

SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 10 FEBRUARY 2010	8
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MAYORS FOR PEACE

Hala Kattab: 1/3/22: 2388090

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the participation in the ‘Mayors for Peace’ initiative.

INTRODUCTION:

The *Mayors for Peace* initiative was raised and supported by the Mayor at a recent Multicultural Advisory Group meeting.

The *Mayors for Peace*, through close cooperation among the cities of the world, aims to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contributes to the realisation of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assisting refugees fleeing local conflict, supporting human rights, protecting the environment and solving problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the global population.

BACKGROUND:

In August 1945, atomic bombs raged the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, taking hundreds of thousands of lives. Today, more than sixty years after the war, thousands of citizens still suffer the devastating effects of radiation and the ensuing emotional impact of that event. To prevent any repetition of this tragedy, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have sought to tell the world about the impact of nuclear weapons and have advocated for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

On 24 June 1982, at the Second United Nations (UN) Special Session on disarmament held at the UN Headquarters in New York, the then Mayor Takeshi Araki of Hiroshima proposed a new initiative 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 advocate for nuclear abolition. Subsequently, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki called on Mayors around the world to support this initiative.

The *Mayors for Peace* is composed of cities around the world that have formally expressed support for the initiative Mayor Araki announced in 1982. As of 2 November 2009, membership stood at 3,241 cities in 134 counties and regions, 55 of which are Australian. *Mayors for Peace* is aiming to count 5,000 members during the upcoming Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010.

In March 1990, *Mayors for Peace* was officially registered as a UN Non Government Organisation (NGO) related to the Department of Public Information. In May 1991, it became a Category II NGO (currently called a NGO in “special consultative status”) registered with the Economic and Social Council.

Mayors for Peace begins countdown to International Day of Peace

Mayors for Peace is counting down to the International Day of Peace. Starting at one hundred days on 13 June 2010, Mayors will be holding events and preparing activities for the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2010. To begin the countdown, Dr Tadatopshi Akiba, Mayor of the City of Hiroshima and President of *Mayors for Peace* has issued a message to Mayors and citizens worldwide.

The message calls on cities to observe a minute of contemplative silence at noon on 21 September 2010. Many cities have a tradition of observing the International Day of Peace. It is hoped that this one hundred day countdown will inspire many more to establish their own traditions.

As Mayor Akiba says in the message: “These one hundred days can be a great asset in preparing for the International Decade for Disarmament, 2010-20 to ensure that it is a decisive decade for nuclear disarmament”.

COMMENT:

Mayors for Peace promotes Cairns on an international level and provides the opportunity to:

- become a Solidarity City, promoting solidarity of cities towards the total abolition of nuclear weapons.
- be a city that strives to solve vital problems for the human race such as starvation and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses and environment degradation.
- promote Cairns not only as a hub for tourism, but also as a city of peace that contributes to and strengthens existing and emerging cultures and communities.

Joining Mayors for Peace

In order to be a part of this initiative Council needs to submit a letter from the Mayor to the Conference Secretariat, stating that our city supports the aim to promote the solidarity of cities toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons and would like to join the *Mayors for Peace*. A registration form can be completed online.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Corporate and Operational Plans:

- 1.3 Provide strong community leadership through the adoption, maintenance and promotion of coordinated environmental frameworks with stakeholders.
- 2.1 Implement a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to community health and safety.
- 2.4 Provide enhanced arts and cultural activities that add value to the life of residents and visitors alike.

Statutory:

Nil.

Policy:

Cairns Regional Council's Cultural Diversity Policy No.1:06:17.

Financial and Risk:

Membership of *Mayors for Peace* involves no annual membership fee or any other financial obligation.

Relevant activities such as exhibitions and conferences may require financial contribution. Such contributions can be obtained by means of fundraising, grant applications and In Kind contributions.

Sustainability:

2010 is the last year of the UN International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non Violence. Cairns Regional Council is the only local government in Australia to commemorate this initiative. This year will mark the end of a decade of Peace Week celebrations and signal the beginning of the yearly celebration of the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2010. The *Mayors for Peace* participation will be sustained through Council's ongoing commitment to Peace Week.

