



Briefing paper

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Subject: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference, Mayors for Peace Executive Conference, Geneva, late April 2018 and Bike for Peace English tour

1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary to outline meetings held in Geneva involving Executive Members of Mayors for Peace during the second session of the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The Executive Members – including the Lord Mayor of Manchester and the Chapter Secretary - also met to discuss proposed European developments of interest to all Chapter members, and held an Executive Conference to discuss wider progress with its 2017 – 2020 Action Plan. The report also briefly outlines progress with some local Chapter activities, such as the Bike for Peace English tour.

2. The context to the 2018 NPT Preparatory Conference (PrepCom)

The NPT PrepCom has been the main cornerstone in the process to encourage multilateral nuclear disarmament at the United Nations (UN). It is based on a key bargain – that non-nuclear weapon states do not develop a nuclear weapons programme as long as they see real progress in disarmament from existing nuclear weapon states under the Treaty – the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom and France. The Treaty is fully reviewed at the UN every five years, the last was in 2015, and this conference in Geneva is the second of three preparatory sessions prior to the next conference in 2020.

In 2017, a majority of 122 states in the UN agreed to support what has become the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), sometimes known as the Nuclear Ban Treaty. Most of those states are now ratifying this Treaty - to date 9 have done so – and it is expected to come into full international law by 2019/20. This NPT PrepCom was the first to be held since the TPNW was agreed upon, and this was a key part of some of the discussion within the conference from both sides of the debate – those states who fully support the Ban Treaty and those who are at present implacably against it.

The PrepCom also took place amidst contradictory challenges in two quite different, but linked international nuclear proliferation issues. After a number of tests of its fledgling nuclear weapon programme, North Korea has recently held a historic summit with South Korea and is due to meet in June with the United States over the possible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. Separately, concern that the United States pulls out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear weapons programme was regularly noted. President Trump's announcement of this action on the 8th May has led to much public concern.

International tensions over the civil war in Syria and the recent chemical weapon attack in Salisbury (which the UK has formally accused Russia of organising) also created a difficult atmosphere at the conference between the permanent members of the UN Security Council. In sum, the opportunity for real progress and consensus at the PrepCom needed to be tempered by these conflicting issues.

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3. Mayors for Peace's activity at the NPT PrepCom

The international Mayors for Peace delegation was led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Secretary General of Mayors for Peace. Both Mayors spoke at the NGO presentation session to the Conference, which also included ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and other disarmament groups. In their statements to the Conference, which is attached as Appendix 1 and 2, the Mayors welcomed the moves towards the Nuclear Ban Treaty, but also emphasise the need to try and find common ground with those states who are opposed to it. They also noted that Mayors for Peace are committed to two core goals of a world free of nuclear weapons and of developing more safe, peaceful and resilient cities.

Whilst in Geneva, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki delegation met with the Chairman of the NPT PrepCom, as well as the American and Austrian Ambassadors to the Conference. They also brought together some Hiroshima and Nagasaki schoolchildren to meet the Costa Rican Ambassador to the Conference, who had chaired the 2017 Conference that agreed to the TPNW. They also cooperated with two events with the International Committee of the Red Cross and Crescent, which has its headquarters in Geneva. And they met with the Mayor and Mayor-designate of Geneva.

An important part of Mayors for Peace's work is the promotion of peace education and engagement with youth so that they are made aware of the terrible destructive power of nuclear weapons. To this end, a Mayors for Peace Youth Forum was held as a side event to the PrepCom, and attended by over 300 people. The Forum included presentations from a number of schools in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Okinawa, as well as presentations from Chris Moss of Manchester (who was one of the students from Lead Cities who attended an August 2017 exchange programme in Hiroshima), students working with Pax Netherlands and German university students working with Mayors for Peace Germany. This excellent and well organised event emphasised the growing interest of young people in knowing about the story of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, of Mayors for Peace, and of peace in general.

