

Nuclear Free Local Authorities **briefing**



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Subject: The 2013 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference, Mayors for Peace '2020 Vision Campaign' meetings and NFLA / Abolition 2000 / Mayors for Peace / PNND joint seminar, Edinburgh City Chambers

1. Introduction

This NFLA Policy Briefing has been developed by the NFLA Secretary to outline the involvement he and the NFLA Chair had with the 2013 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference (NPT PrepCom) which took place at UN Buildings in Geneva in the first week of May. The NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary attended the meeting as nominated representatives of Manchester, in relation to Manchester City Council being a Vice President of Mayors for Peace. In parallel to the NPT PrepCom, the Mayors for Peace also held a number of important internal meetings. A civic reception for Mayors for Peace and members of the diplomatic community was kindly provided by the Mayor of Geneva.

The Mayors for Peace is a 5,645 member local authority group led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which campaigns for a nuclear weapons free world (1). The Mayors for Peace delegation in Geneva included representatives from Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan), Ypres (Belgium), Granollers (Spain), Manchester (UK), Biograd na Moru (Croatia), Malakoff (France) and Cochin (India). During the two Mayors for Peace meetings additional representatives from Frogn (Norway) and Hanover (Germany) also took part through a video-conference. Mayors for Peace Secretariat and 2020 Vision officers (2) from Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Ypres and staff based in Austria, Brazil and the United States were also present at the meetings and organised the international delegation.

In addition, this briefing considers NFLA involvement in supporting part of the Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh and a special NFLA Scotland joint seminar with Abolition 2000, Mayors for Peace and Parliamentarians for Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament (PNND), held the week prior to the NPT PrepCom. It also outlines the main outcomes from the NPT PrepCom. A key aim of the NFLA remains to campaign for a nuclear weapons free world and involvement with the Mayors for Peace and at the NPT, the main international structure for seeking nuclear disarmament, is the primary way it advances this aim.

2. Abolition 2000 AGM and the NFLA Scotland Seminar on the nuclear weapons issue in 2013

In January 2013 the NFLA Secretariat was contacted by the organisers of the Abolition 2013 Annual General Meeting, which was being held between April 15 and 17 in Edinburgh. It agreed to organise a joint seminar to take advantage of a number of prominent figures from the Abolition 2000 Network being in Edinburgh. This would also encourage further co-operation between the NFLA, Abolition 2000, Mayors for Peace and PNND.

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Abolition 2000 is a network of over 2000 civil society organisations that campaigns for a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons. It was established in 1995 at a time when concerns were raised that the NPT may lapse and not be renewed. In its founding 'Abolition 2000 statement' it also called for a phasing out of nuclear energy and the creation of an International Renewable Energy Agency, and for the NPT to be redrafted to remove the clauses over 'the peaceful use of atomic energy'. (3)

The Abolition 2000 AGM in Edinburgh focused particularly on the recent debate in Scotland over the current Scottish Government's policy to remove Trident nuclear weapon armed submarines from Scotland in the event of a 'Yes' vote in the 2014 Scottish independent referendum. International activists that attended the AGM were keenly interested in the debate over Trident in Scotland and the wider UK, and also that it is likely to be a significant issue in both the referendum debate and, in terms of Trident replacement, with the forthcoming 2015 UK General Election.

NFLA Scotland members were invited to attend the Abolition 2000 AGM's closing event which was held in the Scottish Parliament. This event included short presentations from MSP's, a Scottish Government Minister and some of the international representatives attending the AGM. A keynote address was given by the former Mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatoshi Akiba. An Abolition 2000 delegation also travelled to the Faslane naval base on the west coast of Scotland, the home base of Trident submarines, and delivered a strongly worded statement agreed at its AGM to the Faslane Base Commander (4).

The joint NFLA Scotland, Mayors for Peace, Abolition 2000 and PNND seminar considered some of the current national and international issues with nuclear weapons non-proliferation prior to the NPT PrepCom and in the lead-up to the next main NPT Conference in 2015. It also welcomed the closer co-operation between the four organisations and other key disarmament groups like the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), of which NFLA decided in December 2012 to become a formal supporting organisation of its UK branch. (5)

The excellent speaker panel for this event included:

- Tadatoshi Akiba, former Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, and now chair of the influential foreign policy group, the Middle Powers Initiative.
- Laurie Ross, the Secretary of the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone and Peacemaking Association.
- Matt Robson, a former New Zealand Government Minister for Arms Control and Disarmament and now the SE Asia Co-ordinator for PNND.
- Bill Kidd MSP, Co-Chair of PNND and Co-Chair of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Weapons.

