

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Closing Ceremony

15:40-17:20, Saturday, August 6, 2005

Himawari

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Greeting **Tadatoshi Akiba**
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan

Discussion of Hiroshima Appeal Draft

Chairperson: **Toshiki Mogami**

Chairperson of Plenary Sessions I , II and Appeal Drafting Committee
Professor, International Christian University

Speaker:

Gary Moore

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Christchurch, New Zealand

Stewart Kemp

Stewart Kemp, Principal Policy Officer, Manchester, U.K

Hervé Brahmé

President, Seine St. Denis, France

Aaron Tovish

2020 Vision Campaign Manager

Gordon Matheson

Councilor, Glasgow, U.K.

Alyn Ware

Chairperson of Section Meeting I

Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

Announcement of Hiroshima Appeal

Mohammed Afzal Khan

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Manchester, U.K

Closing Speech

Herbert Schmalstieg

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Hannover, Germany

Catherine Margate

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Malakoff, France

Tadatoshi Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan:

Well, may I start the meeting? Okay, now I'd like to start the closing session of the 6th Mayors for Peace General Assembly. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

First of all, I'd like to report that this conference has been quite successful. In total, in the Secretariat count, we have had the participation of 243 people. Now let me break that down. From within Japan we have 61 people from 38 cities, and from abroad we have 144 people from 54 cities and three organizations, and that represents 19 countries in total. And we also have 18 governmental representations, including the European Parliament. There was some reference to the lack of participation by national government, but we do have 18. And I am pleased to summarize or at least express my appreciation for the participation of many of you, and I only regret that a lack of time prevented more ample participation or more frequent contributions by each delegation.

But I found that many of the presentations and contributions were based on the actual experiences of activities in each city, in each organization and so forth, and many people supplied new ideas as to where we should be going and also new ideas that would help us pursue our goal of abolishing nuclear weapons by the year 2020. And also some others raised questions that we need to deal with seriously in order for us to overcome some difficulties.

But all of these comments and contributions, presentations were inspiring and they gathered some new energy and insight. And also, they have helped us strengthen our resolve to continue our efforts. And I believe there are many reasons for this, but let me point out just two reasons that all of your participation, your contributions here have helped all of us in such a positive way.

One is that as mayors, as council members or as leaders of different organizations, your daily job has been and is to inspire your citizens, to move them to action, to give them energy so that you can tackle your local problems with creativity, and that's your daily job, and you have done a splendid job of showing what you do in your cities very well in this General Conference, and I really would like to thank you all for showing your talent in that way.

And I believe that the second reason is that you represented the voices of your citizens, the voices of the members of your organizations very well. Not only the voices, but you represented the actions that have been taken by the citizens in your community. And I believe that gave us the feeling that this is real; we are not talking about abstract nonsense but rather concrete problems that each citizen faces each day. And we are dealing with the problem of the peace of the world on that level, and that is why we are persuasive in the eyes of government officials and international organizations as well. I believe that is our strength and we'd like to utilize that strength, take advantage of that strength, to make sure that we accomplish the goal.

That said, we need to work even more diligently in the coming years, until the next General Assembly, which will be four years from now, but yearly we will produce new actions plans, new names for the campaign year, starting from August 6 through

August 9 of the following year. Well, that's the terminology which was born during this General Conference, instead of fiscal year, instead of school year, we have the campaign year or action year or we could even use the word Hiroshima Year or Nagasaki Year or Hiroshima-Nagasaki Year, or whatever. But that is the one-year cycle that we are going to use, 369 days, from August 6 through August 9 of the following year we call maybe the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Year. But we will have a new agenda and new action plan for each year.

But for this General Conference we'd like to summarize what we've accomplished in the form of an Appeal, which you are calling the Hiroshima Appeal. And believe that you have in front of you the draft of this Appeal and I'd like to invite Prof. Mogami, who is the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to propose this Hiroshima Appeal draft to you and explain some of the careful considerations that went into the draft. So Prof. Mogami, please.

Toshiki Mogami, Chairperson of Plenary Sessions I , II and Appeal Drafting Committee, Professor, International Christian University: Sorry to have kept you waiting. I'll start explaining about the Appeal. The Drafting Committee held its meeting last night until well into midnight and we spent so much energy in making this Appeal as acceptable as possible to everybody. And I will explain to you briefly what the Appeal contains.