Separate to these issues, the Lord Mayor of Manchester and the Chapter Secretary attended a side event to the Conference organised by Mayors for Peace German members and NGOs. This looked at concerns that one of the main nuclear disarmament treaties between the United States and Russia, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), could unravel due to the tensions between the two states and their plans to modernise their nuclear weapons. Amongst the speakers was the Mayor of Mutlangen, a small town which was also the site of an American air base in Germany where such weapons were stationed. The 'Mutlangen Declaration' calls on the retention of this treaty as one of the cornerstones of nuclear disarmament treaties. It also calls for renewed efforts to bring about a nuclear weapons free world. Following this informative meeting, a photo opportunity was held outside the UN at which the Manchester delegates held up a banner rededicating themselves to working for a world free of nuclear weapons.

4. Outcomes of the NPT PrepCom

In its analysis of the Geneva Conference, the Reaching Critical Will team argued that there was a considerable amount of dissatisfaction from the majority of the 120 states present with the general lack of progress of the conference as it seeks to formally review the Treaty in 2020. Around 40 delegations gave their views on the Conference Chair's factual summary of the conference, with the large majority expressing dissatisfaction with it.

As they note: "That dissatisfaction is, in the words of the South African Government, a result of the document's "distortive undermining" of discussions held during this PrepCom which in turn creates an unbalanced and imprecise snapshot of the PrepCom and by extension, the positions of states parties. As Mexico explained, the manner in which the document is written gives the impression that some views had consensus when in reality they had not, and in fact experienced opposition. At the same time, a number of positions that received strong support from the floor did not see this support reflected in the summary report, which raised concern about the document's level of objectivity." (1)

Amongst such issues is the strong concern of many states to the modernisation by nuclear weapon states of their weapon programmes. There was also concern that the factual summary used qualifying language that may imply permissibility for actions that was actually not given. The conference also showed the tense state of non-proliferation talks at present, with existing nuclear

weapon states vociferous in maintaining their weapons programmes and critical of the moves that created the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty.

The analysis goes on to note: “There is no reference (in the summary) to the gendered impacts of ionising radiation. While this was not a central part of the debate at the PrepCom, the gendered impacts of nuclear weapons was noted by some delegations, is included in working paper 38, and had been referenced in the 2017 report therefore its removal is regrettable, as Ireland and Canada, among others, noted Friday. Instead there is a reference to obligations under UNSCR 1325. While excellent for linking disarmament with the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda it is perhaps a less accurate reflection of what was said in PrepCom statements this year.”

The TPNW was welcomed as being complimentary to the NPT by over 45 delegations and a number of regional groupings. The final summary though gave significant coverage to those states who oppose it. Clear differences of opinion were also evident over the need for a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, the wider process around nuclear disarmament and over North Korea’s recent positive moves to potentially reduce its nuclear weapon programme.

In its analysis of the conference, ICAN noted: “The meeting has not been particularly productive. Insisting that nuclear deterrence is legitimate and that they are handling their weapons of mass destruction “responsibly”, the nuclear-weapon states have shown little will to earnestly discuss the implementation of their repeated promises to disarm. Disappointingly, the chair’s summary of the meeting offers an inaccurate narrative of balance by giving equal space to the views of the overwhelming majority of states parties and the various grievances of the nuclear-armed states. What is more, the summary fails to even mention the gendered impacts of nuclear detonations, facts that were highlighted by several delegations.” (2)

ICAN further note: “As the 2015 NPT Review Conference failed to produce a substantive outcome, the most recent roadmap for NPT implementation is provided by the Action Plan adopted at the Review Conference in 2010. Eight years on from 2010, the score card is less than impressive. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is not yet in force. Negotiations on a Fissile Material (Cutoff) Treaty have not even begun. Meaningful risk reduction measures have not been adopted. On the vitally important Action 5(c) – the nuclear-weapon states undertake to “diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies” – the direction of travel has been backwards. Earlier this year, the board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists highlighted how “hyperbolic rhetoric and provocative actions” by certain states had increased the risk of nuclear war, and set the minute hand of the ominous Doomsday Clock to two minutes to midnight – the tied closest it has ever been to apocalypse.”

