration. The Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and a representative of the UN Secretary General also gave peace messages. A huge choir sung a peace anthem to complete the ceremony, which was shown live on Japanese television. The Hiroshima Peace Declaration is attached as Appendix 2.

On August 9th around 20,000 people attended the Nagasaki Peace Conference which follows a similar theme. The Mayor of Nagasaki's Peace Declaration was particularly notable for calling on the Japanese Government to be much more active in nuclear disarmament talks and to sign the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty (it had boycotted the conference). A moving statement was also made by a 92 year old hibakusha which linked in to a call for more work to be done in alleviating the Fukushima facility and encouraging Japan to move towards renewable energy. The ceremony concluded with singing from a choir made up entirely of hibakusha survivors of the atomic weapon attack on Nagasaki. At the ceremony the Lord Mayor met with the UK Ambassador to Japan. The Nagasaki Peace Declaration is attached as Appendix 3.

Within Nagasaki, delegates to the General Conference also attended a number of other ceremonies in the city. These included a flower ceremony placing flowers by the hypocentre memorial in the Nagasaki Peace Park. There was also a candle and lantern ceremony at the same location the night before the Peace Ceremony, which included a moving memorial ceremony for the atomic bomb victims. Delegates placed candles and lanterns around the hypocentre memorial at what was a multi-faith service.

7. Visits to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

During the formal events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, time was also given to visit the peace museums of the two cities. These ground-breaking and award-winning museums outline the historical background to the atomic bomb attacks and exhibit artefacts, photographs and testimonies to the two disasters. They are well-rounded, fair and moving experiences.

To find out more about them please consult:

<http://hpmmuseum.jp/?lang=eng> and <http://nagasakipeace.jp/english/abm.html>

8. Manchester students on exchange visits in Hiroshima

Due to Manchester's role as a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, it accepted a kind request from Hiroshima to nominate two students to take part in informative exchange courses in early August.

Rachel Kean, who is undertaking a Masters degree in Peace and Conflict Studies at Manchester University, took part in a 10 day course at Hiroshima University called 'Hiroshima and Peace'. This academic course provided a background to the atomic bombings and a discussion on the nuclear weapons issue in order to advocate on such matters on return to Manchester. Rachel worked with students from other Executive cities on a joint project, and was hosted by a local family in the city.

Chris Moss, who is undertaking a graduate degree in Human Geography at Manchester Metropolitan University, took part in a separate 12 day course organised by Hiroshima Board of Education called the 'International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future'. This course brought students from Hiroshima's partner cities and Mayors for Peace Executive cities and involved an immersive course into the history and culture of Hiroshima. It also involved working on the core aims and objectives of the Mayors for Peace.

Both students will be talking about their experiences in a special event being planned for International Peace Day, September 21st, in Manchester Museum. They will be talking to primary schoolchildren from around Manchester who have previously taken part in 'Project G' – an art and poetry competition around the receipt of ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima.

9. Manchester's Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration event and other events held around the UK and Ireland

Around the world, many towns and cities hold similar commemoration events to Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th and 9th to show their solidarity and promote peace in their city.

In the UK and Ireland, official events were held in the likes of London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Dublin, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Glasgow, Paisley, at the Welsh Eisteddfod in Anglesey and in many other towns and cities across England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

As an example, Manchester City Council held a commemoration in Manchester Museum led by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor June Hitchen. It included readings, a minute silence, the laying of a white flowered wreath and poetry. With the recent Manchester Arena terrorist attack in the mind of all present, the ceremony concluded with a reading of the poem 'Manchester – This is the Place' which had been read at the civic vigil ceremony on May 23rd, shortly after the bomb attack on the city.

Photographs of some of the events in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Manchester are attached as Appendix 4.

10. Conclusion and recommendations

The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace was both a moving commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the atomic weapon attack, an informative discussion of the current debate on nuclear disarmament and peace education and a call on the movement to work for a more peaceful and nuclear weapons free world.

Mayors for Peace members in the UK and Ireland are encouraged to attend the next meeting of its Chapter, provisionally being held on the 1st December in Manchester with special speakers on the issues noted in this briefing. All members are encouraged to hold commemoration events for the International Day of Peace on September 21st. On October 3rd, Scottish members of Mayors for Peace are encouraged to attend a special meeting being planned in the Scottish Parliament at which members of the Japanese 'Peace Boat' group will be in the city as part of their '95th Global Voyage for a Peaceful World'. This follows on from a similar event held in the Westminster Parliament and at Friends House in October 2016. On October 5th a special ceremony will also be taking place at the Cenotaph behind Manchester Town Hall where the memorial stone for British nuclear weapon test veterans will be re-dedicated in its new location. The Chapter Secretary is interested to know of any other local events planned by any of its members.

