



Briefing paper

Date: 13th December 2018

No.20

Subject: Resolutions to support the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty and visit to the UK of the Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors

1. Introduction

This report has been developed by the Chapter Secretary and provides members with background on a joint Mayors for Peace / ICAN initiative to encourage town, city and county Councils to pass resolutions to support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). ICAN have called this initiative the 'ICAN Cities Appeal'.

This report also outlines a recent visit to Manchester, Oldham and Coventry by Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors and Memoir Readers, a new initiative of the Mayors for Peace and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. This was the first visit to take place outside Japan, and is part of the ongoing endeavour to promote the story of the hibakusha, or atomic bomb survivors.

The report also provides a short update of other issues being pursued by Mayors for Peace, nationally and internationally.

2. Background to the TPNW City Resolutions – September Chapter meeting

The initiative to encourage Councils to support resolutions supporting the TPNW arose from presentations given to the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter held on September 20th, close to International Peace Day 2018, in Clydebank Town Hall.

At the meeting, a joint presentation was provided by Tim Wallis and Nancy Elsen of the ICAN USA affiliated group NuclearBan.US. This group was involved in developing a number of initiatives to increase knowledge of, and support for, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) across the United States. At present, 19 countries have fully ratified the Treaty and a further 69 countries have signed it, beginning the formal process of ratification. As ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) have commented, that is a faster rate of ratification than any other treaty banning weapons of mass destruction has achieved so far.

A core part of such activity was to work with other groups to encourage towns, cities and states in the United States to pass resolutions of support for the TPNW in a manner similar to that of Parliamentarians, in order to encourage national governments to actively engage and consider signing the Treaty. Over 10 cities have now passed such resolutions in the United States, the most prominent being Los Angeles and Baltimore. In addition, the California State Senate has passed a similar resolution.

The UK & Ireland Chapter members present agreed that a similar initiative should be encouraged in the UK, which, like the United States, is a nuclear weapon state. The UK Government has also opposed the TPNW, so Councils resolving to support the Treaty would be part of sending an important message to the UK Government. In contrast, the Irish Government is a strong supporter of the Treaty and is in the process of ratifying it.

THE UK & IRELAND CHAPTER OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

C/o Nuclear Policy, City Policy Section, Level 3, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 3NY
Tel: 0161 234 3244 E-Mail: s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk Website: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

2. **ICAN Cities Appeal and the UCLG World Forum**

Whilst the Chapter Secretary was in the process of developing a model resolution for members to use, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) announced at the UCLG (the global body for local government) World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Co-Existence and Peace, in Madrid City Hall on the 4th – 8th November, its 'Cities Appeal'.

The UCLG Forum took place in conjunction with its World Council meeting and a full account of the four day event can be found on the UCLG website - <https://www.uclg.org/en/node/28960>.

The Forum was hosted by the Mayor of Madrid and included presentations from experts on preventing urban violence and encouraging peace education. Amongst the speakers were the Mayor of Madrid, the UCLG Secretary General, the Chair of the Board of the Cities Alliance (and former UK International Development Minister) Clare Short, the President of the Scottish local government association (COSLA) Cllr Allison Evison, the Mayor of Strasbourg, the Mayor of Utrecht and Mayors from Africa and South East Asia.

Mayors for Peace, through its Catalan Vice President city Granollers (close to Barcelona and the scene of a largescale Italian aerial bombing attack during the Spanish Civil War in 1938), were represented at a number of different workshops within the Forum. Mayor Josep Mayoral of Granollers shared strategies for and experiences in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence in cities. Mayor Mayoral also stressed that education and culture are the key elements in making cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The Forum concluded on the 8th November with an all-female panel to discuss the matters around reducing violence through educational initiatives. Female leaders from around the world met with representatives of civil society and academia to address urban violence in all its forms. One of those present was the Executive Director of ICAN, Beatrice Fihn. A formal commitment was then agreed providing UCLG members with guidance on promoting schemes that assist with the reduction of urban violence and the promotion of peace education. This final 18 page commitment can be found at the following webpage (it is in English):

<https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/compromiso-agenda-ciudades-de-convivencia-y-paz-en.pdf>

Following the Forum, Beatrice Fihn of ICAN formally launched its 'Cities Appeal'. This follows on from a previous initiative asking Parliamentarians from around the world to support the TPNW. The new Appeal asks Councils whose national Governments have not pledged to sign this Treaty to encourage them to do so by symbolically giving their cities support to the Treaty.

