

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

Plenary Session I

Next Steps for Mayors for Peace

-What mayors and citizens can do to abolish nuclear weapons-

10:00-14:00, Friday, August 5, 2005

Himawari

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Toshiki Mogami**

Professor, International Christian University

Keynote Speaker:

Susan Walker

Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant

Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer

Speaker:

Ellen Woodsworth

Councilor, Vancouver, Canada

Daniel Fontaine

Mayor, Aubagne, France

Alfred Marder

New Haven, Chairman of New Haven Peace Commission, U.S.A

André Hédiger

Mayor, Geneva, Switzerland

Gary Moore

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Christchurch, New Zealand

Beverly O'Neill

President of the US Conference of Mayors, Mayor, Long Beach, U.S.A

Herbert Schmalstieg

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Hannover, Germany

Mohamed Afzal Khan

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Manchester, U.K

Evgeny Petrovich Ischenko

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Volgograd, Russia

Alain Audoubert

Mayor, Vitry-sur-Seine, France

Hervé Brahmy

President, Seine St. Denis, France

Walter Momper

President of House of Representatives, Berlin, Germany

Steve Freedkin

Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, U.S.A

Brian Fitch

City Councilor, Brighton & Hove, U.K

Bob Harvey

Mayor, Waitakere, New Zealand

Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff

Mayor, Galle, Sri Lanka

Jean-Pierre Brouhon

Official Delegation Representative, Ixelles, Belgium

Susanna Agostini

Councilor, Florence, Italy

Bruno Vincenzo Scittarelli

Mayor, Cassino, Italy

Nimal Chandrasiri de Silva

Mayor, Kurunegala, Sri Lanka

Arlette Zielinski

Deputy Mayor, Villejiuf, France

Peter Chan

Councilor, Waitakere, New Zealand

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

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call the plenary Session 1 to order. This morning we are honored by the presence of Prof. Toshiki Mogami of the International Christian University located in Tokyo. He will chair this plenary Session 1 and 2. Let me explain a little bit about Prof. Mogami's contributions to the cause of peace and his academic career.

He graduated from the University of Tokyo and then received his Masters and Doctorate degree in international law with his specialty of international law and international organization. He assumed the professorship of the International Christian University in 1990 and was appointed to chair many professional organizations. One of these organizations is the Japan Peace Studies Association. He was a very active chairman of that organization from 1999 to 2001 and made peace studies one of the recognized academic disciplines in Japan.

He has contributed to the Mayors for Peace as an excellent advisor and served as the moderator, chairman, chairman of the drafting committees, and so forth during the 4th and the 5th General Conference, and we are lucky and honored and pleased to have him as the advisor, as well as the chairperson for the plenary session. The City of Hiroshima owes him a great deal because he has been a consistent supporter of the City of Hiroshima peace activities, as well as a leader in his own discipline. So now I would like to introduce Prof. Mogami and take this podium.

Chairperson, Toshiki Mogami, Professor, International Christian University:

Thank you very much, Mayor Akiba, and good morning, everyone. I am happy to hear the over-generous introduction by Mayor Akiba. And I am deeply honored to chair this conference once again. Since this is the third time for me to chair this conference, I see many faces among you which are familiar to me and I feel very happy whenever I see them. Of course, I feel equally happy when I see faces which are new to me. Welcome to this meaningful conference. But I feel unhappy when I think about the failure of the recent NPT Review Conference and when I think about the statements in the nuclear disarmament and lack of enthusiasm on the part of some governments for nuclear disarmament.

But we are not here to share our disappointments or discouragement. Instead, we have gathered here to get united once again in our endeavors for peace. We are here despite the failure of the NPT Review Conference and despite the increasingly looming prospects of nuclear proliferation, and even nuclear clashes. We are here to enliven our commitment to the unity and reconciliation of humankind. And we are here to mutually enrich our approaches to these problems by hearing ideas which may be new to us. And above all, we are here to reconfirm our conviction that what happened here, 60 years ago, in Hiroshima must never happen again to anybody in the world. And let's be united with our commitments to all these purposes and ideals.

Now I would like to call the meeting to order. And today, at the beginning, we have the pleasure of having Ms. Susan Walker as the very exciting keynote speaker and we begin with her presentation. But before calling on her, I would like to give the floor to the Councilor of the City of Vancouver, Ms. Ellen Woodsworth so that she can present to you some announcement about the World Peace Forum which will be held June next year.