Disappointingly, a fifth speaker, the Kazakh artist and a survivor of the Soviet Union's nuclear weapon testing programme, Karipbek Kuyukov, was unable to attend the seminar due to not receiving a visa to travel to the UK in time. The BBC News website highlighted this matter in some detail. (6)

The seminar was wide-ranging in scope and allowed for a very useful discussion of some of the key issues in Scotland, the wider UK and at the international level with the nuclear weapons issue. The seminar also allowed for valuable co-operation between the four groups, which is to be continued whenever possible and practical in the future. A full summary of this interesting seminar has been placed on the NFLA website –

http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/NFLA_Edinburgh_NW_joint_seminar.pdf.

3. Context to the NPT PrepCom and the Oslo Conference

The United Nations (UN) Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) is discussed on a five yearly cycle, with the next formal Review Conference in 2015 in New York. As part of this cycle, NPT Preparatory Conferences, which allow for developing ongoing progress with the Treaty, are held at UN offices in Vienna in 2012, Geneva in 2013 and New York in 2014. Since its inception in 1982, Mayors for Peace have been present at every NPT Review Conference and NPT Preparatory Conferences, and also took an active part in the Oslo Conference noted below. The NFLA Secretary attended the 2012 NPT PrepCom as part of a Mayors for Peace international delegation. A full report of the actions from this conference can be found in NFLA Policy Briefing 97. (7)

The NPT is the international treaty arrangement overseeing the process to deliver global nuclear weapons disarmament. When developed in the late 1960s it was seen as a compromise agreement by which the then existing nuclear weapons states (NWS) – USA, the Soviet Union (now Russia), UK and France, often referred to as the 'P5' – agreed to work to reduce and eventually eliminate their weapon stockpiles, whilst all other non nuclear weapon states (NNWS) agreed not to seek to develop a nuclear weapons programme.

The NPT regime has had many stresses and strains in its operation. There remains great frustration by the substantial NNWS group about the slow reductions in nuclear weapon stockpiles and ongoing moves by the existing NWS group to continue to maintain and replace them, even after the end of the Cold War (8). There have also been a number of states that have acquired nuclear weapons since the Treaty was signed – notably Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea.

The context to the 2013 NPT PrepCom was dominated by considerable international concerns over the alarming enhancements to North Korea's nuclear weapons programme and 'sabre-rattling' by the new North Korean leader Kim Jong-un against South Korea and the United States. There also continued to remain concerns about the Iranian nuclear programme and the possibility of a future conflagration with Israel. Within the Middle East there remained considerable disappointment and frustration about the postponement of a Conference on discussing a Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ) in Helsinki, one of the key actions from the 2010 NPT Review Conference. (9).

On the positive side, prior to the 2013 NPT PrepCom, the international community took part in the Norwegian Government's UN Special Conference on 'The Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons', one of the action points from the 2012 NPT PrepCom (10).

The Oslo Conference in March 2013 was attended by 127 Governmental delegations and it allowed for a thorough and detailed consideration of the impact of a nuclear weapon attack on a civilian population and how it would also trigger issues like catastrophic climate change (11). A major parallel civil society event at the conference organised by the International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) provided Governmental delegations significant information around the medical, emergency planning and environmental issues related to a nuclear weapons attack on a major European city (12). The Oslo Conference provided an important context to a large part of the discussion at the PrepCom, but the absence of all of the P5 states and Israel from this conference was a major disappointment. In a joint statement the P5 states called the Oslo Conference a 'distraction'. Encouragingly, the Governments of India and Pakistan did attend the Oslo Conference.

In his closing statement to the Oslo Conference, its Chair, Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide concluded that the key points from the conference included:

- It is unlikely that any state or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation in an adequate manner and provide sufficient assistance to those affected. Moreover, it might not be possible to establish such capacities, even if it were attempted. .
- The historical experience from the use and testing of nuclear weapons has demonstrated their devastating immediate and long-term effects. While political circumstances have changed, the destructive potential of nuclear weapons remains. .
- The effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, irrespective of cause, will not be constrained by national borders, and will affect states and people in significant ways, regionally as well as globally. (13)

Civic society groups like ICAN, Mayors for Peace and the Red Cross were very encouraged with this Conference, and with the decision to hold a follow-up event in 2014, which will be held in Mexico. (14)

4. NPT PrepCom and Mayors for Peace / NGO Involvement

With the context of international tension in the Korean Peninsula and continued concerns in the Middle East on one side, and a successful international conference on nuclear weapons that was effectively boycotted by the P5 states on the other, the NPT PrepCom in Geneva had a number of contradictory trends to try and resolve.