ICAN were also critical of a number of the ‘nuclear umbrella’ states for failing to criticise the huge investments in nuclear weapon modernization programmes amongst nuclear weapon states. On a positive note they welcomed the considerable number of states who welcomed the TPNW. Such discussions often got bogged down in issues that are not under the remit of the NPT, such as concerns over the recent alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria and in Salisbury. ICAN concluded that their priority will remain to get states to ratify the TPNW as quickly as possible so that it becomes fully compliant with international law.

5. Other issues relating to the international debate on nuclear weapons – North Korea, Iran and the postponement of the High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament

Two linked but contradictory currents in the international debate on nuclear weapons come with the concerns over North Korea and Iran.

Due to the considerable diplomacy of the South Korean Government, a historic summit was recently held with the North Korean Government which has reduced some of the deep enmity that repeated tests of missiles capable of hosting nuclear weapons have created. The motivation in North Korea to move away from further nuclear tests towards potential denuclearisation remains unclear. Reports from seismic experts, reported by the Japanese Government and a number of media outlets, that the North Korean test site, is close to the Chinese border, may have collapsed, thus precluding future tests for the medium term, may be a part of it. Increased pressure from China and the deep impacts of international sanctions on North Korea may be another factor.

Notwithstanding this, any move by the North Korean regime to negotiate to reduce and even remove its nuclear weapon programme would be of real significance, and is to be welcomed. A summit between North Korea and the United States is looking more likely. Only time will tell to see if sanctions, pressure and old-fashioned diplomacy has worked.

This contrasts markedly with the decision of President Trump for the United States to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal. In a statement President Trump was vociferous in the view that the agreement with Iran was inadequate, allows Iran to develop nuclear weapons again in the near future and is so weak as to allow Iran to continue to influence a number of dangerous conflicts around the Middle East. As well as pulling the United States out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran, he pledged to reimpose sanctions on Iran and put heavy pressure on non-American companies not to trade in the future with the country.

With the exception of Israel and Saudi Arabia, who strongly supported the President's action, European states, Russia and China opposed the decision and said they would continue to try and work with Iran to implement it. In Iran, President Rouhani said they would also continue to work with the other State Parties on the JCPOA, but threats have also been made in recent weeks that Iran may pull out of the NPT and potentially restart uranium enrichment. The lack of an alternative agreement from the United States was repeatedly made.

Former President Obama comments on the decision were widely welcomed:

"There are few issues more important to the security of the United States than the potential spread of nuclear weapons, or the potential for even more destructive war in the Middle East. That's why the United States negotiated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in the first place.

The reality is clear. The JCPOA is working – that is a view shared by our European allies, independent experts, and the current U.S. Secretary of Defence. The JCPOA is in America's interest – it has significantly rolled back Iran's nuclear program. And the JCPOA is a model for what diplomacy can accomplish – its inspections and verification regime is precisely what the United States should be working to put in place with North Korea. Indeed, at a time when we are all rooting for diplomacy with North Korea to succeed, walking away from the JCPOA risks losing a deal that accomplishes – with Iran – the very outcome that we are pursuing with the North Koreans.

That is why today's announcement is so misguided. Walking away from the JCPOA turns our back on America's closest allies, and an agreement that our country's leading diplomats, scientists, and intelligence professionals negotiated. In a democracy, there will always be changes in policies and priorities from one Administration to the next. But the consistent flouting of agreements that our country is a party to risks eroding America's credibility, and puts us at odds with the world's major powers."

Again it will be some time before the consequences of President Trump's action is known. European states will surely try to find ways to renegotiate the agreement to make it more acceptable, but real concerns must exist that it could unravel and create new and dangerous tensions in the region.

6. Mayors for Peace European meeting and Executive Conference

Apart from the activity within the NPT, the time in Geneva allowed the Mayors for Peace Executive Board to focus on its own future development with two important and productive meetings.

The first meeting brought together a number of European Lead Cities to discuss closer cooperation and the potential creation of a European structure to drive interest not just on the nuclear weapons debate, but on the creation of the new objective of developing safe, resilient and peaceful cities. These matters have been discussed by European cities over some months now, and the meeting allowed for further discussion and interaction with the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As host to the meeting, Geneva also welcomed the plans and ideas of the Lead Cities and asked to be kept informed.