Voluntary invoices for UK and Ireland members of Mayors for Peace will be issued shortly, and members are recommended to pay them.

The next international meeting of Mayors for Peace will be held during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference being held at UN buildings in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2018.

The next Mayors for Peace Executive Conference is provisionally being planned for Hanover in Germany in 2019.

Further information on special events in the UK will be provided at the meeting on the 1st December.

The Nagasaki Appeal and Special Resolution on the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

The Nagasaki Appeal for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Lasting World Peace

We, the representatives of 7,417 cities from 162 countries and regions around the world, have met at the 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Nagasaki and engaged in active discussions on the theme “Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons – What We Can Do Towards 2020.”

In August 1945, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The fierce heat rays, blast and radiation instantly levelled buildings and turned the cities into burnt-out ruins, cruelly killing more than 210,000 residents, including women, children and the elderly. The *hibakusha*, many of whom only narrowly survived, have witnessed many terrible situations where people were deprived of human dignity. They have survived for 72 years with physical and emotional wounds that can never be healed. While suffering from cancer and other diseases caused by radiation, the *hibakusha* have continued to appeal to the world for the abolition of these inhumane weapons, driven by their strong and almost life-shortening determination that no one else should ever again suffer as they have.

Yet, there still remain nearly 15,000 nuclear weapons on our planet, and massive budgets have been allocated to programs aimed at modernizing them. In addition, the threat of nuclear weapon use is increasing in various parts of the world, such as Northeast Asia, Europe, South Asia and the Middle East. Furthermore, the unintended or accidental use of nuclear weapons and the risk of nuclear terrorist attacks cannot be ignored.

Based on the 2020 Vision (Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons), Mayors for Peace has been engaged in diverse activities in partnership with civil society, NGOs and others, aimed at the urgently needed realization of a world without nuclear weapons. These activities include signature-collecting for petitions that call for the early realization of a nuclear weapons convention and appeals for its implementation at international conferences.

This summer, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted. We sincerely welcome the enactment of this treaty, the first international law that explicitly bans nuclear weapons. This historic advancement toward nuclear disarmament won the approval of the majority of UN member states, and demonstrates to the international community that the slogan “Nagasaki must be the last atomic-bombed city,” as the *hibakusha* have continued to pronounce at every opportunity, is a common desire that represents the will of all humankind. Also, the member cities of Mayors for Peace have realized that, even though a desire for peace expressed by one city may constitute a small voice, such voices together can be a driving force in the world if we cooperate and never give up on our goals. We have also been convinced that we are on the right path with our activities.

With this pride in our hearts, Mayors for Peace is determined to push forward the following actions.

Aiming at the early implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Mayors for Peace will make efforts to make this treaty more effective by further strengthening collaboration among the *hibakusha*, civil society and treaty-leading nations that have served as a driving force in the adoption of the treaty, and all member cities will strongly urge their national governments to adopt it. In particular, we will strongly urge the governments of nuclear-armed states and those under the nuclear umbrella to do so.

Mayors for Peace represents more than one billion residents of the member cities, and has worked for the elimination of nuclear weapons and the promotion of peace. Yet beyond nuclear weapons, regional challenges such as chemical weapons, armed conflicts, refugee crises, famine, poverty, discrimination, violence, environmental destruction and, more recently, terrorist attacks have emerged. To these ends, we support concrete actions to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including those pertaining peace, cities, and education. In addition, we will further increase the number of member cities and actively work on strengthening and deepening regional networks in order to promote humanitarian activities, especially addressing regional challenges to ensure safety and welfare in civil society.

Mayors for Peace will work towards creating a culture of peace in order to fundamentally address the various problems standing in the way of peace. On that account, we recognize the significance of peace education to pass on war experiences, with a child and youth perspective, to future generations. The member cities of Mayors for Peace are committed to design and promote actions to advance peace education. By participating in the Mayors for Peace network, cities can put into practice the culture of peace in implementing local policies.

Peace is a desire shared by all humankind. We must pursue peace based on human security, in which all individuals respect and trust each other as world citizens by overcoming the divisions of nationality, race and religion, to consider safety as a common concern of all people. This is the path to realizing a world without nuclear weapons. Mayors for Peace will concentrate its efforts on pursuing this long and difficult path, with a strong determination to attain these goals, in close cooperation with all like-minded individuals, groups and nations.

