



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

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Mayors for Peace Joint Appeal for Common Ground on the NPT

On behalf of Mayors for Peace

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On 1 May 2019, we—along with representatives from several other non-governmental organizations—addressed the delegations participating in an international conference reviewing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Today, we offer this joint appeal in anticipation of the treaty's Review Conference next year at the United Nations.

We view the NPT as one of the most important treaties of the post-World War II era. With a membership just short of the United Nations Charter, this treaty embodies a near-global consensus on the basic proposition that international peace and security would be strengthened in a world free from the existence or proliferation of nuclear weapons. We recognize the NPT as the only multilateral instrument binding the recognized nuclear-weapon states to pursue negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament.

In their preparations for the historic NPT Review Conference in 2020—to be held on the treaty's fiftieth anniversary—we appeal to all delegations to focus their deliberations on expanding their common ground on the fundamental objects and purposes of this treaty. The future success of the NPT will depend heavily upon diplomatic bridge building among delegations, reinforced by a common commitment to ensure the effective implementation and achievement of the treaty's principal goals.

We understand that parties to complex multilateral treaties often disagree over such matters as degrees of compliance, appropriate methods for achieving treaty goals, the equity of various treaty commitments, and the never-ending competition from narrow national interests and short-term priorities.

We appeal to all delegations not to permit such divisions from eroding the great common ground upon which all the states parties stand with respect to this treaty. We urge them to work to expand this common ground by engaging in earnest dialogue that transcends differences and to agree on innovative solutions to advance concrete nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures. We view the global interest embodied in the NPT as in the national interests of all countries and all peoples worldwide.

Recalling the inspirational words of the Einstein-Russell Manifesto in 1955: “We appeal as human beings to human beings: Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.” This is precisely the message that the *hibakusha*—the survivors of the tragic atomic bombings—most humbly wish to extend to the world and to future generations. And we wish to convey their wishes today in this joint appeal and encourage all delegations to make the 2020 NPT Review Conference a success through bold initiatives to turn the confrontational security environment into one of cooperative security.