In the preambular paragraph, from paragraph 1 to 6, we have looked back upon the past four years and we regretted, this Appeal regrets the slow process of nuclear disarmament, almost stalemate of a nuclear process, and the aggravation of the world situation. And at the same time, in these paragraphs, we express our resolution to confront this deteriorating situation and make our determination to make things better.

This is what these preambular paragraphs say, and as to these paragraphs, there is one serious problem, which I would like to propose an amendment from this page. It is paragraph 4, which begins with the terms, "The human family now faces..." and so on and so on. And there was a heated discussion yesterday too about this paragraph. Some of us were concerned to name the specific names of the countries and some of us expressed the opinion that we have to specify the situation as clearly as possible.

So in the second sentence we say, "due to the doctrines of the US and other nuclear weapons States..." Although we say "other nuclear weapons States," the name of the of the United States is singled out. And there was a kind rejection from Mr. Cochrane, the President of the US Mayors Conference, which has been very contributive to this organization, and he is embarrassed to see his country's name singled out and it's quite understandable. There was serious discussion, and after the serious discussion the compromise was this, that we understand his situation, so Mr. Cochrane and President Akiba and myself talked a few moment ago and we decided that in view of the great contribution of the US Conference of Mayors, we should not complicate the organization's work back in the US further, and we should accommodate his concern.

And the compromise was to name all the countries which Mayor Akiba named in this morning's Declaration of Peace. Now if this is accepted, I'd like to propose it as it is, so we will say, "the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, India

and Pakistan," we limit to these countries, This is in accord with the Peace Declaration today. If there is serious objection we will have to listen to that, and if that objection is not too serious I would like to propose it that way. Will you kindly accept this amendment? [applause] Okay, so I take the majority as supporting this. Thank you very much. So we will revise sentence that way. So this was the most serious point.

And the discussion itself was a sincere and serious one and very productive I think. So after that, the examination went so smoothly and after the preambular paragraphs, we, the Appeal, takes up six points as the demands from this General Conference to States and governments and some international organizations. As you can see, the content is very clear.

Number one, we demand the conclusion of the abolition of nuclear weapons and to urge the negotiation for that.

And the second point is that the nuclear weapons States would promptly cease their deployment.

And the third point is to invite governments to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

And the fourth point is that governments will tackle other problems, like famine or poverty and all other social problems, other than the nuclear disarmament issue.

And the fifth point is that governments will implement important environmental treaties and other documents, including the Kyoto Protocol.

And the sixth point is, let's make the best use of the funds which we will gain from disarmament and so on.

So these are the six main points which this Appeal demands from governments and other organizations.

And following that, this Appeal takes up six other points which we will set as our goals, this organization's goals, not demands. These are the demands for ourselves.

One is that we will strengthen our activities to urge governments to conclude the nuclear weapons ban treaty before the NPT Review Conference, once again in 2010, before that.

And the second point is to strengthen the network of this Mayor's conference.

The third point is to cooperate with other actors, including governments and NGOs and other citizens for nuclear abolition.

And the fourth point is to urge the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly to start to set up a special committee for nuclear abolition and a nuclear-free world.

And the fifth point is to transmit the message of hibakusha as humankind's common legacy to the world, and for that purpose to establish as many Hiroshima-Nagasaki courses as possible.

And the sixth point is to promote the culture of peace throughout the world and for that purpose to strengthen peace education.

So these are the substantive points of the Appeal. And one thing that has to be explained at the beginning is the proposal to recommend Hidankyo for the Nobel Peace Prize. And as far as I know, many people welcomed this proposal. In fact, this was a very good proposal and this is being considered around here seriously.

But the reason why it was not included in this Appeal is that we had to spend so much time on many other points so we did not have enough time to consider seriously about that good proposal. Personally, I myself think it was a very good proposal and I personally want to thank the people who proposed that. But for technical reasons it was not possible. But there was once again another request to consider that proposal once again this morning. So once again I talked with Mayor Akiba and he is also quite thankful for that proposal, yet, we decided to postpone, not to include that proposal this time. It is because it may incur some political difficulties where you have to consider other points as well.

There are many points to be considered, but if I explain to you in the easiest way, for example, this conference is being run by the close cooperation between Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so it is a good idea to recommend an organization from Hiroshima to the Nobel Committee. On the other hand, you have to think about Nagasaki equally. So it will be best if both cities, the organizations of both cities, receive a Nobel Peace Prize. For the moment, we don't have enough time to consider all those complicated points.

