



Mayors for Peace

"I... wish to acknowledge the leadership of the distinguished mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, whose efforts through Mayors for Peace have gained recognition and respect throughout the world. Given the recent announcement by the UN Population Fund that the world's population is now predominantly urban, for the first time ever, mayors everywhere have a natural interest in ensuring that nuclear weapons are never used again. They understand that there is no more reliable way to achieve this than through the elimination of such weapons."

- United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon, August 6, 2008



Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan, is one of the most widely known and respected leaders in the global movement to eliminate nuclear weapons. Born in Tokyo, Mayor Akiba is the first non-native to be elected mayor of Hiroshima. It is a testimony to his long record of opposition to nuclear weapons that the survivors of the historic bombing have embraced him as a spokesperson for their fervent plea: *"No one else should ever suffer as we did."*

Mayor Akiba lived for many years in the United States. As a foreign exchange student he graduated from Elmwood Park High School in Illinois. He did his graduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning his Ph.D. in mathematics in 1970. He subsequently taught mathematics at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and Tufts University in Massachusetts, returning to Japan in 1986. He was elected to the Japanese Diet (House of Representatives) in 1990 and served until 1999. He assumed office as mayor of Hiroshima in February 1999, and was reelected in 2003 and 2007. In 2005 he received an Honorary Doctorate from Tufts University.

As mayor of Hiroshima, Mayor Akiba serves as the President of Mayors for Peace, a dynamic and rapidly growing international network working for the global elimination of nuclear weapons. Mayor Akiba and Mayors for Peace received the 2004 "World Citizenship Award" from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation; the 2006 "Sean McBride Peace Award" from the Nobel Prize-winning International Peace Bureau; the first Calgary Peace Prize (2006), in Canada; and the 2007 "Nuclear-Free Future Award" from the Franz-Moll Foundation.

About Mayors for Peace

To prevent a repetition of the A-bomb tragedy, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have continually sought to inform the world about the inhumanity and cruelty of nuclear weapons and have consistently demanded their total abolition. Founded and led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Mayors for Peace, through its 2020 Vision Campaign, launched in 2003, is working internationally for the global elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020. Mayors for Peace is also committed to pursuing lasting world peace by working to address the issues of starvation, poverty, refugee welfare, human rights abuses, environmental destruction and other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence today.

At the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, on June 24, 1982, then-Mayor Takeshi Araki of Hiroshima proposed a new "Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons." This proposal offered cities a way to transcend national borders and work together to push for nuclear abolition. Succeeding mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have called on mayors around the world to support this cause.

Mayors for Peace is composed of cities throughout the world that have formally expressed support for the Program that Mayor Araki announced in 1982. As of March 1, 2010, membership stood at 3,680 members in 135 countries and regions. Members include more than half of the world's 100 largest cities and nearly half of the world's capital cities, with 156 U.S. members in 37 states. Past President of the United States Conference of Mayors, Akron Ohio Mayor Donald Plusquellic serves as a Vice-President of Mayors for Peace. Mayors for Peace has "Special Consultative Status" with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

At the May 2008 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee meeting in Geneva, Hiroshima Mayor Tadatashi Akiba announced the Mayors for Peace proposal for a "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol" to the NPT. The Protocol mandates negotiation of an agreement for the elimination of nuclear weapons and its implementation by 2020. This would fulfill the disarmament promise of the NPT, thereby meeting the obligation found by the International Court of Justice in 1996 to "conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

At its annual meeting in June 2009, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), the national association of mayors of cities with populations of 30,000 or more, *unanimously* adopted a resolution in support of Mayors for Peace. The resolution, *Affirming the Role of Cities in Achievement of a Peaceful World Free of Nuclear Weapons by 2020*, "welcomes enthusiastically the new leadership and multilateralism that the United States is demonstrating toward achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, and calls on President Obama to announce at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference the initiation of good faith multilateral negotiations on an international agreement to abolish nuclear weapons by the year 2020."

U.S. Mayors are widely recognized as leaders in efforts to address global problems such as climate change and the nuclear threat. As reflected in the USCM resolution, President Obama's pledge "to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons," has been praised the world over as a sign of hope for a better future. Hiroshima citizens and children would like to invite President Obama to visit their city where they hope he will announce to the world that by harnessing the better angels of our nature, humanity can create a world without nuclear weapons by 2020.

Cities Are Not Targets!

Cities around the world are saying: "NO! We reject absolutely the right of any nation for any reason whatsoever to threaten us with incineration and our planet with nuclear winter. We are home to women, children, the elderly and other noncombatants traditionally protected under international law. We are no longer willing to be held hostage to inhumane and indiscriminate weapons of mass destruction. We demand liberation from the nuclear threat." Leading this movement is Mayors for Peace.

As of March 1, 2010 Mayors for Peace membership stood at 3,680 member cities in 135 countries and regions. Remarkably, 60% of Belgium's mayors and 99% of Nicaragua's mayors are already members! Mayors for Peace has launched an ambitious recruitment drive to reach 5000 members by the May 2010 NPT Review Conference. At that point, the mayors will directly represent over *one billion people* who cannot be ignored. **Please join us!**

Mayors for Peace Member Cities in Leading Countries

Japan:	612	USA:	156	Canada:	79
Belgium:	348	Nicaragua:	152	Australia:	56
Germany:	337	Iraq:	119	Cameroon:	54
Italy:	314	France:	115	Uganda:	53
Spain:	285	Norway:	86	Israel:	48



Left to right: Mayors Frank Cownie, Des Moines; Tadatashi Akiba, Hiroshima; Donald Plusquellic, Akron; and Tomihisa Tave, Nagasaki, speak at the UN, May 5, 2009