Ellen Woodsworth, Councilor, Vancouver, Canada: Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here on behalf of the Mayor of the City of Vancouver. We decided that it was time to mobilize cities and communities together for peace, justice and to end poverty, and we have decided to hold a World Peace Forum in June 2006 in the City of Vancouver, Canada, dovetailed with the World Urban Forum, which is a time when mayors, councilors, environmentalists, architects, planners, emerge to talk about ideal cities and sustainable cities. We thought that this would be an ideal time in world history when communities, who, like Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are being destroyed in wars and have burst to stop wars and pro-peace movements could get together with councilors and mayors and to find a way forward.

So in June of next year in Vancouver we are meeting, and at the same time many organizations will be having their conferences there: International Peace Messenger Cities will be meeting with Mayors for Peace, International Peace Research Center will be coming there, Pugwash. The working groups, the youth, the women, the arts, the anti-racist groups, groups from all over the world are planning now how to make Vancouver, which is renowned as a city of peace, a city that will leave a legacy and build towards a future of peace and sustainability.

Out theme which we're asking everyone to use as they talk in their organizations of plans to bring to the World Peace Forum is "Cities and Communities Working Together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World." We have invitations that Dr. Price will be handing out to you, and you will probably have seen our flyer that we have been handing out.

As we speak today, in Vancouver we will be honoring the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a commemoration service, and our Vancouver Public Library is doing a special folding of cranes at all its neighborhood libraries that will be coming together at its main library. So there are many, many activities that are happening in Vancouver. And I wanted to give a poster to the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mayor Akiba, that is a picture taken of Hiroshima in the 50s with Kinoku Laskey who just passed away, who was a resident of Vancouver. And I will present this to Mayor Akiba, and I hope that you will be able to bring your organizations to Vancouver to work with civil society to advance peace and justice and to fight poverty in this world by building a peace agenda as opposed to a military agenda. Thank you so much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Ms. Woodsworth. Now we begin the official part. First, as I told you, we will ask Ms. Susan Walker to give her presentation, and soon after that we will call on each of you to give your presentation. And the basic rule is that you are requested to limit your presentation to five minutes maximum, the shorter, the better because we have so many requests to speak up on the stage, so please abide by the time limit. So now we will have Ms. Susan Walker on stage, but before that I'll give you a brief introduction of Ms. Walker.

Ms. Walker is well known as a strong part of the ICBL, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, but before doing that she worked in the American Refugee Committee, a medical program, and after that she worked strenuously for Handicap International, and Handicap International, this NGO became one of the six co-founding NGOs to establish the ICBL, and it was in 1992. And from 1992 she

worked hard for the cause of the ICBL and then finally succeeded in getting the treaty ratified by the world community.

Susan completed her contract with the ICBL in May 2005, but she continues to work on the implementation of the 1997 Mine Ban Convention, humanitarian affairs and disarmament consultant in Geneva. She has been always active in giving the world a humanitarian moment. So as this conference is willing to incorporate the ideas of the so-called Ottawa Process, which was adopted for the signing of the landmine ban convention, I think we can turn to the rich experiences of hers. So she may have lots of advice and suggestions to us, I believe. So will you please come up? Ms. Walker.

Susan Walker, Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant, Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer: Good morning, everyone. Mayor Akiba-san, Mayor Itoh-san, Dr. Mogami-san, Senator Roche-san, mayors, hibakusha-san, and other champions in the movement to ban nuclear weapons, konnichiwa, and thank you very much to the Mayors for Peace for inviting me as a long-term advocate in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, or ICBL, to address this important and historic conference on the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings and to share our experience. It is an honor and a privilege to be here.

Walking through the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum yesterday, it was the stories of individual suffering and death which brought the horrors of nuclear war into clear focus. Such as Sadako Sasaki, who was two years old on the 6th August, 1945, and who died ten years later after contracting leukemia. The thousands of paper cranes she folded with a child's innocent hope of recovering from her illness has become a worldwide symbol of peace. Your work during the challenging years ahead must succeed in realizing her hopes so that never again will a child have to say in agony, and I quote, "Am I still alive? I am so thirsty," as Hiroki Hori, a 13-year-old boy who died on the 10th August, 1945, said as he was dying.