So in any event it is difficult to include that proposal in today's Appeal. But there are positive signs that Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City will be very active in fulfilling that proposal, so it's not neglected in any way, but please understand that because we were unable to include the proposal this time.

So this is the rough explanation of the Appeal as outlined, and I will take questions if there are any.

Gary Moore, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Christchurch, New Zealand: Hello, I'm Gary Moore from Christchurch, New Zealand. One of the things that I would like to see added here is I think we need to acknowledge that we can make all the proposals we want, but without a Secretariat there will be nothing, that without the good will of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we wouldn't be here. And so I think we must share the burden, all of us, by making an international contribution, by putting in place a format of some form or another.

Most of us in this room have been parties to movements, and a movement does not happen without organization. So I would like to propose, and I have given this to Mayor Akiba, that we promote a movement by forming an International Secretariat which will share the burden of promoting and expanding Mayors for Peace. And I

believe that the Executive, those of us here, would have the task of making that happen.

Mogami: As the seventh point? That's what you intend? Okay, this is a very well-intentioned amendment and I would take opinions from you about this. The proposal is, if I may repeat, to insert one more paragraph for the Roman numeral I, as Roman numeral 1, the new sentence will be, "To promote a movement by forming an International Secretariat which will share the burden of promoting and expanding the Mayors for Peace." This might take some discussion or is it easy? [*applause*]

Okay, this involves some technical questions. So in order to be precise with procedure we have to reconvene the Drafting Committee once again, but we cannot do that because you are waiting, and this contains some technical problems. We'd like to propose that this will be, this kind proposal will be discussed after this. We will have to establish a committee to discuss this or other things, in spite of your clapping or applause. Yes?

Stewart Kemp, Stewart Kemp, Principal Policy Officer, Manchester, U.K.:

Chairman, I think at the very opening, at the Executive Meeting that the matter of the future financing for the organization was raised, and it was agreed at that opening Executive Meeting that in the period between now, I think Mayor Akiba mentioned over the next couple of years, we ought to take soundings amongst the membership as to how to proceed on that matter.

And it would seem to be appropriate in that same context to move forward and discuss any of these organizational matters at the same time. So I would certainly propose that we agree the statement as it stands, but take on board this point as something that can be discussed and views can be taken from the whole of the membership as to how they may wish to move forward.

Mogami: Thank you very much Mr. Kemp for indicating that. You left it up to me, so I did not know what happened at, but with this indication I think the problem has been solved. So please accept the Appeal as it stands as far as this part is concerned. Okay, thank you. And so let's discuss about this later.

So any other serious proposals based on this? Please raise any suggestions based on this draft and the Drafting Committee. Yes, please.

Hervé Brahmé, President, Seine St. Denis, France: From Seine St. Denis, my name is Brahmé. About the responsibility by the States, there was the paragraph which mentions about the responsibility assumed by the governments or the States. I believe the part is also signed on the Millennium Declaration, and there is a Chapter in the Millennium Declaration which says, "for peace, for disarmament, for security." And after that Chapter 2, there are a series, I think there were ten proposals in the Millennium Declaration.

I believe the parties to this declaration are, for example, saying that we have to respond to WMD. This is the Millennium Declaration, WMD I'm talking about. I believe the governments are going to start the negotiations, that's what's suggested there. So I would like you to include, based on the commitment which was declared

in the Millennium Declaration in accordance with or following the commitments we made in the Millennium Declaration, this is what we'd like you to do.

Mogami: There is something called the Millennium Declaration issued by the United Nations General Assembly, and the proposal is that he wants to add that term specifically to this paragraph. The Arabic 1, is it absolutely necessary? Is the amendment necessarily indispensable? I hear some saying no.

Brahmy: To me, for peace, because this is the mayor's assembly for peace, paragraph 1, that's Arabic number 1, all governments or most of the governments are a signatory to the Millennium Declaration, and the abolition of nuclear weapons is mentioned in that Millennium Declaration. WMD, in order to avoid the risk of weapons of mass destruction, the commitment is made in the Millennium Declaration. The abolition of WMD, the abolition of nuclear weapons, that has to be considered as an objective and we have to put our efforts as a commitment. So there is the matching in the objectives of our Appeal and the Millennium Declaration, and my wish is to include the Millennium Declaration term, the knowledge wording in paragraph 1.