The 2013 NPT PrepCom was chaired by Ambassador Cornel Feruta of Romania. In his opening address to the Conference, Ambassador Ceruta argued that the main aim of the PrepCom was to take stock of progression with the Treaty since the 2010 Review Conference and seek to resolve those action points that had not taken place. (15)

At the NPT PrepCom, the international Mayors for Peace delegation were actively involved in a number of ways, including:

- Direct face-to-face discussions with national Ambassadorial delegations in a 'Mayors for Peace' corner;
- Presentations to the NPT PrepCom in co-operation with other international NGOs;
- Involvement in a number of informative seminars throughout the first week of the Conference;
- A Mayors for Peace exhibition in the hall opposite the NPT PrepCom;
- A special reception for Ambassadors and Mayors for Peace delegates hosted by the Mayor of Geneva.

5. UK – France Seminar on its Defence Treaty 'Teutates'

During the first week of the NPT PrepCom, NGO's are encouraged to lobby national governments and hold seminars on relevant topics.

One such seminar, organised by CND, brought together the UK and the French Ambassadors to the NPT and two NGO representatives, Peter Burt of the Nuclear Information Service and Dominique Lalane of Abolition 2000 France. The seminar considered the UK-French Defence Treaty which allows for co-operation on nuclear weapons technology and other defence and security matters of mutual interest.

The Teutates Defence Treaty (16) was agreed between Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy in 2011. It is a Treaty that will last for at least 50 years and one of its primary roles is to cooperate to maintain the safety and reliability of each country's nuclear weapons programme. Such cooperation saves "considerable sums" to each Government. (17)

In his presentation to the seminar, Peter Burt suggested the Teutates Treaty shows contradictions with the spirit, if not the letter, of the NPT. Though Article I of the Treaty bans the transfer of nuclear weapons, it does not prohibit bilateral discussions. Article VI of the Treaty urges 'good faith' in the moves to bring about nuclear disarmament. A 50 year Defence Treaty certainly does not suggest either the UK or France see an early date for significant nuclear weapons disarmament. (18) The presentation also postulated whether a legal opinion had been garnered to check the Teutates Treaty was compatible with the NPT. There are also concerns that the Treaty does not encourage a great sense of openness and transparency. By also closely connecting together on nuclear weapons research, the Treaty also makes it more difficult for either government in the future to make a unilateral decision on disarmament.

In her presentation to the seminar, UK NPT PrepCom Ambassador Jo Adamson responded to Peter Burt's main points. She noted that as long as the UK holds nuclear weapons, it was their duty to keep them reliable and safe, and the Teutates Treaty provides benefit to the UK and France to do this. The Treaty is also consistent with both the NPT and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and both the UK and France continue to maintain a moratorium on weapons testing. The Treaty is about responsible stewardship and the nuclear element of it is only a smaller part of a wider defence cooperation treaty which does not preclude either government taking an active part in disarmament discussions. The UK Government does not comment on internal legal discussions, but they are satisfied that the Treaty does not breach either the NPT or the CTBT. The UK Government remain committed to encouraging multilateral progress with the NPT. In terms of openness and transparency, the Ambassador noted that she had discussions with a number of NGOs prior to the NPT PrepCom, and speaking at this seminar was an example of seeking to be as transparent as possible.

In his presentation, France's NPT PrepCom Ambassador Jean Hugues Simon-Michel reiterated that France and the UK Government's continue to have a shared commitment to nuclear disarmament. He did though go on to note that he felt nuclear weapons would remain as a part of each country's defence policies for some years to come. He noted that France and the UK were the first two

countries to sign the CTBT. The Defence Treaty reflects the fact that both countries have a similar research capability and so would benefit from joint cooperation. He noted that the 'EPURE' research facility is not designed for new nuclear warhead technology. The Treaty also did not preclude the independence of each countries own nuclear technology.

