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À GENÈVE

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AT GENEVA

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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EDUCATIONAL

19 May 2016

Dear Secretary-General,

It was my great pleasure to accept on your behalf a tree from the president of Mayors for Peace, Hiroshima Mayor Kayumi Matsui, on 2 May 2016. As a sapling from a tree that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, this *Ginkgo biloba* symbolizes the possibility of a future free from the scourge of nuclear weapons. It is the wish of the Mayors for Peace that you symbolically plant this tree in Ariana Park during your next visit to the Palais des Nations. In the meantime, the United Nations Office at Geneva will care for it. ✓

I also accepted on your behalf three documents from the Mayors for Peace: a letter from Mr. Matsui, an open letter from the Mayors for Peace calling for renewed international attention to nuclear disarmament and a copy of the August 2015 "Peace Declaration" by the City of Hiroshima. The originals were sent to Mr. Kim Won-soo, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for his perusal. ✓ *Ref*  
*16-04675*  
*(attached)*

<sup>M</sup>Mr. Katsui's visit coincided with the start of the Second Session of the Open-ended Working Group on multilateral nuclear disarmament at the Palais des Nations. It was my pleasure to welcome this much-needed effort to re-inject energy into nuclear disarmament in Geneva.

I thank you for your continued leadership on nuclear disarmament and arms limitation and look forward to your next visit to Switzerland.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Møller

The Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

cc: Mr. Kim Won-soo



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EUROCENTRAL

## Mayors for Peace

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Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

May 4, 2016

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

### Request to Work toward the Early Realization of a Nuclear Weapons Convention

Since its inception in 1982, Mayors for Peace has strived through inter-city solidarity around the globe for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace. Mayors for Peace is currently comprised of over 7,000 member cities in 161 countries and regions worldwide, with its membership ever increasing. The organization has grown to approximately one billion citizen members, making up one-seventh of the world's total population.

As stated in the Open Letter from Mayors for Peace which we recently sent, we mayors, who bear a strong sense of responsibility for the safety and welfare of our citizens, wholeheartedly support the General Assembly's decision to establish the second Open-ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament and place high expectations on it to address "concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms" needed to achieve global nuclear disarmament. This letter urges all UN Member States to participate in this Working Group, start constructive discussions on a nuclear weapons convention, and begin negotiations to conclude one.

We believe that the legal prohibition of nuclear weapons would strengthen the security of all. All countries already support nuclear disarmament as a goal—it is now time to start the discussions to translate that goal into concrete actions. Legally binding commitments including those relating to verification, irreversibility, and transparency will pave the way for a world without nuclear weapons. We must also not neglect the efforts to limit conventional arms, reduce military spending, and reinforce the basic norms of the UN Charter with respect to the prohibition of threats of use of force and the duty to resolve disputes by peaceful means, which all contribute to strengthening of the security of all States. Discussions on nuclear disarmament must be parallel to these efforts.

The five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament Your Excellency made in 2008 is growing ever more important now, when the average age of the atomic bomb survivors, who hold the wish in their hearts to see nuclear weapons abolition in their lifetimes, is over 80. We would like to reiterate our gratitude for Your Excellency's continuous efforts in this regard, and respectfully request your further leadership in launching substantive negotiations leading to an early realization of a nuclear weapons convention.

Respectfully yours,

松井一實

MATSUI Kazumi  
Mayor of Hiroshima  
President of Mayors for Peace





## The City of Hiroshima

### PEACE DECLARATION

August 6, 2015

In our town, we had the warmth of family life, the deep human bonds of community, festivals heralding each season, traditional culture and buildings passed down through history, as well as riversides where children played. At 8:15 a.m., August 6, 1945, all of that was destroyed by a single atomic bomb. Below the mushroom cloud, a charred mother and child embraced, countless corpses floated in rivers, and buildings burned to the ground. Tens of thousands were burned in those flames. By year's end, 140,000 irreplaceable lives had been taken, that number including Koreans, Chinese, Southeast Asians, and American prisoners of war.

Those who managed to survive, their lives grotesquely distorted, were left to suffer serious physical and emotional aftereffects compounded by discrimination and prejudice. Children stole or fought routinely to survive. A young boy rendered an A-bomb orphan still lives alone; a wife was divorced when her exposure was discovered. The suffering continues.

"*Madotekure!*" This is the heartbroken cry of *hibakusha* who want Hiroshima—their hometown, their families, their own minds and bodies—put back the way it was.

One hundred years after opening as the Hiroshima Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall and 70 years after the atomic bombing, the A-bomb Dome still watches over Hiroshima. In front of this witness to history, I want us all, once again, to face squarely what the A-bomb did and embrace fully the spirit of the *hibakusha*.