Aaron Tovish, 2020 Vision Campaign Manager: There are several texts in which the nuclear weapons States have made such commitments, including Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is legally binding and which the International Court of Justice reinforced in its findings. We could cite many sources for this. I don't think that that particular citation is particularly strong because it talks about eliminating the nuclear dangers and not the weapons themselves in terms of commitment to negotiations. We're talking here about abolition. So I think it would complicate matters to bring that particular citation into this paragraph.

Mogami: Yes, please.

Michel Cibot, City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France: What I was referring to was a very small provision, specifically speaking. Those who are awarded by the Nobel Peace Award, we would like to invite those Nobel Laureates and we would like to designate them as Peace Ambassadors, so this another amendment, suggestion, those Nobel Peace Laureates are the citizens.

Mogami: Excuse me, we are still in the midst of the discussion of one subject, so would you please wait another moment, at a later stage? We are now discussing whether the suggested wording should be included, "Millennium Declaration," should be included in paragraph 1. As long as we listen to the opinions of the Executive Members, it is not necessary to include this. So we should go back to this point first. Please wait for the other intervention.

Going back to you, are there any other comments? If we are going to the source of the text for the abolition of the nuclear weapons, because there are a lot of sources of such texts, probably it is not convenient, it is not advisable to include one specific source, which is the Declaration, here in this paragraph. That is the opinion I heard. Any other opinions?

Well, I take it, if it is not necessary to make an amendment to the original appeal, our wish is to retain the field as much as possible in the original format, so it is not an indispensable amendment or proposal. We would like to decline such a request.

Now ladies and gentlemen, is there any burning new suggestion for an amendment. Of course, there are so many hopes so there are a lot of ideals we want to put on the table, but once you start to say what's on your mind on this table, that's going to take another four or five hours. We have spent four hours last night. I hope you will respect what we have learnt last night, at midnight last night. We worked hard, we have to go back to the table again if we start to say whatever we want to say. We should never treat ourselves inhumanely. That is the principle.

Tovish: Extremely constructive suggestion. This morning we heard Mayor Akiba declaring this a Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment.

In the name of Mayors for Peace, and I think it would be slightly strange if in our Appeal we make no reference whatsoever to this Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment, and there is, I think, a logical place for this to appear. It could appear after the first comma in the section that introduces the last six commitments on the part of our organization. So it would read, "To achieve total abolition of nuclear weapons," it would say, "To advance total abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting peace during this Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment, we will cooperate..." et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. So it would reflect the public statement that Mayor Akiba made that this organization was in fact declaring such a year, otherwise that will be absent from this Appeal. [*applause*]

Mogami: Oh, I hear you. I heard the same proposal from several other people and I hear lots of applause once again, so may I include that amendment into this draft? [*applause*] Okay, let's do it that way.

Okay, is there any other suggestion? The last one? The short paragraph preceding the paragraph with Roman I, which starts "To achieve total abolition of nuclear weapons."

Could you really announce that to the floor? Yes, the sentence.

Tovish: The verb at the beginning of that paragraph, for it to make sense, would have to read, "to advance" rather than "to achieve" the goal. "To advance the goal."

Mogami: No, no, no.

Tovish: "During this year."

Mogami: No additional amendments. Just insert your sentence, please.

Tovish: I'm just clarifying that. Instead of "to achieve," it would read "to advance," and then that beginning phrase would continue "during this Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment."

Mogami: Is that clear? The wording will be different from the language, so I do not repeat that in other languages, what Mr. Tovish says, so will you take note of what he says and the Secretariat will once again streamline the revised text. So please accept it as recommended.

Cibot: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure in the interests of time we have to be very brief. It's not that every member was a participant in the Drafting Committee. There are a lot of members who have come here all the way from their respective city. Only because there is limited time allocated to this session, you cannot decline some constructive offer or proposal.

I have one proposal, one point to be added. Nobel Peace Laureates should be invited to come to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That is a small proposal, so that they can be the Ambassador of the Mayors for Peace, because they are also the citizens of the local authorities. And Nobel Peace Laureates do have influential power. They are competent in delivery strong messages. In our fight, I am sure they can give us a lot of power and contribution. Just one sentence, that is my hope.