In the final seminar presentation, Dominique Lalanne noted that in 2012 the French Senate had drafted a formal opinion on nuclear weapons and future disarmament strategy which was meant to reply to critics of its nuclear weapons policy. He argued that if the UK was to ever abandon its nuclear weapons programme it would leave France isolated within Europe as the main nuclear weapon state, a concern of the French Senate. The Teutates Treaty has a key role in 'modernising' the nuclear weapons research systems of both countries. The EPURE facility will allow for the development of 3-D aspects of simulated explosions. Developing such information does create the possibility for future technology improvement and 'modernised' weaponry. Such weapons may be more safe and reliable but they also become essentially improved weaponry with a more destructive power and may be of more use than the sub-critical tests banned under the CTBT.

In the panel discussion a question was asked as to why the UK, France and the other members of the 'P5' did not attend the Oslo Conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. The UK Ambassador confirmed that it had been a joint decision not to attend the conference, but that each member of the 'P5' took humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons very seriously. The Ambassador argued that the current 'step-by-step' approach taken by the P5 has been the most effective way of keeping peace (the absence of the use of nuclear weapons) whilst gradually reducing the threat of a future use of nuclear weapons. (19)

There were also a number of other important fringe events which took place at the conference, such as CND UK's event on Trident replacement with Sir Nick Harvey, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Bill Kidd MSP, and Kate Hudson; a report on progress in implementing the New START Treaty with Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary at the US State Department and Anatoly Antanov, Russia's Deputy Defence Minister; and continuing progress in meeting the recommendations of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, with former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

5. Main outcomes from the 2013 NPT PrepCom

In her assessment of the NPT PrepCom, Ray Acheson of the NGO 'Reaching Critical Will' (which facilitates the response of NGOs at NPT conference) noted that the "key issues facing states parties at this meeting included the nuclear weapon possessors' failure to comply with their disarmament obligations; the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons; and the failure to convene a 2012 conference on a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) free zone in the Middle East." (20)

The PrepCom did not significantly resolve any of these issues, nor did it make any real progress with ensuring there would be real progress with the 2015 NPT Review Conference. One of the most notable events during the PrepCom was the walking out of the Conference by the Egyptian delegation over growing frustration with the lack of progress over the Middle East Conference and the general lack of progress in nuclear disarmament talks. Acheson notes that this indicates significant stress on the NPT regime as it moves towards the 2015 Conference.

The 2013 NPT PrepCom is the halfway point in the current round of the NPT regime and should be a time for assessing implementation of the Treaty and looking ahead to the 2015 Conference. However, Acheson argued that "most of the PrepCom consisted of statements making the usual complaints or demands. Reviews of what has been implemented so far were provided more by civil society groups than states parties. Aside from one session devoted to proposals for institutional reform, states did not focus on elaborating next steps to improve a situation that almost everyone agrees is becoming dangerously untenable." (21)

In Acheson's view, the lack of real progress comes out of a NPT review cycle that favours the status quo over new ideas for momentum in the process, so as to ensure the "stability" of the regime. The "stability" being Article VI of the Treaty, which is interpreted by the P5 as allowing them to possess such weapons as long as they continue to say they will eventually get rid of them. Those countries

that push for a timetable to remove nuclear weapons are then told by the P5 that they are upsetting 'strategic balance'.

The Oslo Conference was an example of the frustration with which NNWS countries are becoming with this attitude. A key early part of the 2013 PrepCom was a joint statement, coordinated by South Africa and signed by 80 NPT states, which condemned the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. The statement said: "It is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances. We owe it to future generations to work together to rid our world of the threat posed by nuclear weapons."

The P5 largely ignored this statement, claiming that the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are so well known there is little, if any, point in discussing them. It was notable that allies of the P5 like Japan, Sweden and Australia did not sign the statement and most NATO countries, particularly those that host US nuclear weapons on their soil, also did not sign the statement. However, four NATO members – Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Luxembourg – did sign it. This growing gulf within the NPT regime is a real concern for the 2015 Conference. (22)

The frustration of the NNWS also came across in many statements that the P5 were taking too long to progress nuclear disarmament. The only tangible result from the 2013 PrepCom was the creation of an agreed glossary of nuclear terms - a quite disappointing state of affairs given the optimism that flowed from the 2010 Review Conference and 2012 NPT PrepCom.