CONSULTATION:

Mayor Val Schier
Cr Margaret Cochrane, Deputy Mayor
Multicultural Advisory Group

OPTIONS:

That Council notes the participation in the *Mayors for Peace* initiative.

CONCLUSION:

That Council participates in the *Mayors for Peace* initiative.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Covenant of the *Mayors for Peace*

Attachment 2: Overall Action Plan of the *Mayors for Peace*

Hala Kattab

Multicultural Planning and Development Officer

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ATTACHMENT 1 – Covenant of the Mayors for Peace

COVENANT OF THE MAYORS FOR PEACE

In August, 1945, the first nuclear weapons ever used in human history caused an indescribable catastrophe for the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even now a number of A-bomb survivors are still suffering physically, psychologically, and socially from various after-effects. Nevertheless, nuclear weapons have not been abolished; they continue to threaten human existence. Our goal is to maintain environments that enable citizens to lead safe, cultural lives, and to contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace. To this end, we pledge to make every effort to create an inter-city solidarity transcending national boundaries and ideological differences in order to achieve the total abolition of nuclear weapons and avert the recurrence of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki tragedies.

We agree to the intent of the "Program to Promote Solidarity of Cities towards the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" proposed by Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Furthermore, we hope that the "World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity," which held its first session in August of 1985, shall become a permanent organization. Accordingly, we do hereby establish an organization to be known as the "Mayors for Peace".

CHAPTER I PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

Purposes

ARTICLE 1

The Purposes of the "Mayors for Peace" are to contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace by arousing concern among citizens of the world for the total abolition of nuclear weapons through close solidarity among all cities which agree to the "Program to Promote Solidarity of Cities towards the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" as well as by striving to solve vital problems for the human race such as starvation and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation. (Cities which agree to the "Program to Promote Solidarity of Cities towards the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" are hereinafter cited as solidarity cities.)

Purposes

ARTICLE 2

The Organization and solidarity cities, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles;

- (a) The Organization shall be based on friendship, goodwill, and respect for the actual conditions of Solidarity Cities.
- (b) The Organization shall devote itself to the total abolition of nuclear weapons and the attainment of lasting world peace, and to the solution of such problems as starvation, poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation in cooperation with the United Nations, a major peace-keeping organization in the world.

(c) Solidarity Cities shall work for the development of friendly relationships and bonds of solidarity among cities on the basis of mutual understanding and shall act in good faith for the attainment of the Purposes in accordance with the present Covenant.

(d) Solidarity Cities shall seek to increase global awareness of the "Spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" by introducing and expanding the idea of Inter-City Solidarity.

CHAPTER II ACTIVITIES

Details of the Activities

ARTICLE 3

The Organization, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall be engaged in the following activities;

(a) To introduce and expand the idea of inter-city solidarity to worldwide cities.

(b) To make an appeal for the total abolition of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament to related organizations such as the United Nations.

(c) To coordinate the following activities promoted by Solidarity Cities.

□ @ (i) Solidarity Cities shall hold gatherings and events devoted to the cause of disarmament and peace, and/or to the solution of such problems as starvation, poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation and shall send copies of any statement, resolution, or proclamation, associated with these events, to other Solidarity Cities.

(ii) Solidarity cities shall transmit messages advocating the total abolition of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations during the United Nations Disarmament Week. In addition, copies of the messages shall be exchanged with other Solidarity Cities.

(iii) Solidarity Cities that sponsor workshops or meetings on peace, disarmament, and security issues, and/or the solution of such problems as starvation, poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation shall send relevant pamphlets, books, and materials reporting these results to other Solidarity Cities.

(iv) Solidarity Cities that publish or obtain materials, brochures, or books related to peace, disarmament, and security issues, and/or to the solution of such problems as starvation, poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation shall bring them to the attention of other Solidarity Cities.