Mogami: I tried not to automatically decline the new proposal. I sincerely hope that you will understand the new proposal, the Nobel Peace Laureates should be invited to Hiroshima, what do you think about this new proposal, ladies and gentlemen?

I heard some acclamations, probably half of the members seem to be agreeing to this amendment proposal. Any other opinions?

Gordon Matheson, Councilor, Glasgow, U.K.: I suggest that that specific proposal be remitted to the Executive. That's why they have an executive to deal with these kinds of issues. It need not be a critical statement, which is the purpose of this document here. I'm not saying that I disagree with the suggestion, I'm just saying I don't think it is germane to this statement, and therefore I would suggest that the idea be remitted back to the Executive.

Mogami: The proposal was to discuss this in the Executive Session, executive sitting session.

Alyn Ware, Chairperson of Section Meeting I, Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms: Mr. Chairman, may I make a suggestion and it relates to proposals like this and possibly many other wonderful ideas that people have. On the first day, at the plenary, we were given a program plan which included a number of very, very good ideas, and this I think goes along with those thoughts and ideas that don't need to be in this Declaration, but can be added to the types of activities that can be conducted by Mayors for Peace.

And I would suggest that we don't ask for any more of those sorts of ideas for this particular Declaration, but really if there are any problems that people have with the Declaration, and if there aren't then we should move towards accepting it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mogami: Thank you very much. As for the ideas, there is a high possibility that those can be included in the action plans, and there are a lot of excellent plans already included in the action plan. So as the policy, in the Executive Session this idea or some of the action programs will be discussed. Is this acceptable? I'm sure you must have a lot of ideas. You must have a lot of plans. But if we are going to take this one by one at this moment, there will be a lot of things which were not given thought to, those points which were not discussed before, so it is very difficult to include them in this Appeal. I understand your feelings and I understand how you feel about some of the brilliant ideas you have, but I respect the mechanism or the policy so may I suggest, may I ask you to concur with this Appeal? [*applause*]

Thank you very much. Now, once again may I ask you, is there any burning, indispensable suggestion where you might think that if we are going to leave this, this will create the fatal flaw or problem? Are there any?

And there will be a further small amendment to what Mr. Tovish says. He said that he only mentioned this year, but this document will have to be valid for another four years, so we will thoroughly, simply modify the sentence in order to incorporate that possible change. Okay so please recognize that.

So if so, I think as a whole this Appeal is ready to be accepted by this Conference, and if you accept will you please accept this by a show of hands? Okay. Okay, thank you very much. I think the majority now has shown their hands and this Appeal has been accepted. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Thank you. Thank you very much, and actually I think we went ahead of ourselves, but at this point in order to formally adopt the Appeal, I'd like to invite Mayor Khan of Manchester to read it in full so that we understand what we are adopting clearly.

Afzal Khan, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Manchester, U.K.:
Lord Mayor, respective mayors, honored and distinguished guests, the Hiroshima Appeal:

We, representatives from 92 cities and local authorities and 4 organizations from 20 countries, met at the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings held in Hiroshima City and discussed in great detail the keynote theme: Toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020: roles and initiatives for cities.

Following after the May 2005 NPT Review Conference which failed to achieve concrete results, we actively discussed other strategies through which to pursue the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

At the 5th General Conference, held four years ago, we confirmed our commitment to strive to make the 21st century a 'Century of Humanity,' in which all life is respected. Unfortunately, major political developments, including continued terrorist attacks, have changed the global situation dramatically, and the world continues to walk the path of retaliation and war.

The human family now faces the risk of nuclear proliferation and a third use of nuclear weapons due to doctrines of the U.S., Russia, U.K., France, China, India, and Pakistan, North Korea's declaration that it possesses nuclear weapons, the possibility that other States may be developing nuclear weapons, and the possibility that terrorists might obtain and use nuclear weapons.

Threats to civilians are not limited to nuclear weapons. In this world, an incredibly large number of people are exposed in their daily lives to such threats as hunger, poverty, infectious diseases, discrimination, violence, conflicts and environmental destruction.