The other area of real contention in the PrepCom was the failure to develop a Middle East Conference on developing a nuclear weapon free zone in the region. The Finnish Government had worked hard to deliver this conference in 2012 / 13 but in December 2012 the United States Government announced a postponement of the conference as key states were unlikely to attend. Russia and the Arab League disagreed with the US decision. At the PrepCom the majority view was that this Conference needed to be held as soon as possible in 2013, as one of the key actions from the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Finland has offered to hold multilateral talks as soon as is practical but major disagreements exist over the content and the agenda for the conference – leading very much to Egypt's walk-out from the Conference. (23)

The main international NGOs were very aware of these problems and concerned over the lack of progress. It was noticeable in the NGO session at the conference, which was facilitated by ICAN, that there was a general lack of engagement by states parties to the detailed points put forward by specialist ICAN speakers. Speeches by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and by a survivor of the atomic bombings were well received by delegates but the lack of progress with the wider conference was noticeable. In addition, Mayors for Peace representatives also directly lobbied specific delegations in a 'Mayors corner' in the Assembly Hall. A useful civic reception, hosted by the Mayor of Geneva, allowed for continued lobbying of delegations, including the Chair of the NPT PrepCom.

It should be noted that some NGOs are now advocating that non-nuclear weapon states should take rapid steps towards introducing a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, even if this does not have the consent of the nuclear-weapon states. (24) It will be interesting to see how this discussion moves forward.

6. The future development for the NPT

The reasonable optimism that was evident after the 2010 NPT Review Conference appeared to have largely evaporated by this 2013 NPT PrepCom. The outcomes and joint working of a large number of Governments at the Oslo Conference and onwards are to be welcomed, but it is coming up against a fairly intransigent approach in the 'P5' and their allies, which has to be of concern going towards the 2015 NPT Review Conference. Egypt's walk-out is indicative of real strains and frustrations within the NPT regime. The wider signs of concern with North Korea and with Iran in one area, and of nuclear security and nuclear terrorism in the other, add to a wider level of concern. There remains much work to be done at the 2014 PrepCom to catalyse real change at the 2015 Review Conference.

It is therefore incumbent on the international NGO movement and local government groups like Mayors for Peace and NFLA to seek to promote the positive elements in the disarmament debate and

work together to offer alternative visions that could help break the impasse. As an example, Mayors for Peace staff have started to attend meetings of the 'Open Ended Working Group' on nuclear disarmament which has been established by the UN General Assembly. This is seeking innovative new solutions to restart more fruitful discussion on nuclear weapons disarmament. (25) Other groups like ICAN are also seeking to develop new strategies and working with state parties to find innovative solutions for 2014 and 2015. NFLA will keep a close eye on these discussions and contribute whenever and wherever it is practical to do so.

7. Mayors for Peace – 'Hanover Process' meeting

Separate to the NPT PrepCom, the Mayors for Peace held two important meetings relating to its own future governance and the development of the organisation.

The first of these meetings was to consider the future development, financing and structure of Mayors for Peace. The organisation has had a rapid and remarkable increase in membership in the past decade. When the Mayors for Peace's '2020 Vision' was launched in 2001 it had just over 500 members. As of the time of the NPT PrepCom, membership had reached an eleven times increase of over 5,500 members.

Such a rapid expansion, though welcome, leaves important issues to resolve. The Mayors for Peace Executive Conference meeting in Granollers, Spain in November 2011 decided to establish a sub-group to consider how to create a robust structure to ensure a secure financial base, a strong leadership team and to catalyse the benefits of such a substantial membership and deepen involvement in the organisation.

As the first meeting of this process was held in Hanover this reorganisation has been called the 'Hanover Process'. Meetings were held in Hannover, Vienna (around the 2012 NPT PrepCom) and Froyen, Norway. The meeting in Geneva allowed for the last main opportunity for discussion of the Hiroshima Secretariat's proposals before they are voted on at the Mayors for Peace Executive and General Conference in Hiroshima in August, 2013.

The Hiroshima Secretariat put forward three main proposals at the meeting:

- To develop a small voluntary membership fee of 2000 yen (around £20) which will develop the principle of paying for Mayors for Peace membership, but which will not be so high as to preclude membership.
- The development of national / regional chapters of Mayors for Peace to create greater ownership of the organisation at the local level. This will also involve an expansion of the number of leadership cities who will assist in local leadership, fundraising and promotion.
- The strengthening of the global administration of Mayors for Peace at the Hiroshima and (at least up to 2020) at Ypres.

