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秋葉忠利

December 24, 2009

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
United Nations
New York, NY, 10017
U.S.A.

Dear Secretary-General:

I would again like to express that it was a rare privilege for me to meet you in Mexico City.

Allow me to begin by reaffirming that the international network of Mayors for Peace is at your service and dedicated to the realization of your five-point plan during the International Decade for Disarmament, 2010-2020.

✓ The citizens of Hiroshima continue to anticipate that you will accept my invitation to take part in the events marking the 65th anniversary of the atomic bombing. //

While here in Hiroshima recently, Mayor Marcelo Ebrard reminded me that he has asked you to address the Third World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments. I urge you to accept that invitation as well; the Congress represents an outstanding opportunity to gain the formal support of city leaders throughout the world for achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world without further delay. ?

The Mayors for Peace network aims to be 5000 strong – representing over one billion people – by the time of the Eighth NPT Review Conference. We are asking all our friends to help us reach that ambitious goal, so I presume to ask you as well. We would be grateful if you could write a very brief note encouraging mayors to join Mayors for Peace. It could be based on the very well-received message you sent to our General Conference in Nagasaki.

To round out our requests for the coming year, you are hereby invited to address the event Mayors for Peace is holding during the NPT Review Conference. On May 4th, we will mark the beginning of the International Decade for Disarmament. We are determined that this shall be the decisive decade for nuclear disarmament; in short, your five-point plan should be realized during this decade. If you would speak about the plan and how we, as mayors, can help you advance it, I can promise you a most receptive audience.

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As you may be aware, the Disarmament Commission is slated to conclude the drafting of the Declaration of the Decade at its April session. The General Assembly – on the basis of the 2006, 2008, and 2009 General Assembly resolutions – should then promulgate the Declaration. In this regard, I would like to make one minor request. As soon as the New Year has begun, please, whenever possible, mention the International Decade for Disarmament in consultations and public statements on international peace and security. I can assure you we will be doing more than our share to make it widely known.

In fact, Hiroshima and Nagasaki are now engaged in a feasibility study aimed at making a bid for the 2020 Olympic Games. We hope to make these games a grand, global celebration of our re-entry into a nuclear-weapon-free world.

With the greatest respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tadatoshi Akiba', written in a cursive style.

Tadatosh Akiba
Mayor
The City of Hiroshima