Appendix 3 outlines the outcomes of these discussions. They indicate strong support to increase cooperation within Europe to both increase the number of member towns, cities and counties and lead cities. There is also a considerable desire to develop new initiatives around matters like dealing

with the refugee crisis, climate change and sustainable development, political extremism and terrorism and tackling poverty. The importance of developing peace education is also seen as a central focus for the work of Mayors for Peace. Such work could increase the visibility of Mayors for Peace in Europe and be a template for other parts of the world. A Working Group is now taking these actions forward.

The discussions also noted three potential milestones to assist with increasing European interest in Mayors for Peace:

- A UCLG conference in Madrid in November will include a Mayors for Peace strand on tackling violence and terrorism at the local level.
- The Croatian Lead City of Biograd na Moru is seeking to hold a conference for members in Central and South East Europe which may consider the impacts of recent conflicts on Europe.
- A third conference considering the state of the nuclear weapons debate in Europe is being looked at with support from Manchester, Malakoff, Ypres and other Lead Cities in 2019.

Members of the UK and Ireland Chapter should read Appendix 3 carefully, as Manchester City Council – the Chair of the Chapter – very much wishes to cooperate on helping to develop projects that increase visibility and effectiveness of its members, as well as seeking to cooperate at the wider European level.

The separate Mayors for Peace Executive Conference was chaired by the Secretary General, Yasuyoshi Komizo, and included representatives from Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Manchester, Montreal, Ypres, Frogn (Norway), Granollers (Spain), Malakoff (France), Biograd na Moru (Croatia) and Muntinlupa (Philippines).

The Executive Conference allowed for a review of progress with the Mayors for Peace Action Plan 2017 – 2020, which was agreed in Nagasaki.

Headline progress on the Action Plan is as follows:

- Expanding membership – since the August 2017 Executive and General Conference membership of Mayors for Peace has continued to rise. It recently passed the 7,500 mark and now stands at 7,578 members in 163 countries.
- Encouraging peace education – educational tools, ginkgo tree seeds and other materials have been sent around the world. Late in 2018 Hiroshima and Nagasaki will despatch ‘Hibakusha Legal Ambassadors’ to speak of their experience to invited audiences around the world. Manchester have agreed for them to come to the city in November 2018.
- Youth Exchange – over 35 young people from Lead Cities attended special exchange courses in Hiroshima in 2017 with a similar course taking place this August.
- Lead City interns in Hiroshima – over the past two years 11 staff from Lead Cities have visited Hiroshima to work for a short period in the International Mayors for Peace Secretariat.
- Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course – six more universities in four countries have agreed to provide the study course developed by Hiroshima University.
- Promoting a petition drive to urge all states to join the TPNW – As of May 1st 2018 2,752,034 people had signed this petition.

The Executive Conference was pleased with this progress and praised the Secretariat for its diligence.

A core part of the meeting was to discuss the development of the Mayors for Peace’s second key objective as agreed last year in Nagasaki – the realization of safe and resilient cities.

Four short presentations were provided by Lead Cities, including:

- The city of Granollers explained the work they have been undertaking within the UCLG – the global local government association – on challenging terrorism and violence at the local level.
- The cities of Montreal and Muntinlupa gave an overview of projects they organised at the local level that dealt with tackling the causes of poverty in a developed and developing state.
- The Chapter Secretary from Manchester explained the challenge of climate change for local government and the work to combat it on a local, national and international level.

The Executive Conference welcomed these presentations and encouraged national Chapter and regional / continental chapters to progress them at the local level. It was also agreed that as part of this, Mayors for Peace should encouraged collaborative partnerships with relevant organisations such as UCLG, Eurocities, ICLEI and the US Conference of Mayors amongst others.

The Executive Conference also agreed that its next major meeting would be hosted by the City of Hanover in Germany and would be held in November 2019. This meeting would be focused on formulating a 'post 2020 Vision' for the Mayors for Peace. The current vision, which was agreed in Manchester in 2003, had provided the opportunity to galvanise and increase membership sevenfold whilst bringing the nuclear weapons debate to the core of activity at the United Nations. The agreement of the TPNW could provide a similar role going forward. 2020 remains a very important year for Mayors for Peace as it will be the 75th anniversary of the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the NPT Review Conference in New York.

