

**SYMPOSIUM ON STRENGTHENING THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY, 17
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“From the vision to a plan for a nuclear weapon free world by 2020”

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Dear friends,
first of all we wish to thank the Pugwash Conference and other organizers of this very timely Symposium on Strengthening the NPT in Christiansborg Palace here in Copenhagen. I feel both honored and humbled to find myself here with such distinguished speakers and audience. We are assembled here today to discuss one of the main global threats to human survival: the existence and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons are indeed unique among weapons of mass destruction. In Hiroshima in 1945 an estimated 140,000 human beings died. According to Hans Kristensen from the Federation of the American Scientists today's there are an estimated 25000 nuclear warheads which have a total yield of almost half a million (500.000) times the 15 kiloton Hiroshima bomb. 454,800 x Hiroshima? It is difficult to grasp this number. Can you picture our planet earth with a suicide belt on?

It is good to find myself in the second part of this symposium as I entitled my presentation “From the vision towards a plan for a nuclear weapon free world by 2020”.

I am the Director of the international secretariat of Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision campaign based in Ypres, Belgium. I am as well an Executive Advisor of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation in Japan. Today Mayors for Peace counts 2,468 member cities in 133 countries and regions. The encouraging news is that in the first 10 months of 2008 already 448 new cities joined our network, with new members joining every day. If you are good in calculation you will realize we have on average more than one (1) city joining us every single day. We are happy to count Copenhagen as a new member city of Mayors for Peace.

As a representative of Mayors for Peace I am truly delighted that all of you have assembled here today to discuss nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Let me start by saying that last week I had the honor to travel with Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, the Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace. We had a six day tour where we met Mayors and members of parliament in the capitals of Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. In Belgium we also met the Prime Minister, Mr. Yves Leterme.

The purpose of our tour was to promote the “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol”, a Protocol

complementary to the NPT. Mayors for Peace launched this Protocol during the NPT PrepCom in Geneva last April 30 2008.

The Protocol has two articles. Article I calls for a “clampdown” on all weapon-usable fissile materials – be they in weapons, reactors, or stocks – accompanied by a cessation of nuclear weapons acquisition and of all planning for the use of nuclear weapons. Article II calls for establishment of a negotiating forum, open to all states, with the sole purpose of developing a Nuclear Weapons Convention or Framework Agreement resulting in achievement of nuclear disarmament in all its aspects by the year 2020.

The first part of the Protocol allows the nuclear-armed states to show their good faith toward a successful outcome of the nuclear disarmament negotiations by no longer exploiting the privileges accorded them under the NPT. In particular, nuclear weapons acquisition and nuclear threat postures – activities that could undermine the objectives of the negotiations – are to cease forthwith, and there is to be a global clampdown on nuclear weapons and weapon-usable fissile materials, thereby alleviating the risk of nuclear accident or theft. By renouncing these activities, the nuclear-weapon states will be unequivocally demonstrating that they are readying themselves to live in equality with the rest of the international community.

The Nuclear Weapon Convention or Framework Agreement negotiations are to begin immediately upon acceptance of the Protocol and continue uninterrupted until the agreement is reached. The Protocol envisions two main sections to the agreement which would be advanced concurrently. The first specifies the mandate for negotiations on legally codifying the various steps taken in the clampdown and provides for their international control. The Protocol calls for all measures relating to this first section to be implemented by 2015. The second section addresses the vast nuclear arsenals accumulated prior to the NPT and – even more so – since the Treaty’s entry into force in 1970. A Framework Agreement would specify the mandates for negotiations on the essential measures to eliminate nuclear weapons and associated infrastructure by 2020 and to usher in a sustainable nuclear-weapon-free world. A Nuclear Weapons Convention, if that proved to be the preferred line of work, would contain all the above in a single comprehensive agreement.