The Cities Appeal has the full support of Mayors for Peace as part of their own strategy to encourage states to pass the TPNW. Following the previous backing of US cities, the Australian cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle (a Mayors for Peace Lead City) have passed resolutions supporting the ICAN Cities Appeal, as well as the Canadian city of Toronto.

(see the link - <http://www.icanw.org/campaign-news/los-angeles-sydney-and-toronto-join-new-ican-cities-appeal/>)

A full copy of the ICAN Cities Appeal is attached at Appendix 1.

3. **The importance of passing TPNW resolutions**

In Europe, the large majority of states are members of NATO and, as such, have supported the views of nuclear weapon states like the United States, the UK and France to not directly engage with the TPNW process. The ICAN Cities Appeal is therefore of particular relevance in seeking prominent European towns and cities to show their support for the TPNW and politely challenging their own governments to, at the very least, engage in the process.

This has become even more of a concern given the recent decision of the US Government to announce that it plans to withdraw from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. It is also considering withdrawing from the START Treaty signed with Russia when this comes up for renewal in two years' time. These two treaties are core parts of the nuclear weapons disarmament infrastructure that saw the removal of cruise missiles from most European states

in the 1980s and 1990s. Along with renewed concerns over North Korea's and Iran's nuclear programmes, this period of diplomatic history suggests an escalation of tensions between nuclear weapon states just at a time when the TPNW process has sought to reduce such tension and encourage a new round of multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Mayors for Peace Lead Cities in Europe have pledged to start the process of encouraging Councils across the continent to support the ICAN Cities Appeal and pass resolutions of support for the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. To this end, the Mayors for Peace Vice Presidents of Manchester and Granollers passed unanimously supported TPNW resolutions at the end of November through their Councils.

Manchester's resolution, pre-dating the Cities Appeal process, goes further than the appeal to encourage the UK Government to also consider not replacing the Trident nuclear weapons programme – at present all of the existing nuclear weapon states are pledged to make highly expensive upgrades of their weapon programmes. It is attached as Appendix 2.

Manchester encourages its fellow Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter members – particularly those in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – to pass resolutions supporting the TPNW and the ICAN Cities Appeal. It is the discretion of the Council if it wishes to go further and comment on UK nuclear weapons policy as well within its resolution.

It is expected that further Chapter members will pass TPNW resolutions in the next few months. The passing of a resolution is a powerful symbol of solidarity with the Mayors for Peace and ICAN and shows real commitment to the aims of both organisations – global multilateral nuclear disarmament. It is also expected Mayors for Peace members across the world will do likewise.

As part of this initiative, in early December the Chapter Secretary was invited by ICAN UK members Rebecca Johnson and Elizabeth Minor to a short meeting with the Mayor of Oslo, Marianne Borgen. Mayor Borgen was in London as part of the annual ceremony where Oslo provides London with a Christmas tree, planted at Trafalgar Square, as a symbol of friendship between the two cities. The meeting allowed for discussion on the ICAN Cities Appeal, the debate in Norway and in the UK over whether each Parliament would support the TPNW, and a short discussion on the role of Mayors for Peace Lead Cities. Also invited to the meeting were Shadow Labour Minister for Peace and Disarmament, Fabian Hamilton MP, the SNP Spokesperson on Defence Procurement, Peace and Nuclear Disarmament, Douglas Chapman MP and the Green Party Baroness Jenny Jones, former Deputy Mayor of London. A group photo is attached in Appendix 3.

4. Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors visit to the UK

At the same time as the Madrid World Forum event took place, Manchester was the first host of an inaugural visit to the UK by a delegation of Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors and Memoir Readers. The visit was supported by the City of Hiroshima and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. It is part of an ongoing peace education programme that takes place across Japan.

With the anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks now closing in on 75 years, the average age of the 'hibakusha' or survivors of the attacks, is now 82. Inevitably such survivors are becoming frail and year on year more are dying of illness and old age. Hiroshima is very aware of this and feels it is essential that their witness testimony is not lost to future generations. The Peace Legacy Ambassador scheme was established to encourage a younger generation to meet with the hibakusha, hear their testimony and call for peace, and pass their message on, particularly to the young, who would be of a similar age to the hibakusha who suffered on August 6th and August 9th, 1945. A number of additional Memoir Readers have also been trained to read out some of the testimony and the poetry of the hibakusha.