(v) Bearing in mind the current international situation and the urgency and importance of nuclear disarmament, Solidarity Cities shall hold photographic exhibitions which describe and depict to citizens around the world the actual nature of the devastations wreaked by the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

- (vi) The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki shall cooperate by providing necessary exhibition photographs and introducing documentary films, slides, and books, that depict the disaster caused by the atomic bombings.
- (d) to sponsor and organize events as may be necessary to achieve the Purposes stated in the present Covenant.

CHAPTER III EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS

Executive Officials

ARTICLE 4

1. Executive Officials of the Organization shall consist of: one President; an appropriate number of Vice-Presidents and Executive Members.
2. The President and the Vice-President shall be elected by Solidarity Cities.
3. The President shall supervise and represent the Organization, and shall chair the Conference.
4. The Vice-President shall assist the President. In case of the inability of the President to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-President shall fulfill the duties of the President.
5. The Executive Members shall be appointed from Solidarity Cities by the President with regional conditions taken into consideration.
6. The Executive Members shall assist the President and the Vice-President and shall act for the smooth management of the Organization.

Term of Office

ARTICLE 5

1. The term of office of the Executive Officials shall be until such time that new Executive Officials are elected at a succeeding General Conference. Each office shall be open to reelection.
2. Whatever the stipulations of previous clauses, if a member-city mayor holding an elected office resigns or retires his or her mayoralty, the succeeding mayor shall assume said office. In such case, the succeeding officer's term shall last as long as the original term of the retiring or resigning officer.

CHAPTER IV CONFERENCE

General Conference and Executive Conference

ARTICLE 6

The Organization shall hold a General Conference and an Executive Conference.

General Conference

ARTICLE 7

The Organization shall hold a General Conference and an Executive Conference.

- 1.The General Conference shall meet every four years in principle.
- 2.The General Conference shall be held to achieve the Purposes stated in Article 1 and to decide and approve relevant questions.

Executive Conference

ARTICLE 8

- 1.The Executive Conference shall consist of the Executive Officials and shall meet when the occasion arises.
- 2.The Executive Conference shall be authorized to make emergency decisions for the Organization in place of the General Conference with the exception of electing the President and the Vice-President.

Convocation

ARTICLE 9

The General Conference or the Executive Conference shall be convoked by the President.

Voting

ARTICLE 10

- 1.Each Solidarity City participating in the General Conference or the Executive Conference shall have one vote. In case of absence, each Solidarity City may delegate its vote by proxy to another participating city.
- 2.Decisions of the Conference on all questions shall be made by a simple majority vote of participating cities. In case of tie votes, the President shall cast a deciding vote.
- 3.When circumstances render it impossible to hold a Conference, decisions shall be made by votes conveyed in letters to the Secretariat from Solidarity Cities.

**CHAPTER V
THE SECRETARIAT**

Establishment of the Secretariat

ARTICLE 11

The Secretariat shall be established in Hiroshima to operate the Organization.

Secretariat Staff

ARTICLE 12

- 1.The Secretariat shall be comprised of a Secretary-General and support-staff.
- 2.The Secretary-General and support-staff shall be appointed by the President.

**CHAPTER VI
SHARE OF EXPENSES**

Expenses

ARTICLE 13

Expenses required to operate the Secretariat (ordinary expenditure) and expenses required to hold the Conference (extraordinary expenditure) shall be decided by the General Conference on the recommendation of the Executive Conference.

**CHAPTER VII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

Expenses

ARTICLE 14

Amendments to the present Covenant shall come into force upon adoption by a two-thirds majority of the participating cities at the General Conference.

Delegation

ARTICLE 15

Decisions required to operate the Secretariat, other than those stipulated in the present Covenant, shall be made by the President.

Supplementary Provision

The Mayors of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Berlin, Hannover, Como, Lusaka, Sacramento, Vancouver and Volgograd shall assume responsibilities as President and Vice-President respectively until a next session of the General Conference is convened.

This covenant was executed on November 1, 1986.
Revised on October 16, 1991, effective the same day.
Revised on August 5, 2001, effective the same day.