A brief report of the European Mayors for Peace meeting was provided to the Executive Conference and these developments were warmly welcomed. It was felt experience in Europe could be transferred into developing continental structures in other parts of the world.

Photos from the Geneva meetings are attached as Appendix 4.

7. Bike for Peace English tour, Manchester – Warrington – Liverpool

Shortly following the events in Geneva, the UK and Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace was the host for the latest tour of the Bike for Peace group.

Bike for Peace were formed in 1978 in Norway as a group seeking to use the mode of cycling to promote peace between conflicted communities and in general. In recent years, Bike for Peace had started their 2014 world bike ride in England with a tour from Manchester to Coventry and on to Westminster, before visiting France, Italy, China, the United States and Norway. In 2015, Bike for Peace held a tour in Scotland prior to the Scottish independence referendum with civic events and cycling in Edinburgh, Fife, Dundee, Perth, Faslane, Renfrewshire and Glasgow.

The 2018 tour focusing on supporting the Mayors for Peace and the need for peace education took place between the 11th and 14th May. The Bike for Peace delegation was co-led by Tore Naerland, founder of Bike for Peace and Svein-Arne Jerstad, a former Mayor and current councillor of the commune of Kvinesdal, near Stavanger.

The tour included the following stops:

- On the 11th May the delegation took part in the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail, which was led by the Chapter Secretary.
- On the 12th May the delegation met with the Lord Mayor of Manchester and representatives of local peace groups for a civic reception in Manchester Central Library. They then cycled down the Transpennine Cycle Trail from Manchester to Warrington.
- On the 13th May, the delegation met with Nick Taylor, Chief Executive of the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace at the Warrington Peace Centre. The centre, which was established to assist those directly affected by terrorism and community conflict, is playing a major role in the development of peace education. The delegation then cycled on to Liverpool for an evening reception in the Friends Meeting House and representatives of the Merseyside Peace Network.
- On the 14th May, the delegation met with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool at a civic reception in Liverpool Town Hall. The reception allowed for a varied discussion and Liverpool were encouraged to join Mayors for Peace.

The tour was judged a great success and the events were all very well received. Bike for Peace's next tour will be to Serbia and Kosovo in July 2018.

Photos from the Bike for Peace tour of North West England are attached at Appendix 5.

8. Next UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace for International Peace Day

At the last Chapter meeting in Leeds, it was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Scotland. It has now been agreed that this meeting will be held on the afternoon of Thursday September 20th in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, West Dunbartonshire. This date is close to International Peace Day (the 21st is a bank holiday in some towns and cities in the west of Scotland) and will allow the Chapter to formally commemorate this important annual day.

During this week a number of events are being organised by ICAN UK, CND Scotland and other peace groups, culminating with a walk and rally close to the UK's nuclear weapons facility at Faslane. The Chapter meeting hopes to bring some prominent international figures from ICAN, PNND, Abolition 2000 and other groups to speak at the September 20th seminar. When a programme is agreed upon it will be issued to Chapter members, who are encouraged to attend it.

9. Conclusions and recommendations

The NPT Preparatory Conference in Geneva continued with the norm of such events being frustrating and only allowing for slow progress. The growing tensions between nuclear weapon states and their supporters with non-nuclear weapon states is quite plain to see. The Conference took place around a contradictory mix of news with Korea and Iran and a great sense of instability in parts of the world. Mayors for Peace will continue to work diligently to raise their concerns and work with other groups and supportive states to realise the TPNW, as well as to try and persuade nuclear weapon states to move in a more positive direction.

The European meeting of Mayors for Peace could commence a period of greater activity and cooperation across the continent to increase visibility, effectiveness and activity in promoting the second key objective of realizing safe and resilient cities. Members of the UK and Ireland Chapter are encouraged to positively engage with such activity.

The Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace showed a united sense of purpose to move forward in progressing the dedicated objectives of a world free of nuclear weapons and the creation of safe and resilient, peaceful cities.

These matters will be discussed by the Chapter in Clydebank on September 20th and members are encouraged to try and attend this meeting.