The few States that have not signed the NPT are welcomed and expected to participate fully in this process. The Protocol explicitly states that it must not be construed as diminishing in anyway the non-proliferation obligations of non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty, including their full cooperation in the institution building that will be necessary to achieve and maintain a nuclear-weapon-free world.ⁱ

The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol is a serious initiative, which is rapidly gaining momentum as cities around the world express their strong support for it. In June 2008, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted a far-reaching resolution entitled “Support for the Elimination of All Nuclear Weapons by the Year 2020.” The resolution recommends that the U.S. government “urgently consider” the “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol” as a means of “fulfilling the promise of the NPT by the year 2020, 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.’” The resolution also encourages USCM members to sign the Cities Appeal being circulated in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol and to encourage other elected officials in their

cities to do likewise.ⁱⁱ

As Deputy Mayor Klaus-Peter Murawski of Stuttgart, Germany explained, endorsement of the Protocol at the local level is especially significant:

“The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, to my eyes, will be an outstanding milestone to the whole process because it shows to the public that decisions of such a wide range are taken seriously by cities and the local level, where the majority of people live. It also makes clear that disarmament is a theme which is deemed worthy to fight for. *Low expectations on the side of the governments are not accepted as state of the art and cities stand up to raise them.*”ⁱⁱⁱ (emphasis added)

In the run up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol has the potential to galvanize civil society in a major way, while providing a tool for crafting a consensus among the states parties to revitalize and strengthen the NPT. It is important to note here the responsibility of the non-Nuclear Weapon States. In its 1996 opinion, the ICJ affirmed a *universal* obligation to pursue negotiations for nuclear disarmament. Then-ICJ President Mohammed Bedjaoui stated that “the goal [of nuclear disarmament] is no longer utopian and that it is the *duty of all* to seek to attain it more actively than ever.” The non-Nuclear Weapon States thus have an obligation to do everything in their power to advance and support nuclear disarmament negotiations and to desist from activities or policies which hinder this.

The Protocol aims to be adopted during the next NPT Review Conference in New York in 2010 and offers a practical roadmap towards the adoption of the Nuclear Weapons Convention in 2015 and a nuclear weapon free world by 2020.

As many historical agreements are named after a city, our Protocol also does refer to dark pages in the history of human kind with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol aims to be for nuclear disarmament what the Kyoto Protocol became for global warming. Even better. While the Kyoto Protocol only brings part of the solution to climate change, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol aims to bring complete nuclear disarmament by the year 2020. Our proposal is welcomed by most people we meet.

On November 9th 2008 Mr. Paul Helminger, the Mayor of the City of Luxembourg and a MP, welcomed the proposed Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol during his address to almost one third of all the Mayors of Luxembourg. Some days later in Brussels City Hall the Belgian Mayors for Peace adopted a resolution calling the Belgian government to support the Protocol during the 2010 NPT Review Conference. This was repeated 2 days later during a meeting of the German Mayors for Peace. We also see that a resolution in support of the Protocol is now being discussed in the Belgian Senate and the Flemish regional Parliament. Everywhere we came we sensed growing support for our 2020 vision and roadmap. Also Mr. Yves Leterme, the Belgian Prime Minister, expressed his wish for the Belgian government to support the Protocol during the Review Conference in New York. It should be noted here that the Belgian government is under increasing pressure as almost 330 cities or 60% of all Belgian cities are supporting the 2020 Vision campaign ... and Mr. Yves Leterme is also a City Council member in Ypres, the Belgian city sometimes referred to as the Hiroshima of the First World War, the war which should have ended all wars.