A small delegation travelled from Hiroshima to Manchester for a four day visit from November 4th – 8th 2018. It included a group organiser from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Hall, a Peace Legacy Ambassador and two Memoir Readers. All four women spoke fluent English. The visit included official visits and engagements in Manchester, Oldham and Coventry.

Manchester engagements –

The delegation were met by the Chapter Secretary, Sean Morris, and by one of the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail guides, Steve Roman, for a walk of the fully updated Children's Peace Trail. Accompanying the delegation were staff and students from Manchester Metropolitan University and members of Greater Manchester and District CND. The delegation were interested in the stories of Alan Turing and a tolerant city, the Cenotaph and British nuclear test veterans memorial, the planned memorial to the suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst (which will be unveiled in St Peter's Square, Manchester on the 14th November), the memorial to the 'Peterloo' massacre, the Abraham Lincoln statue and the history of the anti-slavery movement, St Mary's RC Church, often known as the 'Hidden Gem' and a beacon of religious tolerance, and the 'Doves of Peace' statue which highlights Manchester determination for a nuclear weapons free world.

The first school event took place at Heald Place Primary School in south Manchester. This school has been actively cooperating with the Council in its 'Project G' gingko tree scheme and has one of Manchester's 15 gingko trees donated by the City of Hiroshima. The tree originates from a seed harvested from a tree close to the hypocenter of the Hiroshima atomic weapon attack, which regrew the following spring. At the event in front of over 90 of the schoolchildren, the children were told of the suffering of a number of hibakusha and of the need for peace. A paper crane-folding workshop also took place and the delegation were taken to see the gingko tree and the school's peace garden.

The delegation met at a later date with the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor June Hitchen and the Council's nominated Mayors for Peace representative, Councillor Eddy Newman. The civic reception allowed for the delegation to present the Lord Mayor with a letter of welcome and thanks from the Mayor of Hiroshima and give a short talk on the work of Peace Legacy Ambassadors and Memoir Readers.

Oldham engagements –

The delegation took a short Metrolink tram ride to Oldham for a number of engagements with the Council, who are a Mayors for Peace member and a supporter of the European 'Pledge to Peace' initiative (see <https://en-gb.facebook.com/OldhamPledgeToPeaceForum/>).

The delegation met with the Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Javid Iqbal, in Oldham's Peace Garden, where they jointly planted a peace tree in the garden. Moving on to Oldham Civic Centre, the delegation were given a civic reception and were interviewed by a local newspaper and a TV channel for the UK Pakistani community.

The delegation then gave a detailed talk to Oldham councillors, members of Oldham Youth Council and invited Oldham 'Pledge to Peace' Forum members in the Council Chamber. The event ended with a number of councillors and youth councillors signing the ICAN pledge to support the TPNW.

Coventry engagements –

The delegation travelled on by train to Coventry, which has a close and long-term friendship agreement with the City of Hiroshima.

While in Coventry the delegation were given a civic reception by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor John Blundell, and met other members of the City Council. They were also taken on a visit to Coventry Cathedral and the ruins of its previous cathedral. They also gave a talk to local peace groups.

Photos from the three visits are attached as Appendix 3. Manchester, Oldham and Coventry thank Hiroshima for funding and organising the visit. For Hiroshima, this was the first time such a visit from Peace Legacy Ambassadors and Memoir Readers has taken place outside Japan, and the visit has provided useful information for the development of future visits around the world.

5. Other Mayors for Peace and related peace initiatives

There are a number of other Mayors for Peace and related peace initiatives the Chapter Secretariat would like to pass on to Chapter members.

European Mayors for Peace Lead Cities discussion –

Manchester is one of a number of European Lead Cities who have been discussing for some time area of wider cooperation. One part of this discussion is to consider creating a European structure so as to provide coordination on the nuclear weapons and other peace issues, such as dealing with the refugee crisis, tackling political extremism and intolerance and the mitigation of climate change. A further telephone conference was held and the group heard that a document providing legal status for such an entity was being translated into English. The group also agreed it was important for each of them to seek to support and promote the ICAN Cities Appeal across Europe.

House of Lords International Relations inquiry into UK nuclear weapons policy –

In a welcome development, the House of Lords International Relations Select Committee have announced an inquiry considering the national and international nuclear weapons debate. The Committee is concerned with the number of alarming recent developments which suggest a breakdown of détente in ongoing international attempts to bring about nuclear disarmament. They also wish to comment on UK plans for the next full review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the ongoing separate process of the TPNW. The closing date for submissions is the **18th January 2019**. The Chapter Secretariat are developing a response on behalf of Manchester and those Chapter members who would like to support its response. A draft copy will be sent to members as soon as it is completed. Other ICAN UK groups are also developing a response to this important consultation.