Meanwhile, our world still bristles with more than 15,000 nuclear weapons, and policymakers in the nuclear-armed states remain trapped in provincial thinking, repeating by word and deed their nuclear intimidation. We now know about the many incidents and accidents that have taken us to the brink of nuclear war or nuclear explosions. Today, we worry as well about nuclear terrorism.

As long as nuclear weapons exist, anyone could become a *hibakusha* at any time. If that happens, the damage will reach indiscriminately beyond national borders. People of the world, please listen carefully to the words of the *hibakusha* and, profoundly accepting the spirit of Hiroshima, contemplate the nuclear problem as your own.

A woman who was 16 at the time appeals, "Expanding ever wider the circle of harmony that includes your family, friends, and neighbors links directly to world peace. Empathy, kindness, solidarity—these are not just intellectual concepts; we have to feel them in our bones." A man who was 12 emphasizes, "War means tragedy for adults and children alike. Empathy, caring, loving others and oneself—this is where peace comes from."

These heartrending messages, forged in a cauldron of suffering and sorrow, transcend hatred and rejection. Their spirit is generosity and love for humanity; their focus is the future of humankind.

Human beings transcend differences of nationality, race, religion, and language to live out our one-time-only lives on the planet we share. To coexist we must abolish the absolute evil and ultimate inhumanity that is nuclear weapons. Now is the time to start taking action. Young people are already starting petition drives, posting messages, organizing marches and launching a variety of efforts. Let's all work together to build an enormous ground swell.

In this milestone 70th year, the average *hibakusha* is now over 80 years old. The city of Hiroshima will work even harder to preserve the facts of the bombing, disseminate them to the world, and convey them to coming generations. At the same time, as president of Mayors for Peace, now with more than 6,700 member cities, Hiroshima will act with determination, doing everything in our power to accelerate the international trend toward negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention and abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

Is it not the policymakers' proper role to pursue happiness for their own people based on generosity and love of humanity? Policymakers meeting tirelessly to talk—this is the first step toward nuclear weapons abolition. The next step is to create, through the trust thus won, broadly versatile security systems that do not depend on military might. Working with patience and perseverance to achieve those systems will be vital, and will require that we promote throughout the world the path to true peace revealed by the pacifism of the Japanese Constitution.

The summit meeting to be held in Japan's Ise-Shima next year and the foreign ministers' meeting to be held in Hiroshima prior to that summit are perfect opportunities to deliver a message about the abolition of nuclear weapons. President Obama and other policymakers, please come to the A-bombed cities, hear the *hibakusha* with your own ears, and encounter the reality of the atomic bombings. Surely, you will be impelled to start discussing a legal framework, including a nuclear weapons convention.

We call on the Japanese government, in its role as bridge between the nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon states, to guide all states toward these discussions, and we offer Hiroshima as the venue for dialogue and outreach. In addition, we ask that greater compassion for our elderly *hibakusha* and the many others who now suffer the effects of radiation be expressed through stronger support measures. In particular, we demand expansion of the "black rain areas."

Offering our heartfelt prayers for the peaceful repose of the A-bomb victims, we express as well our gratitude to the *hibakusha* and all our predecessors who worked so hard throughout their lives to rebuild Hiroshima and abolish nuclear weapons. Finally, we appeal to the people of the world: renew your determination. Let us work together with all our might for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace.

MATSUI Kazumi  
Mayor  
The City of Hiroshima





## Mayors for Peace

### Secretariat

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## OPEN LETTER FROM MAYORS FOR PEACE

We, Mayors for Peace, are writing today to express our sincere hope that all UN Member States will participate in the UN General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament and engage in constructive deliberations. Regardless of whether they are nuclear-weapon states or not, all States share a common duty to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Together, States must respect the wish of all people around the world to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Seventy years have passed since the General Assembly first established the goal of nuclear disarmament. Yet we are still living in a world filled with violence, countless seeds of conflict and nearly 16,000 nuclear warheads. Some political leaders have openly threatened to use such weapons, while others steadfastly support the use of nuclear weapons in accordance with the doctrine of nuclear deterrence. Above and beyond those risks lies the specter of nuclear terrorism, a major focus of the latest Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C. We are deeply concerned that, while nuclear weapons have not been used since the tragic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, the risk of use remains real and may even be growing due to accidents, miscalculations, and even the prospect of willful use. This dangerous situation is a special concern of ours because if such weapons were used—regardless of the reason—cities and their innocent people would surely pay the ultimate price.

This is why we mayors, who bear a strong sense of responsibility for the safety and welfare of our citizens, wholeheartedly support the General Assembly's decision to establish this second Open-ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament and place high expectations on it to address "concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms" needed to achieve global nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we strongly urge all UN Member States to participate in this Working Group and start constructive discussions on a nuclear weapons convention and negotiations to conclude one.