Mayors for Peace strongly calls on the United Nations and all governments to take the following actions:

1. Observe the NPT regime and support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:
 - Steadily and sincerely promote nuclear disarmament in accordance with the NPT regime so that nuclear weapons will never be used again, listen to the strong voices of civil society, the voices of those who have set the course for the successful adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and sign and ratify the treaty leading to its early entry into force.
 - Reaffirm that this treaty is a significant step forward in the pursuit of a future comprehensive nuclear weapons convention achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
2. Make efforts to address global issues that deprive human beings of dignity:
 - Make sincere and prompt efforts to address global issues that deprive human beings of dignity, such as nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, conflicts, refugee crises, famine, poverty, discrimination, violence, environmental destruction and terrorism.
3. Make efforts to create a culture of peace and offer opportunities to more people to learn, be aware of, and realize the harsh reality of atomic bombings and wars:
 - Call on representatives from governments and international agencies to visit the atomic-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so that the inhumanity of nuclear weapons can be imprinted firmly in their hearts after learning of the reality of the bombings. As a result of such visits, they will better appreciate the need to abolish such weapons as soon as possible. Provide full support to activities promoting the preservation of war experiences, atomic bomb exhibitions and peace research and education programs to be held in the cities, so that the citizens of those cities can widely share the horrors of war and civil conflicts in various parts of world.

Addressing the above, at the 9th General Conference, Mayors for Peace adopted the Action Plan for the period of 2017 to 2020. We hereby pledge to make every endeavour to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date and aim for lasting peace in the world.

August 10, 2017
Nagasaki, Japan
The 9th General Conference for Mayors for Peace

Mayors for Peace Special Resolution Requesting the Early Bringing into Effect of the Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons

“We call on the cities around the world to unite in cross-border cooperation to pave the way towards the abolition of nuclear weapons.”

This call made by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki led to the establishment of “Mayors for Peace.” Since then, we have appealed for the establishment of a legal framework to prohibit nuclear weapons as we believed it to be essential in achieving their abolition.

On July 7, 2017, these efforts bore fruit. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which explicitly bans nuclear weapons, was adopted at United Nations Headquarters by 122 nations, a figure representing 60 percent of all United Nations’ member states. This was made possible by the heartfelt appeal by the *hibakusha* and like-minded people that “nuclear weapons should be abolished,” an appeal that gained worldwide support and moved the nations. Mayors for Peace with 7,417 member cities from 162 countries and regions, wholeheartedly welcomes the adoption of this treaty.

The 9th General Conference of Mayors of Peace was held after the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. At the General Conference, we the members of the Mayors for Peace, renewed our determination to strive for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

“Let Nagasaki be the last atomic-bombed site in the world.”

Here in Nagasaki, we Mayors for Peace affirmed that these words are the common wish and will of civil society and resolved our commitment to perpetuate these words for all time.

Mayors for Peace hereby resolves to urge all nations, including the nuclear-armed states, to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and bring it into effect at the earliest possible date.

Nagasaki City, Japan
August 10, 2017

The Hiroshima Peace Declaration 2017

Friends, 72 years ago today, on August 6, at 8:15 am, absolute evil was unleashed in the sky over Hiroshima. Let's imagine for a moment what happened under that roiling mushroom cloud. Pika - the penetrating flash, extreme radiation and heat. Don - the earth-shattering roar and blast. As the blackness lifts, the scenes emerging into view reveal countless scattered corpses charred beyond recognition even as man or woman. Stepping between the corpses, badly burned, nearly naked figures with blackened faces, singed hair, and tattered, dangling skin wander through spreading flames, looking for water. The rivers in front of you are filled with bodies; the riverbanks so crowded with burnt, half-naked victims you have no place to step. This is truly hell. Under that mushroom cloud, the absolutely evil atomic bomb brought gruesome death to vast numbers of innocent civilians and left those it didn't kill with deep physical and emotional scars, including the aftereffects of radiation and endless health fears. Giving rise to social discrimination and prejudice, it devastated even the lives of those who managed to survive.

This hell is not a thing of the past. As long as nuclear weapons exist and policymakers threaten their use, their horror could leap into our present at any moment. You could find yourself suffering their cruelty.

This is why I ask everyone to listen to the voices of the hibakusha. A man who was 15 at the time says, "When I recall the friends and acquaintances I saw dying in those scenes of hell, I can barely endure the pain." Then, appealing to us all, he asks, "To know the blessing of being alive, to treat everyone with compassion, love and respect -- are these not steps to world peace?"

Another hibakusha who was 17 says, "I ask the leaders of the nuclear-armed states to prevent the destruction of this planet by abandoning nuclear deterrence and abolishing immediately all atomic and hydrogen bombs. Then they must work wholeheartedly to preserve our irreplaceable Earth for future generations."