Chapter Secretary to speak in Basel at joint Mayors for Peace / PNND event -

The Basel Peace Forum, an annual event of Swiss municipalities and NGOs, has approached the Mayors for Peace to hold an additional joint event, in cooperation as well with the group Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND). The aim of this meeting will be to engage with Swiss Councils on such matters, encourage them to pass resolutions of support for the TPNW and consider the development of a Swiss Mayors for Peace Chapter. The agenda for the meeting is attached as Appendix 5.

Mayors for Peace 'Peaceful Towns' children's art competition -

The City of Hiroshima, as the host of the International Secretariat of Mayors for Peace, has instituted peace education as a core part of the Mayors for Peace Action Plan. One area they are particularly keen to support is work with schoolchildren, and they have instituted a children's art competition based on the subject of 'Peaceful Towns'. Any Mayors for Peace member is welcome to take part in this competition by encouraging local schools to take part in it. Applications are allowed up to **28th December 2018** and guidance on taking part can be found at the website – <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/ecbn/projects.html#section08>.

Bike for Peace global tour –

For a number of years, Mayors for Peace has cooperated with the Norwegian group Bike for Peace. This group brings Mayors, professional and amateur cyclists together to promote the values of peace through the mode of cycling. The group is currently putting the final touches to their next global tour. This will begin with a special event in Westminster in February. Further information on taking part will be provided by the Chapter Secretariat shortly.

6. Conclusions

Chapter members in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are encouraged to consider supporting the ICAN Cities Appeal with Council resolutions that would give a local boost to the process to ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The visit of the Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassadors is to be welcomed and if such visits happen in the UK or Ireland again the Chapter Secretariat will inform members. The next date of the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter is provisionally set for the afternoon of **Friday February 8th in Manchester**. Further details on it will follow shortly.

ICAN Cities Appeal

ICAN CITIES APPEAL - A global call from cities and towns in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

(see <http://www.icanw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/ICAN-Cities-Appeal.pdf>)

About the Appeal

Nuclear weapons pose an unacceptable threat to people everywhere. This is why, on 7 July 2017, 122 nations voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. All national governments are now invited to sign and ratify this crucial global agreement, which prohibits the use, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and lays the foundations for their total elimination. Cities and towns can help build support for the treaty by endorsing the ICAN Cities Appeal.

ICAN today (November 7th) launches the Cities Appeal, a commitment by cities and towns to show support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call on their governments to join. Major cities such as Baltimore, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Sydney and Toronto have already committed themselves to the Appeal which states:

“Our city/town is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and call on our governments join it.”

Why cities? Why do they matter when the decisions about international affairs are made at a national level?

Nuclear weapons pose a particular threat to cities, which are in many cases the primary targets for an attack. Nuclear weapons are designed to inflict comprehensive damage upon their targets. It is the very nature of the nuclear threat to a rival country's most important places that underpins the theory and practice of nuclear deterrence, which is promoted as a legitimate defence strategy by all nine nuclear-armed states, and the several dozen more that [endorse the use of nuclear weapons](#). These governments are putting their citizens' lives at risk by subscribing to this strategy, which has been undermined time and again by near misses and miscalculations which very nearly unleashed nuclear war. Local governments bear a special responsibility for the safety of their residents. It is therefore incumbent upon cities to speak out against nuclear weapons.

Engaging the cities is an important way to pressure governments to be responsive to the will of their people. When cities call on their governments to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, it's a tangible reminder that citizens are against these weapons of mass destruction and that governments are consistently ignoring this view. A new coalition of cities and towns around the world will amplify these voices and compel governments to ditch any involvement with nuclear weapons and encouraging their peers to follow suit.

How to endorse the Appeal

The mayor or administrator of the local government should send an email to info@icanw.org indicating that the city/ town has agreed to endorse the ICAN Cities Appeal. This appeal is for local governments of cities/towns in nations that have not yet ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Suggestions for further action

1. Write to the national government: Inform the foreign minister or other relevant official that your city/town has endorsed the ICAN Cities Appeal.

2. Inform the media: Issue a press release announcing that your city/town has joined the call for the national government to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
3. Inform your residents: Distribute information or hold a public exhibition about the threat of nuclear weapons and global efforts to eliminate this threat.
4. Divest public funds: Take steps to ensure that funds administered by your city/town are not invested in companies that produce nuclear weapons.