Not only can the current doctrine of nuclear deterrence fail with unacceptable humanitarian consequences, it can also lead to dangers of nuclear proliferation, as seen in North Korea's nuclear and missile developments. Furthermore we seriously question that nuclear deterrence can offer any effective solutions to the global security challenges we face today as we believe that nuclear weapons are useless both in preventing and responding to terrorism—and their very existence brings new risks of use, such as nuclear terrorism, with each passing day.

Emerging challenges demand new thinking and innovative approaches. The international community—including cities in particular—needs to join forces and seek security without reliance on nuclear deterrence, based on the earnest wish for peace shared by people at the grassroots. We therefore encourage world leaders, especially those in nuclear-weapon states and those under the 'nuclear umbrella' to:

1. unite under a shared awareness that we all belong to one human family
2. engage in innovative ways to achieve peace and security without nuclear weapons
3. and work collectively to enhance mutual understanding and appreciation of diversity.

Genuine security will be achieved only through dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation, not confrontation, mutual threats, or rivalry.

In such a light, we believe that the legal prohibition of nuclear weapons would strengthen the security of all. All countries already support nuclear disarmament as a goal—it is now time to start the discussions to translate that goal into concrete actions. Legally binding commitments including those relating to verification, irreversibility, and transparency will pave the way for a world without nuclear weapons. We must also not neglect the efforts to limit conventional arms, reduce military spending, and reinforce the basic norms of the UN Charter with respect to the prohibition of threats of use of force and the duty to resolve disputes by peaceful means, which all contribute to strengthening of the security of all States. Discussions on nuclear disarmament must be parallel to these efforts.



With this in mind, world leaders must exercise decisive leadership. With firm determination to prohibit nuclear weapons globally, they need to agree on a clear direction toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. This agreement between leaders is sure to accelerate nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives. Mayors for Peace, together with a wide range of civil society partners, wholeheartedly supports such initiatives as we believe that doing so will serve the interest of our citizens and, indeed, all humanity. We will also intensify our efforts to nurture an international environment that transcends differences and fosters the creation of common values.

On April 10 and 11, Hiroshima City was the site of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, in which the participants adopted the G7 Foreign Ministers' Hiroshima Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. This Declaration acknowledges that "the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki experienced immense devastation and human suffering as a consequence of the atomic bombings," encourages other political leaders to come to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and concludes that the foreign ministers "share the deep desire of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that nuclear weapons never be used again." During their visit to Hiroshima, the foreign ministers of the G7, consisting of nuclear-weapon states and states under the 'nuclear umbrella', saw firsthand the realities of the atomic bombing, shared their wish for peace, and reaffirmed their commitment to nuclear disarmament.

Mayors for Peace will continue to encourage leaders around the world to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to witness firsthand the horrific humanitarian consequences of the atomic bombings. As they visit these cities, we hope for them to see, hear, feel, think, and most of all, form an unshakable determination to advance towards a world free of nuclear weapons. It is our earnest hope that these leaders will start acting on behalf of nuclear disarmament with a profound understanding of the wishes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which stem from the *hibakusha*'s deep humanitarian conviction that "no one else should ever again suffer as we have."

Once again we express our strong hope that more representatives, including those from nuclear-weapon states, will participate in the Working Group and engage in constructive deliberations, leading to a final outcome of shared understanding of effective legal measures to advance to a world free of nuclear weapons.

April 22, 2016

#### Mayors for Peace

President	Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan	Executive	Governor of Bangkok, Thailand
Vice president	Mayor of Nagasaki, Japan	Executive	Mayor of Fremantle, Australia
Vice president	Lord Mayor of Hannover, Germany	Executive	Mayor of Semey, Kazakhstan
Vice president	Mayor of Volgograd, Russia	Executive	Mayor of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Vice president	Mayor of Malakoff, France	Executive	Mayor of Cochin, India
Vice president	Mayor of Muntinlupa, Philippines	Executive	Mayor of Montreal, Canada
Vice president	Lord Mayor of Manchester, U.K.	Executive	Mayor of Wellington, New Zealand
Vice president	Mayor of Akron, U.S.	Executive	Mayor of Santos, Brazil
Vice president	Mayor of Ypres, Belgium	Executive	Mayor of Cartago, Costa Rica
Vice president	Mayor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia	Executive	Mayor of Bogota, Colombia
Vice president	Mayor of Granollers, Spain		
Vice president	Mayor of Halabja, Iraq		
Vice president	Mayor of Brussels, Belgium		
Vice president	Mayor of Fongo-Tongo, Cameroon		
Vice president	Mayor of Mexico City, Mexico		
Vice president	Mayor of Frogn, Norway		