The Hiroshima Secretariat also offered as part of this proposal to donate tree seeds and peace flames to any member city that would wish to have them. The seeds come from trees at the Hiroshima Peace Park and the peace flames would be taken from the eternal flame to the victims of the atomic bombings in the Peace Park. The logistics for undertaking both initiatives is being investigated.

A useful and wide-ranging discussion took place between the Board members over these proposals, which were generally acceptable to them. The main focus of future discussion would be how these measures can be taken forward, assuming their approval in August, and the capacity of leadership cities to take on such duties. It was agreed that this was a gradual process and that it would help to make Mayors for Peace a more effective and well organised local government organisation. The paper, subject to some minor amendments, would be tabled in Hiroshima for the Executive and General Conference to approve.

8. Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign General Meeting

The Mayors for Peace currently has two Secretariats – the Hiroshima Secretariat takes responsibility for General and Executive Conferences and all international membership issues, whilst the Ypres Secretariat co-ordinates the activity behind the Mayors for Peace's main '2020 Vision Campaign'. The

2020 Vision Campaign works closely at the UN diplomatic level in New York, Geneva and Vienna and promotes the aim of a nuclear weapons free world within its membership and relevant national governments.

Prior to the Geneva meetings, a 2020 Vision Board meeting teleconference was held. In Geneva, the opportunity was taken to hold a General Meeting to elect officers, approve its annual budget, discuss its progress report and consider its future campaign plans.

Key decisions that were made at the meeting included:

- The Mayor of Frogn, Thore Vestby, was elected as the Vice President of the 2020 Vision Board.
- Existing 2020 Vision Board Directors were reconfirmed.
- Associate Members of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association were reconfirmed – they are Ashkelon, Israel; Basel, Switzerland; Bastogne, Belgium; Cochin/Kochi, India; Florencio Valera, Argentina; Fremantle, Australia; Glasgow, UK; Matagalpa, Nicaragua; Montes de Oro, Costa Rica; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Sabana de la Mar, Dominican Republic; San Borja, Peru; Vitória, Brazil; and Zemer, Israel. Such members agree to assist Vice President Cities and Executive Cities in providing local leadership to Mayors for Peace.
- The Board's financial report was approved and it was agreed that fund-raising needed to be given more focus at the local and international level.
- The 2020 Vision's Progress Report for 2013 was also provided to members. It provides an excellent summary of the activities of Mayors for Peace around the world.
- An update on Mayors for Peace involvement in a number of UN disarmament meetings was noted.
- A number of potential future events that would promote Mayors for Peace and the aims of the 2020 Vision in 2014 and 2015 were also outlined. They included a 'World Tour of hibakuska survivors through the Japanese Peace Boat project and a football tournament in Ypres in commemoration of the centenary of the First World War.

The main points from the meeting will be taken to the Executive Conference of the Mayors for Peace in August for further consideration and approval.

9. The 8th Mayors for Peace Conference, Hiroshima, August 3rd – 6th 2013

Every four years the Mayors for Peace holds its Executive and General Conference to focus on its wider development, consider the key issues in the nuclear weapons debate and plan its outline strategy for the next four years. These conferences alternate between Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The 2013 Conference will take place in the Hiroshima International Conference Centre on August 3rd – 6th 2013.

As noted above, the Executive Conference will focus on the reorganisation of the structure and financial underpinning of Mayors for Peace, and will also approve its action plan for 2013 – 2017.

The keynote theme of the General Conference will be "Towards a World without Nuclear Weapons: Conveying the "Spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the World?" It will be divided into four specific sessions:

- Deliberation and discussion of Action Plans to the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision and measures to strengthen the Mayors for Peace.
- Future initiatives of the 2020 Vision Campaign.
- Establishing regional groupings of Mayors for Peace and facilitating regional activities and citizen involvement.
- The Path towards the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Conference will also facilitate a meeting of the Japanese Chapter of Mayors for Peace and a dialogue session between Mayors for Peace and foreign government delegations and international NGOs.

The final event of the proceedings will be the Hiroshima Annual Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6th, the 68th anniversary of the atomic bombing.

If you would like to register for the conference please go to the Mayors for Peace website as soon as possible – <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org> – where full details can be found.

The NFLA will have representatives at these meetings.