See <http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com> for further details.

Manchester's TPNW resolution

Resolution passed unanimously by Manchester City Council at its meeting of 28 November 2018

The International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons

Manchester City Council is a founder member and the host of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), and a Vice President of the Hiroshima-led Mayors for Peace; both of which have been working for over three decades to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament.

NFLA and Mayors for Peace work with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its work in encouraging over two thirds of United Nations members to agree to the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Council regrets that the Governments of the existing nuclear weapon states, including the UK, refuse to support the Treaty. Council fully supports the TPNW as one of the most effective ways to bring about long-term and verifiable multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Manchester City Council also calls on the United Kingdom Government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- Cancelling the plan to replace its entire Trident nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons;
- Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals by supporting the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons and the 'Good Faith' Protocols within the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Manchester City Council instructs the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the UK Government to inform them of this resolution and urge them to take account of it.

Photos from the visit of the Mayor of Oslo to London, Manchester's TPNW resolution and of the Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassador and Memoir Readers visit to the UK

a) Visit of the Mayor of Oslo to London and discussion on the ICAN Cities Appeal



Left to right: Elizabeth Minor (Article 36 / ICAN), Baroness Jenny Jones, Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary Sean Morris, Rebecca Johnson (Acronym Institute / ICAN), Mayor Marianne Borgen of Oslo (with a copy of the TPNW), Douglas Chapman MP (with one of ICAN's Nobel Peace Prize medals) and Fabian Hamilton MP.

b) The Lord Mayor and Consort with Manchester City Council's TPNW resolution



The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor June Hitchen and the Lord Mayor's Consort, Councillor Carmine Grimshaw, with a copy of Manchester City Council's resolution nominated by Councillor Eddy Newman, to support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

c) The visit of the Hiroshima Peace Legacy Ambassador delegation to Manchester, Oldham and Coventry



Above: Heald Place school-children in Manchester by their Hiroshima ginkgo tree

Above right: Cllr Sharif Mahamed with Heald Place teacher Margaret Lynch-Deakin folding a paper crane

Right: The Hiroshima delegation, Manchester Councillors Sharif Mahamed and Lovecy and Heald Place schoolchildren after the morning talk



The Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary, the Hiroshima delegation, the Lord Mayor of Manchester and Manchester's Mayors for Peace representative Cllr Eddy Newman with a letter of thanks from the Mayor of Hiroshima, Lord Mayor's Suite, Manchester Central Library



Top left: The Hiroshima delegation in Oldham Peace Garden with Mayor Councillor Javid Iqbal
 Bottom left: The Hiroshima delegation speaking to councillors and Oldham Youth Council in Oldham Civic Centre Council Chamber
 Right: The Mayor of Oldham meets Hiroshima's Peace Legacy Ambassador



The Hiroshima delegation by Coventry Cathedral



The Hiroshima delegation meeting the Lord Mayor of Coventry

House of Lords consultation on NPT and nuclear disarmament

HOUSE OF LORDS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

CALL FOR EVIDENCE: THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

As a result of rising tensions between nuclear-armed states and the fragmenting of existing non-proliferation and arms control agreements, nuclear weapons are on the international agenda in a way they have not been since the end of the Cold War.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), along with other components of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, form a critical pillar of the rules-based international order. Since the NPT's most recent Review Conference in 2015 there have been significant developments affecting the proliferation, development and use of nuclear weapons. The United States has taken the step of withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal, opened negotiations with North Korea, and announced its intention to pull out of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) with Russia. Meanwhile, nuclear-armed states have begun significant modernisation programmes, with the United States and Russia signalling the substantial expansion of future capabilities and considering the use of nuclear weapons in the battlefield.

Rising nuclear tensions have been accompanied by a growing dissatisfaction amongst proponents of nuclear disarmament. In 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (commonly referred to as the Ban Treaty) opened for signature, further widening the divide between nuclear-armed states (and their allies) and proponents of disarmament.

In this context, the House of Lords International Relations Committee is launching an inquiry into the NPT and nuclear disarmament, during which it will examine the state of global nuclear diplomacy and the United Kingdom's role in it. During this inquiry the Committee will focus on the non-proliferation and disarmament aspects of the NPT, and not consider directly the civilian use of nuclear energy.

The questions set out below are intended to provide a framework for those who wish to offer their views. You need not answer all these questions.