But not only in Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg are Cities demanding a nuclear weapon free world Mayors. A growing number of Mayors, Deputy-Mayors and City Councilors are signing up to a "Cities Appeal in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol". Amongst these we also count for example the Mayor of Cape Town, Stockholm, Rio de Janeiro, Odessa, Port au Prince, Sarajevo, San Francisco, Toronto, and hundreds of others. In Denmark we already received the endorsement from the Mayors of Assens, Ballerup, Fredrikshaven and Naestved. We are sure that with your support we'll soon find a surge of Danish cities joining our campaign, despite a Danish law prohibiting their Mayors to get involved in international affairs. Cities are indeed stakeholders in this international debate as they remain the prime targets for these genocidal weapons. Find the complete and daily updated list of signatories and documents translated in growing number of languages on our website <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/pages/462/>

As we all know the UN and nation states have failed to bring about complete nuclear disarmament. Despite the nuclear disarmament obligations of NPT Article VI; despite the historic 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice reaffirming this obligation; despite numerous resolutions of the UN General Assembly and many other honorable initiatives. We can only conclude that nation states have failed. Nation states continue to disregard the voices of the citizens. On the contrary they form military alliances or "coalitions of the willing" to serve national and corporate interests.

When we met the Prime Minister of Belgium last Tuesday Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, the Mayor of Hiroshima, mentioned the women of the Freeze movement during the 1980's told him that they would not bring children in this world because of the nuclear threat. As he told this story it struck me that myself, when I was aged 22, made the same decision. I found a doctor and told him the same story and arguments. Soon later two of my male colleagues working for the anti-nuclear movement made the same choice. We did not want to bring children in a world which found itself on the verge of a nuclear catastrophe. We got sterilized by our own choice basically because many politicians and diplomats do not do their job properly. It makes me honestly very sad to have made such a choice as we witness a world caught in complacency and indifference.

But there is hope as we observe a paradigm shift. Where cities do not have armies they choose a path of reconciliation, international co-operation and very practical solutions to global threats. Cities are organising international networks and "sister" city alliances to overcome the nuclear threat and the enormous environmental and social challenges.

Local politicians are stakeholders as they are the first ones responsible and accountable for the security and well-being of their citizens. They are too often confronted with the disastrous results of national and international decisions.

More than ever cities are forging new alliances and are demanding to sit around the high tables where the future of human kind is discussed. Here we can refer to the US cities who took initiatives to cut carbon emissions while the current US administration systematically undermined the Kyoto Protocol. Or as we already mentioned the "US Conference of Mayors" which adopted on June 23rd 2008 a resolution asking the US Federal government to take leadership towards the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol for a nuclear weapon free world by 2020. The US Conference of Mayors brings together over the 1100 targets US cities and adopted the resolution with unanimity. Encouraging is also that cities started to finance the

2020 Vision campaign as we are confronted with the unfortunate fact that for the past years Foundations have cut funding for programs and campaigns advocating the abolition of nuclear weapons. Here we hope that the exemplary leadership of Cities will help to convince Foundations to get back on board.

We hope that it is clear to you that cities are leading the way together with the vast majority of people and nations advocating nuclear abolition. Despite the fact that cities are not officially recognized by the UN -where we received an NGO consultative status- time has come for cities to sit at the table and be recognized as legitimate governmental stakeholders.

It is technically possible to move humanity towards a nuclear weapon free future by 2020. Mayors are asking all of you to show the political leadership and support the adoption of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol at the next NPT Review Conference.

The vision for a nuclear weapons free world has been around ever since the crimes committed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Today we have a plan, and we urge you to support it.

And finally we can announce that the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are discussing hosting the Olympic Games in their cities in 2020. And just one week ago our Executive Council meeting in Ypres, Belgium welcomed the vision of holding the 2020 Olympics in Japan in a nuclear weapon free world. We hope you'll all be able to join us in 2020 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki for a big celebration. With your support we plan to uphold the spirit of the Olympic Games. But we need your help to create a world where we will invest less in militarism and more towards the billions living in cities. We're looking forward to work with all of you for human security and a clean environment.

Thank you,

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Notes:

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol <http://2020visioncampaign.org/filestorage/409/File/2/Hiroshima-NagasakiProtocol.pdf>

Cities Appeal in Support of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/pages/448/>

US Conference of Mayors resolution <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/pages/451/>

i

ii

iii