This week I learned that most of the footage and the photos of the Holocaust caused by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were hidden away and declared top secret by the United States government for decades before a few were released. More will now be broadcast for the first time on television on this 60th anniversary weekend. May they so horrify and shake the world citizens and governments that we, collectively, seize the opportunity to progress on banning nuclear weapons. There is an urgency to do so, particularly in this post 9/11 world of the war on terrorism.

We always need to try new things, and I'm going to try a new thing today. I've never made or done a PowerPoint, so the remainder, it's not words, it is photos that hopefully will bring the landmines issue to play, so I will try to see if this works.

It is indeed fitting to have a session on the civil society role in achieving the AP Mine Ban Convention in order to learn from the extraordinary success to date in making strides to rid the world of this indiscriminate and insidious weapon. The anti-personnel mine ban movement, or "Ottawa Process," as it is called, is very likely the most successful example to date of government and civil society partnership to address a global humanitarian crisis. It is also the first time that a conventional weapon in widespread use has been banned.

The photos that you'll be seeing are taken the last two weeks in Thailand and Cambodia. As Professor Mogami said, I continue to work on implementation of the convention and was on mission in Thailand and Cambodia to implement the victim assistance provisions of the convention.

As you know, the limited military utility of anti-personnel mines is far outweighed by their humanitarian consequences, as documented in the study done by a group of retired generals for the International Committee of the Red Cross. It's entitled, "Anti-personnel mines: Friend or Foe?" The world responded to the global humanitarian crisis caused by anti-personnel mines with a comprehensive and unequivocal ban. This historic convention was negotiated, signed and entered into force faster than any convention in modern times. There are many lessons that can be drawn from the AP mine ban movement for your efforts to achieve a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons and I hope to share some of these with you.

The ICBL is a coalition of 1,400 organizations in over 90 countries, including a broad range of relief and development, rehabilitation, humanitarian mine clearance, and human rights organizations. This is almost identical in numbers to the Mayors for Peace network of 1,080 cities in 112 countries and territories. This is an advantage which must be used to its fullest, having a network like this. In 1997, the Nobel Peace Prize Committee spoke of our joint efforts saying, and I quote, "As a model for similar processes in the future, it could prove of decisive importance to the international effort for disarmament and peace."

I have been asked to speak about the role of the ICBL and civil society in achieving the global ban on anti-personnel mines. I will focus on how the unprecedented partnership between civil society and governments brought about the convention and the success we have had to date.

The next five years are indeed a critical period as we continue to implement the convention, and I will say the full name only once, Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, and On Their Destruction. The first review conference of the convention, also known as the "Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World," took place in Kenya from 29 November to 3 December last year. It reviewed the first five years of progress since the convention entered into force on 1st March 1999 and issued a high-level declaration signed by the heads of States that were there and the heads of delegation. Most importantly, the States parties adopted the Nairobi Action Plan for 2005-2009 in order to reach our life-saving objective of a world without anti-personnel mines. This is probably the most detailed and comprehensive action plan ever to come out of a convention review conference.

Anti-personnel mines are the cause of a global humanitarian crisis with severe health, human rights, environmental, rehabilitation and social and economic consequences in many of the poorest, war-torn or post-conflict countries in the world. These are also the countries that are least able to deal with the humanitarian consequences and devastation on their infrastructure.

The disastrous effects of anti-personnel mines on anyone who steps on them, changes lives forever, if one survives the blast. Children are more vulnerable, as they are

usually ripped apart and killed by them due to their small size, rather than maimed, as the designers of anti-personnel mines intended for strategic military reasons. Most of the photos that you'll be seeing here are, themselves, people that are landmine survivors, some of them my old patients and workers.

At this time when there is a great deal of pessimism surrounding multilateral affairs worldwide, the convention serves as a beacon of hope that citizens and their governments, working in partnership, can and have made a difference. Anti-personnel mines continue to maim and kill for decades after wars have ended, as they do not recognize peace accords, but the international community has made great strides during the past seven years to address this crisis.

Speaking personally, I am involved in the mine ban movement because of 15 years of working in medical, rehabilitation and humanitarian mine clearance programs in Southeast Asia with refugees, villagers and persons with disability, including literally tens of thousands of landmine survivors. I have experienced the horror of a 34-year-old Cambodian man being killed by an anti-personnel mine 400 meters from where I stood, leaving behind a wife and three small children, and have carried a 19-year-old Cambodian boy to the hospital two hours after he was blown up by an anti-personnel mine.

