

University Presidents for Peace Declaration 80th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing

We, the University Presidents for Peace, gather here in Hiroshima, Japan, today for the University Presidents for Peace Conference, chaired by Mitsuo Ochi of Hiroshima University.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima—a city that stands as a profound symbol of both humanity’s capacity for destruction and its power to rebuild. Hiroshima’s transformation did not happen overnight, but through the persistent, courageous efforts of hibakusha—the survivors of atomic bombing—and of countless individuals compelled to act so that such devastation would never be repeated. Their act of remembrance, determination, and hope laid the foundation for a broader movement toward peace.

Now, as the number of hibakusha continues to decline with age, we face an urgent responsibility. The role of transmitting their experiences must be carried on by a new generation. We envision young people around the world stepping forward as “storytellers”, inheriting the legacy of Hiroshima and conveying the human reality of nuclear devastation, and the enduring value of peace, to future generations.

As leaders in higher education, we recognize that our responsibility extends beyond preserving memory. It includes preparing our students to become individuals who embody justice, fairness, and understanding in their daily lives. Education and research are essential pillars for sustainable, equitable futures, and for lasting peace. They foster critical dialogue, nurture mutual understanding, and empower individuals and communities. By equipping people with knowledge, perspective, and the means to engage across differences, they create the conditions for cooperation and coexistence, both necessary ingredients for an enduring peace.

We are committed to creating opportunities for our students to meet people, explore unfamiliar places, listen to diverse stories, and learn from the struggles and hopes of others. We affirm our dedication to advancing peace and sustainability through our universities' educational programs and innovative research. Through long-term collaboration, shared learning, and mutual trust, we pledge to contribute to a global society built not on fear, division or aggression, but on understanding, resilience, and hope.

To realize this vision, we commit to:

1. Strengthening university partnerships for peace and sustainability

Each of our institutions embraces its role as a member of University Presidents for Peace and endeavors to strengthen and expand our partnerships for collaboration and the sharing of resources and expertise for the common good.

2. Enhancing student and young researcher exchange programs

Each of our institutions pledges to enhance opportunities for exchange among students and young researchers, fostering meaningful connections that support their academic and lifelong aspirations.

3. Identifying opportunities for collective funding to support these goals

Each of our institutions—individually and collectively—will work to identify and secure sustainable sources of funding that will enable the success of these efforts and ensure their continuity into the future.

Together, we carry forward the spirit of Hiroshima—not as a memory of the past, but as a living commitment to peace. We will do what we can, each day, to build a world where education, compassion, and cooperation form the foundation of our shared humanity.