11. Conclusions and Recommendations

It remains very important that the NFLA and Mayors for Peace continue to remain fully engaged within the NPT regime. It is imperative both organisations seek to work with national delegations and other international NGOs committed to nuclear disarmament to find effective ways to break the current lack of progress which the 2013 NPT PrepCom has highlighted.

The NFLA Secretary and Chair, as Manchester’s representatives on the Mayors for Peace Executive Board during the meetings in Geneva, were treated with considerable respect and played an important role in developing the internal solutions that will lead to a more effective Mayors for Peace organisation. The planned changes to the structure and underpinning of Mayors for Peace that will be approved in August will help it move forward, but need to be done carefully to both catalyse more of its membership and retain the 5,600+ existing membership. Like with the NPT, taking a global organisation forward is no easy task but it is imperative that it continues to play the effective role it does at NPT related meetings.

The close cooperation between NFLA and Mayors for Peace needs to be maintained. The cooperation it has also enhanced in the past 6 months with ICAN-UK, Abolition 2000 and PNND will also be useful in keeping its nuclear policy in this important area relevant and up-to-date. There is considerable uncertainty and concern with the future development of the NPT and the wider nuclear weapons debate. That means it is all the more important that NFLA and Mayors for Peace stay completely engaged within this process.

The NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary would like to thank the Mayors for Peace Secretariats in Hiroshima and Ypres and the other members of the international Mayors for Peace delegation at the 2013 NPT PrepCom for sharing in a common vision of a nuclear weapons free world. It is important it continues to work in its usual practical manner with state parties and international NGOs for delivering on that vision.

12. References

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- (2) Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
- (3) Abolition 2000 http://www.abolition2000.org/?page_id=2
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- (15) The NPT PrepCom Chairman's Opening Ceremony can be downloaded from: http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/npt/prepcom13/statements/22April_Feruta.pdf
- (16) UK Government Treaties – Teutates Treaty, December 2010 <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm79/7975/7975.pdf>
- (17) The content of Peter Burt's presentation to the NPT fringe event can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.ocm/teutates-npt> and a video shot by NIS at the NPT PrepCom, which touches on many of the issues mentioned in the report can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXFChXy4bwA>
- (18) See reference (17).
- (19) Detailed notes taken by the NFLA Secretary at the fringe event. The accuracy of these notes is the responsibility of the NFLA Secretary.
- (20) Ray Acheson, Reaching Critical Will – Summary report of the 2013 NPT Report for WISE News May 2013 Newsletter. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter go to <http://www10.antenna.nl/wise>. The NFLA Secretary can email a copy of this report on request.
- (21) See reference (20).
- (22) See reference (20).
- (23) See reference (20).
- (24) For further discussion on new NGO thinking see <http://www.wildfire-v.org>
- (25) Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign May 2013 <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/en/home/artikel/bfc8c6460a724c31e0e42f82f351f7cd/mayors-for-peace-calls-on-diplomats.html>

Appendix 1 – Some photos from the NPT PrepCom and Mayors for Peace meetings
(All pictures courtesy of the Mayors for Peace International Secretariat, Hiroshima)



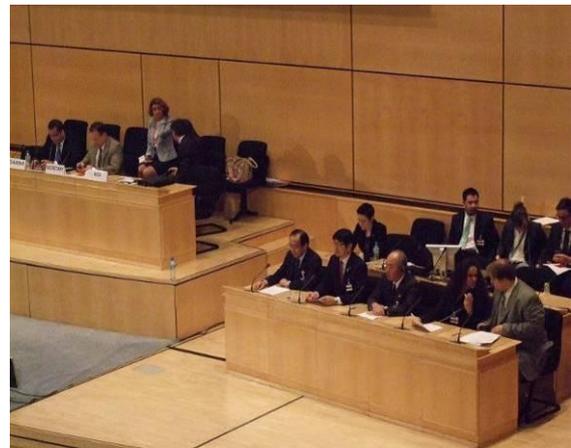
Mayors for Peace delegation meeting the Australian NPT Ambassador.



Mayors for Peace delegation meeting the Philippines Ambassador / 2012 NPT Prep Com Chair.



Mayors for Peace 'Hanover Process' meeting in Geneva Conference Centre.



Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki addressing the NPT PrepCom 2013.



Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign General Meeting in Geneva.



Mayor of Geneva, Mayor of Hiroshima and NPT PrepCom Chair at civic reception.