

It is a great pleasure to send a message to mark the occasion of 25 Years IPPNW-Concerts.

In the sixty-four years since Hiroshima experienced the first atomic bombing, the city has continued to appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of everlasting world peace. Even now, however, vast arsenals of nuclear weapons are deployed and in reserve around the world. Meanwhile, the human family has reached a critical juncture. Will we decide to rid the world of nuclear weapons or allow all capable countries to have them?

To address this crisis, the City of Hiroshima, the over 3,000 member cities of Mayors for Peace, their citizens, and NGOs around the world are coming together to press for the abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

This April, U.S. President Obama declared in Prague America's "moral responsibility" to take concrete steps towards a world without nuclear weapons, "as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon." He openly endorsed the opinion of the great global majority that the only role for nuclear weapons is to be abolished.

The time has come for us, as citizens of the world, to use our collective strength to rid the world of nuclear weapons. In the city of Hiroshima, we have taken to calling the majority who seek the abolition of nuclear weapons the "Obamajority." We use this term not only to emphasize that we abolitionists are the mainstream majority, but also to express our determination to be the wind at President Obama's back helping him lead us into a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The primary campaign tool for the "Obamajority" is the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, which outlines the concrete steps that will lead with certainty to the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. Our intent is to raise sufficient international public awareness and demand to have this protocol adopted at the NPT Review Conference next year.

As seen in the anti-personnel landmine ban, liberation from poverty through the Grameen Bank, the prevention of global warming and other such movements, global democracy that

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respects the majority will of the world and solves problems through the power of the people has truly begun to grow. In line with this, I believe it is meaningful that the IPPNW-Concerts have been contributed to the realization of world peace for 25 years. I hereby express my profound respect for your commitment and endeavors.

We have the power. We have the responsibility. And we are the "Obamajority." Together, we can abolish nuclear weapons. Yes, we can.

I look forward to working with you in the coming years to eliminate nuclear weapons and create everlasting world peace.

In closing, I would like to extend my best wishes for the success of the 25 Years IPPNW-Concerts and for the continued health and prosperity of the participants.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tadatoshi Akiba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tadatoshi Akiba  
Mayor  
The City of Hiroshima