Mid May is a time when many ceremonial Mayors change office. The Secretariat will send this briefing and an introductory note to new Mayors. It will also send both notes to the political leadership of member Councils as it is important to increase visibility and activity amongst member councils.

Mayoral / Provost and Leader's Offices in UK and Ireland members of Mayors for Peace should disseminate this briefing to fellow councillors and to the International Office of their Council.

Statement to the NPT Preparatory Conference by the Mayor of Hiroshima, President of Mayors for Peace

I wish to begin by expressing my deep appreciation for the longstanding efforts made by the hibakusha to raise the public's awareness of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons through their testimonies of unbearable sorrow. Their fervent appeal for nuclear abolition remains the most important motivation to counter the threat.

Our deliberations today are occurring amid heightened international tension as well as several efforts to revive nuclear disarmament and strengthen nuclear non-proliferation – including a peaceful solution of the North Korean nuclear weapons problem. It is important for these NPT deliberations to fulfil the wishes of people throughout the world for real progress in these specific fields.

Progress in disarmament, however, remains hindered by the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and weapon modernization efforts. Their justifications are not credible and serve only to aggravate mutual distrust between states and create new risks of nuclear weapons use, posing a danger to global security. Together we must therefore seek a better long-term solution, one that truly advances the common interests of all nations. And comprehensive, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation should be pursued to achieve this goal.

In particular, the States Parties must reaffirm the treaty's obligation to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith and implement concrete disarmament measures without further delay. I also encourage the Committee to be guided by respect for diversity and to nurture the vision of a common future rooted in a sense of belonging to one human family. Through persistent and conscientious dialogues, we can turn the confrontational security environment into a cooperative security architecture.

For its part, Mayors for Peace is working to achieve two key objectives: "Realization of a world without nuclear weapons" and "Realization of safe and resilient cities". Thousands of members are working worldwide for these causes.

We believe that world peace cannot be achieved without protecting the safety and peaceful lives of ordinary people. That is why we are working first and foremost to abolish nuclear weapons – to protect people from mass destruction. In this endeavour, we consider it essential to promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a significant milestone towards our common goal.

At the same time, we are also working hard to cultivate mutual trust and to equip cities with higher resilience to make them capable to address various issues of their own, such as sustainable development, the refugee crisis, or countering terrorism.

Through these efforts, working closely with diverse civil society partners, Mayors for Peace will encourage and support world leaders to take their own initiatives locally and jointly with a broad global perspective towards a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Anticipating the historic NPT Review Conference in 2020, we must promote concrete measures for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, to achieve lasting world peace. We must do this together and we must never rest until they are achieved.

Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima

President of Mayors for Peace

Speech to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference, Geneva, Switzerland, 25th April 2018

Statement of the Mayor of Nagasaki to the NPT Preparatory Conference

Chairman,

Distinguished delegates and leaders of civil groups,

My name is Tomihisa Taue, the Mayor of Nagasaki. It is an honour to address you today as the representative of the atomic-bombed city of Nagasaki, and the Vice President of Mayors for Peace.

The direction which shows us the future of nuclear weapons is veering widely back and forth between good and bad reports. Because of this, we need to reconfirm what effect nuclear weapons have on humans. I would like to introduce the words of Mr Sumiteru Taniguchi, a leader of Nagasaki's peace activities and a hibakusha, atomic bomb survivor, who passed away last year. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, he showed this picture and said with all his strength, exposing his pain and suffering. "I am not a guinea pig nor am I an exhibit. But those of you who saw this picture today, please don't turn your eyes away from me. Please look at me again. Bearing the cursed scars of the atomic bomb all over our bodies, we the hibakusha continue to live in pain. Nuclear weapons are weapons of extinction and cannot coexist with humans."

The leaders of the world need to visit the atomic bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and learn the reality of the atomic bombings. I am certain that no one in the world wants themselves or their families to go through the same suffering as the hibakusha. Remember that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are promises the member states of the NPT made with the world. Return to those principles and please pursue a security policy that does not rely in nuclear deterrence.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was created with the hibakusha's as a driving force, with the support of civil society, and with over 120 countries working together towards it. It is also a treaty that is meant to become one of the "two wheels of a cart" along with the NPT, which is the foundation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

To the countries who agreed to the treaty, I ask that you move forward with procedures to sign and ratify it.