Though national leaders worldwide are well aware of these challenges, their attention is focused on pursuing national and economic interests rather than on implementing effective measures to deal with these challenges. It is always citizens who are the victims of wars, violence and environmental destruction. We mayors are responsible for the protection of the human rights and security of our citizens. To deal with these challenges, the Mayors for Peace have confirmed once again our resolve to cooperate in strengthening our solidarity and make the 21st century a 'Century of Humanity'. We reaffirm Vision 2020, the emergency campaign for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We, the participants in this General Conference of Mayors for Peace:

1. Call upon all governments to immediately start negotiations toward the conclusion of an international treaty banning nuclear weapons leading to total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.
2. Demand that countries possessing nuclear weapons promptly cease their operational deployment.
3. Invite government leaders, in particular those of countries possessing nuclear weapons, to visit the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and see with their own eyes what nuclear weapons have in store for humankind.
4. Demand that governments actively deal with the entire range of global challenges, including hunger, poverty, discrimination, violence and environmental destruction.
5. Demand that governments throughout the world promote efforts by the whole of international society to deal with environmental problems including full implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.
6. Demand reductions in military expenditures and the use of funds generated by those reductions to address problems in such areas as peace, hunger, refugees, and the environment, while actively promoting the conversion of industrial capacity from military to civilian use.

To advance total abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace commencing with this "Year of Inheritance, Awakening, and Commitment," we will cooperate and strengthen solidarity across nation, ethnicity, ideology, belief and religion, giving particular emphasis to the following:

- I. In collaboration with all governments and with NGOs, promote activities that lead to an international treaty banning nuclear weapons by the time of the NPT Review Conference due to be held in 2010, leading to the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.
- II. Create a network of Mayors for Peace member cities in each country and engage actively in various initiatives for the total abolition of nuclear weapons.
- III. Launch a great diversity of campaigns for nuclear weapons abolition in numerous cities throughout the world working with nations, NGOs and the vast majority of the world's people.

- IV. Urge the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security of the United Nations General Assembly to establish a special committee to deliberate and plan for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
- V. Propose that schools, colleges and universities across the world organize 'Hiroshima and Nagasaki Courses' to communicate the message of the hibakusha to people across the world as a common legacy for humankind.
- VI. Promote peace education at all levels to develop a culture of peace.

We resolve the above and vow to work in close cooperation with the public to achieve the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

August 6, 2005
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Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Is this acceptable? [*applause*]

Thank you very much.

Akiba: Thank you very much, Mayor Khan. And we intend to send this Appeal to all the member cities, to all the national governments in the world, and many international organizations, including the United Nations and affiliated organizations.

Now we are finally coming toward the end of this meeting and I would like to invite a couple of people from outside of Japan to address you at the final stage of the conference, and I'd like to invite one of the longstanding members of the Mayors for Peace, as well as one of the dearest friends of Hiroshima for a long time, Lord Mayor Schmalstieg of Hannover, please.

Herbert Schmalstieg, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Mayor, Hannover, Germany: Mr. President, Mayor Akiba, distinguished guests, colleagues, dear friends, shall we put an end to the human race or shall mankind renounce war? This is the temporary question of the manifesto by Einstein, Bertrand Russell and eight other internationally-renowned scientists addressed to the governments of the world fifty years ago.

Today, 60 years after the end of the Second World War, 60 years after the horrific destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by A-bombs, this question still has not been answered. But we will not abandon our cause.

The 21st century must be the Century of Humanity. Events of terrorism in New York, Madrid, London and in other places have upset the world situation. Nevertheless, among all the efforts to pursue and combat terrorism and to improve the safety of our citizens, we may not slacken in our striving to reduce confrontation and to promote peaceful coexistence among people of the world's origins, color and cultures.

A life without peace, a life without these meetings between peoples and dialogues between their cultures, is no life at all. People, dear friends, live in the city. This is why we, mayors and councilors, have a right to raise our voices when peace is the

issue. Our commitment to equality, understanding and peace, is required each and every day, among this day, in this place, on the 6th of August in Hiroshima more than ever.

I have more than 260 cities of Mayors for Peace in Germany declaring the following:

We are opposed to terrorism in any shape or form.

We are opposed to war and to violence.

We are opposed to the persistent and increasing threats posed by nuclear weapons.

We demand a moratorium on all nuclear weapons testing and a stop to all further development of nuclear weapons.

We demand the complete dismantling of all nuclear weapons.

This is the address to the United States. President Bush, make a start now on ending the nuclear threat. Please do the first step, present an address to Russia. President Putin, please show that your country is prepared to renounce all nuclear weapons. And this is the address to the United Kingdom, to France, to India and Pakistan. We want no nuclear weapons in North Korea or Iran, not in Israel or in any other country.