Information on how to submit evidence is set out below. If you have any questions or require adjustments to enable you to respond, please contact the Committee team: details also below.

The deadline for submissions is **18 January 2019**.

Questions:**Nuclear risk**

1. What is your evaluation of the current level of risk that nuclear weapons, of any type, could be used?

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

2. Ahead of the 2020 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), what are the biggest challenges facing global nuclear diplomacy?
 - a. To what extent do states still view the NPT as relevant?
 - b. What are the prospects for other components of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT)?
 - c. How important are these agreements to the wider rules-based international order?
 - d. To what extent does the existence of three nuclear armed states outside the NPT (India, Israel and Pakistan) destabilise the overall regime?

- e. What prospects are there for a Middle East WMD free zone?

The United States

3. To what extent will the United States' withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, as well as US efforts to achieve the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, affect the wider nuclear non-proliferation regime?

Nuclear arms control

4. To what extent and why are existing nuclear arms control agreements being challenged, particularly the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) and the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), and what prospect is there for further such agreements? What prospects are there of progress in negotiating a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT)?

Nuclear modernisation programmes

5. What effect will nuclear renewal programmes have on the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime? To what extent could technological developments—including in missile capabilities, warhead strength, and verification—undermine existing non-proliferation and arms control agreements?

New technologies

6. To what extent will technological developments, both directly relating to nuclear weapons and in the wider defence and security sphere, affect nuclear diplomacy?

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

7. If it were to enter into force, how would the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (commonly referred to as the Ban Treaty) affect efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and bring about disarmament?

The P5

8. What are the policies of other P5 countries (China, France, Russia and the United States), and the UK's other partners, on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and on nuclear weapons more generally? Have these policies changed, and if so, why? How effective has the P5 process been, and what role will it have in the future?

The role of the UK

9. How effective a role has the UK played in global nuclear diplomacy in recent years? How could the UK more effectively engage on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament? What should the UK Government's priorities be ahead of the 2020 NPT Review Conference?

European Regional Meeting with Mayors for Peace and PNND – Draft Agenda

January 15th, 2019, Salon Rouge, Euler Hotel, Basel (in conjunction with the Basel Peace Forum, January 13-14)

Outline:

Basel Peace Office and the Basel Stadt Kanton will host a meeting of Parliamentarians or Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and member cities of Mayors for Peace on the morning of January 15, following the Basel Peace Forum 2019.

The aims of the meeting are to:

1. Discuss current initiatives for nuclear non-proliferation, risk-reduction and disarmament being advanced by Mayors for Peace and PNND;
2. Build cooperation between legislators at city, regional and federal levels to advance nuclear non-proliferation, risk-reduction and disarmament;
3. Discuss new developments and experience in nuclear weapons divestment and in re-focusing such investments in order to support peace and the sustainable development goals;
4. Commence preparations for a more comprehensive conference in April of legislators, financial managers and civil society campaigners to consider nuclear weapons and fossil fuel divestment and impact investment for a sustainable future.

The Basel Peace Forum, which precedes the meeting, will be focusing on peacebuilding and impact investment, providing some useful background for the January 15th meeting. Participants in the January 15th meeting will also be invited to the Basel Peace Forum.

Draft program (with invited speakers) –

9:15 Welcome: Professor Dr Andreas Nidecker, President of the Basel Peace Office

Opening address: Elisabeth Ackermann, President, Basel Stadt Kanton. Member, Mayors for Peace

Keynote: Thore Vestby, Vice-President of Mayors for Peace

Keynote: Christine Muttonen, PNND Co-President

10:00 **NUCLEAR RISK REDUCTION AND DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES AT CITY, REGIONAL AND FEDERAL LEVELS:**

- Mayors for Peace Action Plan: Sean Morris, Convener of Mayors for Peace European Section, Manchester City Council
- Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapon Free World: Marzhan Nurzhan, PNND Program Officer.

Discussion

11:15 Coffee break

11:45 **MOVE THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS MONEY**

- Introduction to nuclear weapons divestment: Alyn Ware, PNND Global Coordinator and Co-founder of Move the Nuclear Weapons Money
- Examples at regional level. Thies Kaetow, World Future Council research officer on divestment
- Nuclear divestment of pension funds: Rudolf Rechsteiner, Consultant on fair pension fund auditing and sound public finances.

Discussion

12:45 Seminar conclusion and notices: Professor Dr Andreas Nidecker