To the countries against the treaty, I ask that, as soon as possible, you once more carefully consider if there is truly the possibility of joining the treaty.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki are convinced that this treaty needs to become an international norm.

"Make Nagasaki the last place to experience an atomic bomb."

We firmly believe that Nagasaki will remain a place of hope to deliver this message for all time. We will continue to request for every country to create the wisdom needed to make peace through dialogue.

Mayor Tomihisa Taue of Nagasaki
Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Speech to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference,
Geneva, Switzerland, 25th April 2018

Summary of the European Mayors for Peace Chapter discussion held in Geneva

1. Introduction of the process

At the Executive and General Conference of Mayors for Peace in Nagasaki in August 2017, it was agreed to develop a new core strand of the organisation; to develop safe, peaceful and resilient cities. A separate meeting was also held by European Lead Cities with the International Secretariat as they wished to cooperate in developing a European structure whilst particularly wanting to assist in the development of the new strand. This process does not deflect from continuing to support the aim of nuclear disarmament and working closely with Hiroshima and Nagasaki on this aim within Europe. It was also felt important to seek to increase membership within Europe but also to assist in making Mayors for Peace membership more visible and encouraging more active members.

A series of telephone conference meetings and papers have been held over the past few months by the officer representatives of the European Lead Cities, chaired by Mayor Thore Vestby. This provided more clarity to a possible structure, the potential funding of an Executive Advisor post to develop this further and a consideration of what the key issues European Lead Cities wish to promote. The Lead Cities have also held a meeting with the Secretary General to discuss such developments and how the complement and support the work of the International Secretariat.

A meeting was held in Geneva on the 25th April to bring these developments to Mayors and officers of the Lead Cities, to discuss these matters with the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the International Secretariat, and agree broadly to a 'direction of travel' forward over the next year. A more detailed minute of this meeting is available, but this note outlines the key parts of the discussion and agreements that were made. At the meeting were representatives from Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Geneva, Manchester, Granollers, Malakoff, Frogn and Biograd na Moru. Hannover and Grigny had also been involved in this process and provided their comments in writing.

2. Agreements made at the meeting

- a) It was agreed with the International Secretariat that European Lead Cities should seek to cooperate more closely together and start a process to create a structure akin to a European 'Chapter'. This would provide active support for the main aim of support nuclear weapons disarmament, providing a focus on these issues in Europe. It would though also seek to provide detail and momentum to develop the second core strand of Mayors for Peace in developing safe, peaceful and resilient cities. This may focus on issues such as how to deal with violence and terrorism at the local level, the problems and solutions to accommodating large numbers of refugees and economic migrants, the issues around poverty and division in cities and the great challenge of mitigating climate change. This may include some specific work as well as closer cooperation with relevant international local government groups and non-governmental organisations (such as UCLG, Eurocities, ALDA and ICLEI).
- b) In order to start formally developing such a structure, and considering how it will be developed, a document outlining the responsibilities of Lead Cities and of a European Chapter will be set out.
- c) A small European Lead City Officer Working Group would be established to develop this document and pursue other parts of the initial structures that would need to be achieved to create a European 'Chapter'. At present this group will include officers from Granollers, Ypres, Manchester and Biograd na Moru. Hannover and a representative from Mayors for Peace France will also be invited to join the group, and others can join it on request. It will meet at regular intervals through Skype / telephone conference and correspond through email. It will also inform and discuss developments at regular intervals with the International Secretariat in Hiroshima.
- d) The Working Group will report to an Interim Board of Mayors from the European Lead Cities and the International Secretariat. There may be one or two meetings by Skype / telephone conference and regular email updates of progress to the Interim Board. This Board will be formalised at the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference meeting in Hannover in November 2019, should progress with European developments be sufficient to allow for this.
- e) A core initial action for the Working Group will be the consideration of legal responsibility for a European structure. Officers from Granollers and Ypres would seek internal legal advice on these matters. A legal responsibility is crucial in order to solicit funds. Discussion on initial

available funds will also continue with Hiroshima and within Ypres, who retain a small budget from the 2020 Vision Campaign Association.