Friends, this appeal to conscience and this demand that policymakers respond conscientiously are deeply rooted in the hibakusha experience. Let's all make their appeal and demand our own, spread them throughout the world, and pass them on to the next generation.

Policymakers, I ask you especially to respect your differences and make good-faith efforts to overcome them. To this end, it is vital that you deepen your awareness of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, consider the perspectives of other countries, and recognize your duty to build a world where we all thrive together.

Civil society fully understands that nuclear weapons are useless for national security. The dangers involved in controlling nuclear materials are widely understood. Today, a single bomb can wield thousands of times the destructive power of the bombs dropped 72 years ago. Any use of such weapons would plunge the entire world into hell, the user as well as the enemy. Humankind must never commit such an act. Thus, we can accurately say that possessing nuclear weapons means nothing more than spending enormous sums of money to endanger all humanity.

Peace Memorial Park is now drawing over 1.7 million visitors a year from around the world, but I want even more visitors to see the realities of the bombing and listen to survivor testimony. I want them to understand what happened under the mushroom cloud, take to heart the survivors' desire to eliminate nuclear weapons and broaden the circle of empathy to the entire world. In particular, I want more youthful visitors expanding the circle of friendship as ambassadors for nuclear abolition. I assure you that Hiroshima will continue to bring people together for these purposes and inspire them to take action.

Mayors for Peace, led by Hiroshima, now comprises over 7,400 city members around the world. We work within civil society to create an environment that helps policymakers move beyond national borders to act in good faith and conscience for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In July, when 122 United Nations members, not including the nuclear-weapon and nuclear-umbrella states, adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, they demonstrated their

unequivocal determination to achieve abolition. Given this development, the governments of all countries must now strive to advance further toward a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The Japanese Constitution states, "We, the Japanese people, pledge our national honor to accomplish these high ideals and purposes with all our resources." Therefore, I call especially on the Japanese government to manifest the pacifism in our constitution by doing everything in its power to bridge the gap between the nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states, thereby facilitating the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. I further demand more compassionate government assistance to the hibakusha, whose average age is now over 81, and to the many others also suffering mentally and physically from the effects of radiation, along with expansion of the "black rain areas."

We offer heartfelt prayers for the repose of the atomic bomb victims and pledge to work with the people of the world to do all in our power to bring lasting peace and free ourselves from the absolute evil that is nuclear weapons.

Mayor Kazumi Matsui
Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace
Read out at the Hiroshima Peace Ceremony
August 6th, 2017

Nagasaki Peace Declaration 2017

"No more hibakusha"

These words express the heartfelt wish of the hibakusha that in the future nobody in the world ever again has to experience the disastrous damage caused by nuclear weapons. This summer, the wish has moved many nations across the globe and resulted in the creation of a certain treaty.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which of course prohibits the use of nuclear weapons, and furthermore their possession or deployment, was adopted this July by 122 nations, a figure representing more than 60 percent of the United Nations' member states. This was a moment when all the efforts of the hibakusha over the years finally took shape.

I would like to call this treaty, which mentions the suffering and struggles of the hibakusha, "The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Treaty." I would also like to express our profoundest gratitude to all of the nations that promote this treaty, the United Nations, NGOs and others who have acted with such vigorous determination and courage to rid the world of weapons that go against the spirit of humanity.

However, this is not our final goal. There are still around 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world. The international situation surrounding nuclear weapons is becoming increasingly tense. A strong sense of anxiety is spreading across the globe that in the not too distant future these weapons could actually be used again. Moreover, the nuclear-armed states are opposed to this treaty and there is no end in sight to the road towards "a world free of nuclear weapons," the realization of which is our objective. The human race is now faced with the question of how this long awaited treaty can be utilized to make further progress.

I hereby make the following appeal to the nuclear-armed states and the nations under their nuclear umbrella. The nuclear threat will not end as long as nations continue to claim that nuclear weapons are essential for their national security. Please reconsider your policies of seeking to protect your nations through nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obligates all its member states to achieve nuclear disarmament. Please fulfill this obligation. The whole world awaits your courageous decisions.

To the Japanese government I have this appeal to make. Despite the fact that the Japanese government has clearly stated that it will exercise leadership in aiming for a world free of nuclear weapons, and play a role as a bridge between the nuclear-armed states and the non-nuclear-armed states, its stance of not even participating in the diplomatic negotiations for the Nuclear Prohibition Treaty is quite incomprehensible to those of us living in the cities that suffered atomic bombings. As the only country in the world to have suffered wartime atomic bombings, I urge the Japanese government to reconsider the policy of relying on the nuclear umbrella and join the Nuclear Prohibition Treaty at the earliest possible opportunity. International society is awaiting the participation of Japan.