Ladies and gentlemen, we live in one world for whose world being we all share the responsibility because we have only borrowed it from our children and grandchildren. For this reason, we may not tolerate the way that more and more money is spent on armaments and rearmaments, the instruments of death and destruction. We need this money to combat hunger, poverty and disease all over this one world of ours. We need this money to declare war on AIDS, to eliminate discrimination, to stop the destruction of our national environment, to prevent violence and the displacement of people from their homes.

It will not be simple to achieve all this. Hiroshima, this 6th General Assembly of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace urges us to do everything in our power to make it happen.

And also, as the events of the last two days have shown, give us courage for the future. Let us work on ways to resolve and determination to make our vision a reality. No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki! Thank you for your attention.

Akiba: Thank you very much, Lord Mayor Schmalstieg for your eloquent and passionate closing remark. Now I would like to invite a good friend, also a longstanding supporter of the Mayors for Peace, Mayor Catherine Margate of the City of Malakoff. I'm sorry, this is written in Japanese and I couldn't find the proper name, but Mayor, please. [*applause*]

Catherine Margate, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Mayor, Malakoff, France: Mayor Akiba, distinguished mayors, ladies and gentlemen, 60 years ago Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed by this atrocious event. After that, victims suffered for many, many years. The A-bomb brought about the destruction of human civilization.

This morning I listened to the testimony of the hibakusha. I saw at the museum an exhibition and I took part in that very impressive, moving ceremony. I heard many voices on how we should proceed with the campaign for nuclear elimination. There are many appeals. We should never forget Hiroshima. We should never forget the men, women and children who gathered together to voice out their strong commitment not to repeat Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And this afternoon, again, Mr. Takahashi has moved us deeply through his testimony.

The future of mankind, how we can sustain our civilization, how we can reduce tension, how we can resolve conflicts, how we can get rid of injustice and inequality. As local governments there are many, many challenges and many commitments that we need to make. We need to stop armaments from proceeding and we need to establish a mechanism for peace.

The conference here in Hiroshima should continue to contribute to mobilizing people on the local level to appeal for peace. You should not just voice opposition. That would not be enough, but we need to tackle establishing a new civilization. The culture for peace, as Mayor Akiba says, is the way we can stop the threat of nuclear weapons to continue to make us fearful. We have to continue remembering through this Mayors for Peace conference. We should also identify what kind of education programs we need. With other local governments interested in peace here in France, I am committed to making various initiatives.

How we can promote disarmament, how we can go with development and sustainability go hand in hand. In many parts of the world, huge amounts of military spending are made. How we can rectify the situation is a challenge. How can citizens take a central role in promoting a new initiative for peace?

What we can do to realize that the countries make steps forward for peace, how we can make countries abide by the rules and provisions of the treaties. We need to make sure that we realize the society that is just and equality. Thank you.

Akiba: Thank you Mayor Margate. And that concludes our 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, except I have the honor and pleasure of thanking everybody at the end. It's the privilege of the president of any organization to do so.

And first of all, I would like to thank the Drafting Committee and committee members. I would like to thank the keynote speaker, the speaker of the commemorative lecture, and also the speaker of the plenary session, chairpersons who coordinated the workshops, and the panelists and all those who spoke.

And of course, I really would like to thank each one of you who participated in this General Conference, and also I'd like to thank the government representatives who have spent your busy time in attending and listening and interacting with the city representatives and city leaders.

Also, the NGOs who have been working with us tirelessly all these years, I would like to thank you again.

And all of you who have actually come from outside of Hiroshima, I'd like to thank you, especially for overcoming the jetlag and also some of the inconveniences that trips actually involved, such as your suitcase not arriving at the same time you do. So I'd like to thank all of you who have had such trouble.

And also I'd like to thank the volunteers and the NGOs, and of course the interpreters who have put up with many of the technical difficulties and so forth. And if I haven't mentioned, well, there are many other people who made this conference possible. And of course the city employees who have always put in extra hours for the success of this conference.

So with that I would like to declare that this conference is formally adjourned, and tonight there will be a farewell party and that will give you another chance to interact with each other so that for the coming four years we'll go again full steam toward the goal of the abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. So thank you very much for all of your efforts. Thank you very much. [*applause*]