- f) The Working Group will also start to consider specific potential upcoming conferences which could develop visibility and further interest in a European 'Chapter'. These include –
- In November 2018, the UCLG World Congress will be in Madrid. A strand of the congress will consider urban violence, terrorism and promoting community cohesion. Discussions are taking place with Madrid and other prominent members to focus this in collaboration with Mayors for Peace. European Lead Cities will be encouraged to attend and an invitation will be sent to the Mayor of Hiroshima and the Mayors for Peace Secretary General. Further discussion is also taking place with UCLG around the continued development of a biannual Peace Prize. This may include formal support and funding with Mayors for Peace, along with the Dutch local government association BNG and the Provincial Council of Barcelona.
 - The Lead City of Biograd na Moru is developing and enhancing links with member cities and key cities in the central and south east Europe region to both increase membership and potentially develop a sub-chapter for this region. Specific events are being planned for the period August 6th – 9th 2018, and the possibility of looking at a conference focused on the consequences of armed conflict may be considered for early to mid-2019. The Mayor and officers from Biograd na Moru plan to write to all existing members and visit prominent cities. Separately the Lead City of Hannover are seeking to develop links in Eastern Europe and other Lead Cities will be encouraged to support increasing links in northern and western Europe. Increasing membership in Europe and in the number of European Lead Cities is a key action of the Mayors for Peace Action Plan.
 - A third potential conference considering the debate over nuclear weapons in Europe may be developed by Lead Cities and members in France and the UK as nuclear weapon states with 'nuclear umbrella' NATO states in Europe. This provisionally would take place in mid to late 2019, but requires further internal discussion to seek political support.
 - Specific international events throughout the year would be promoted to encourage national and European Chapter support, such as Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days, International Peace Day, World Refugee Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, International Day for a World without Nuclear Weapons and so forth.
 - Support the Hannover / German Mayors for Peace '50 Cities, 50 Traces' art exhibition which will be transported across Europe (and also the US and Japan) between 2018 and 2020 as a way to increase visibility of the organisation.
- g) A major focus in Europe should be on developing peace education in schools and youth in particular. This would include cooperating with groups working in this area and promoting best practice examples that member towns and cities could adopt. It would also include working closely with Hiroshima and Nagasaki to support their peace education programmes within the Mayors for Peace Action Plan.
- h) Over time, as the structure develops, to seek to have a more coordinated European Mayors for Peace communications strategy may be adopted. A dedicated website (or a specific part of the current international website) would be at the core of it, which may have social media messaging within it. Joint open letters, opinion pieces for prominent publications and media statements would also be considered, in consultation with the International Secretariat.

3. Future actions

It was agreed that an initial meeting of the Working Group should take place shortly, following discussion of this note and the more detailed minutes. The moves forward have the broad support of western European Lead Cities of Mayors for Peace. At the meeting officers present from Geneva indicated real interest and support for such initiatives and would like to be kept informed.

The European Lead Cities look forward to working with each other and the International Secretariat in providing a model way forward that could be adopted in other parts of the Mayors for Peace movement.

Photos from the Geneva UN and Mayors for Peace meetings



Attendees from the 'Mutlangen' meeting at the UN show their support for nuclear disarmament at UN in Geneva



The UK & Ireland Chapter Secretary & the Lord Mayor of Manchester hold placard of Manchester's commitment to a nuclear weapons free world



The European Mayors for Peace meeting in the Palais Eynard / Geneva City Hall



Manchester student Chris Moss speaks at the Mayors for Peace Youth Forum



The Mayors of Nagasaki, Manchester and Hiroshima at the Executive Conference

English Bike for Peace tour Manchester – Warrington – Liverpool



Left: The Lord Mayor of Manchester and Svein-Arne Jerstad exchange gifts.
Above: Bike for Peace and the Lord Mayor outside the Central Library



The Bike for Peace delegation at the Warrington Peace Centre



Tore Naerland of Bike for Peace talks with Nick Taylor at the Warrington Peace Centre



Tore Naerland and the Lord Mayor of Liverpool



The Bike for Peace delegation with the Lord Mayor of Liverpool