Furthermore, I ask the Japanese government to affirm to the world its commitment to the pacifist ethos of the Constitution of Japan, which firmly renounces war, and its strict observance of the Three Non-Nuclear Principles. As a specific policy representing a step forward towards a world free of nuclear weapons, it should act now by examining the concept of a "Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone."

This, we will certainly never forget: the fact that at 11:02 a.m. on August 9, 1945, an atomic bomb exploded in the air right above the hill where we are now assembled, killing and injuring 150,000 people. On that day, furious blast and heat rays reduced the city of Nagasaki to a charred expanse of land. People whose skin hung down in strips staggered around the ruined city looking for their families. A dumbfounded mother stood beside her child who had been burnt black. Every corner of the city was like a landscape from hell. Unable to obtain adequate medical treatment many of these people fell dead, one by one. Even now, 72 years after that day, the damage resulting from radiation exposure continues to ravage the bodies of the surviving hibakusha. Not only did the atomic bomb indiscriminately steal the lives of beloved family members and friends who had always been at each other's side, it then went on to hideously devastate the subsequent lives of those who survived.

Leaders of all the nations of the world: please come and visit the atomic-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I want you to see what happened down here on the ground beneath the mushroom cloud, not from a perspective high above it; I want you all to see with your own eyes, hear with your own ears, and feel with your own hearts just how cruelly the atomic bomb trampled on the dignity of human beings. I want you to imagine how you would feel if your own family had been in Nagasaki on that day.

When people have experienced something painful and distressing they tend to lock up that memory in their hearts and are reluctant to talk about it. This is because talking about it entails being reminded of it. The fact that the hibakusha have continued to talk about their experiences while enduring physical and mental scars represents an act by individual members of humankind to protect our future by determining, to make the upmost efforts to spread their message.

I make this call to all the people of the world. The most frightening things are disinterest and the process of forgetting. Let us all pass on the baton of peace that we have received from the hibakusha and those who have experienced war, so it is seamlessly carried on into the future.

The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace is currently being held here in Nagasaki. Many representatives of towns and cities that have painful memories of war and civil strife participate in this network of 7,400 municipalities. In solidarity with our friends in Mayors for Peace, we will send out from Nagasaki to the world the message that with united efforts and unwavering commitment, even calls of peace from small cities can provide a strong impetus for global progress, just as the hibakusha have shown us.

"Nagasaki must be the last place to suffer an atomic bombing." These are the words hibakusha have continuously repeated until their voices have become hoarse. We will prove that their words are a common wish and ambition of all mankind.

The average age of the hibakusha now exceeds 81 years. The "era in which the hibakusha are still with us" is drawing to an end. I strongly request that the Japanese government improves the assistances given to hibakusha, and provides relief to all those who experienced the atomic bombing.

Six years have elapsed since the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident. As a city that has experienced the threat of radiation, we stand with the victims in Fukushima Prefecture and offer them our support.

I hereby pay tribute to the memory of all those who lost their lives to the atomic bombing, and declare that we, the citizens of Nagasaki City, will join hands with all the people around the world who pray for a world free of nuclear weapons, and continue to tirelessly work towards the realization of the abolition of nuclear weapons and everlasting world peace.

Mayor Tomihisa Taue
Mayor of Nagasaki and Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Read out at the Nagasaki Peace Ceremony
August 9th 2017

Some photos from events held in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Manchester



The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mayor of Ypres and Mayor of Granollers at the Hiroshima Peace Ceremony



The Mayor of Nagasaki formally opening the 9th Mayors for Peace General Conference



Nagasaki 'Parent and Child' Reporters with the Lord Mayor of Manchester and UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Secretary at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



The Mayor of Hiroshima meets the Lord Mayor of Manchester



The Lord Mayor at the Nagasaki Peace Ceremony



The Nagasaki Appeal Co-ordinating Committee



Nagasaki Hibakusha Choir singing at the Nagasaki Peace Ceremony



Nagasaki hypocentre memorial prior to the Flower Ceremony



Japanese Foreign Minister speaks to the General Conference



Some of the participants in the Hiroshima Youth Exchange for Peace in the Future

Manchester's commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, Manchester Museum, 6th August 2017



The Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester speaking at the August 6th ceremony



Henry McGhie from Manchester Museum with the Deputy Lord Mayor and Consort by the University War Memorial



The ceremony readers, Manchester councillors and Afzal Khan MP at the Manchester ceremony