I have also had the joy of talking with one of our patients happily working in his radio repair shop, who thanked us for "giving him back his life." Why? Because Handicap International's Social and Economic Reintegration Programme had provided him with the opportunity to establish a livelihood. He was able to marry and have two children, and he said it never would have happened if he was not able to support himself and his family.

A letter I received in 1995 from my colleague following one of my trips to Cambodia said, and I quote:

We have information on the man who died of a mine explosion on June 8th, 1995, the day you and Steve were on site with the mines advisory group in Battambang. His was Pech Korb. He was 36 years old. He is survived by his wife, Seang Chantorn, and three sons, ages 2, 4 and 6. He had stopped being a soldier five months before he died. He resigned from the military, as his salary was not enough to support his family. He thought they would have more security if he farmed. He knew his land was mined, but he worked on it every day anyway because he had no other choice. Like every other farmer, they needed the rice crop in order to survive. His wife is still working on the same plot of land. She and her children are completely destitute. Enclosed are pictures of Mr. Pech and his family; unfortunately, we have none of him while he was still alive.

It is because of experiences like this that many of us are involved in this process, for the AP landmine convention was borne out of the utter and massive devastation caused by anti-personnel mines and the more-than-compelling humanitarian imperative to address this crisis. This is why ensuring that the convention is fully

implemented must remain high on each of our agendas and indeed on that of the international community.

When the convention was negotiated in Oslo in September of '97 and signed in Ottawa in December '97, millions of survivors and those living and working in mined communities worldwide felt the voice of the victims had finally been heard. As you know, we were honored to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in '97. In the words of the Nobel Committee, and I'll show you what it is, a copy of what you get when you receive the Nobel Peace Prize, this was the announcement on October 10, '97, and then they present a diploma with an original work of art on the 10th December when it's issued each year. The committee said, and I quote:

The ICBL and Jody Williams started a process which in the space of a few years changed a ban on anti-personnel mines from a vision to a feasible reality. ...With the governments of several small and mid-sized countries taking the issue up and taking steps to deal with it, this work has grown into a convincing example of an effective policy for peace.

Indeed, since '97 the ICBL and the Ottawa Process have been used as a model in creating the Human Security Network, the International Criminal Court, the Child Soldiers Campaign, the Small Arms and Light Weapons Campaign, the Cluster Munitions Coalition, and even the Tobacco Convention to name a few. The real prize for the ICBL will always remain the convention, which was courageously negotiated and adopted in Oslo by small and mid-sized countries who joined together to address this global humanitarian crisis, thereby defining a new way of conducting international diplomacy. The convention was then signed in Ottawa on the 2nd and 3rd of December '97. Throughout this historical process, the ICBL, in partnership with key governments such as Norway, Canada, Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Mexico, South Africa and Switzerland, the eight countries that came to the first meeting we convened on a possible ban in January of '96, these countries, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and various UN agencies have played a crucial role in ensuring that the world achieved and has now begun to consolidate and fully implement this convention "without exceptions, without reservations, and without loopholes."

The convention, indeed, provides a "Framework for a Mine-Free World" with a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mine, an obligation for all States Parties to destroy their stockpiles of AP mines within four years and clear mined areas within ten years. While no extension is allowed for the four-year stockpile destruction deadline, for mine clearance, especially for countries like Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola, that has millions and millions of mines, there is a possibility for extension of the mine clearance deadline.

There is also an obligation for "Each State Party," and I'm quoting the convention, "Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims and for mine awareness programs." The ICBL believes that all countries, including mine-affected countries, are in a position to help mine victims.

Yesterday someone said to me, oh, are there still many landmines in the world. A few figures to update you. Eighty-two countries worldwide remain mine-affected with 15–20,000 new victims in 65 of these countries; 85 per cent of the victims are civilians, as reported in the ICBL's Landmine Monitor 2004 report. Forty-one of the 65 countries where there were new victims were "at peace," not war.

Significant global progress has been made since entry into force on the 1st March '99 with a de facto export ban in place, reduced use, a decrease in production, an increase in humanitarian demining and victim assistance programs, and tens of millions of stockpiled mines having been destroyed by States Parties. Most importantly, we are beginning to see a decrease in the number of new victims. When we first started reporting, we reported 26,000 new victims per year, and the last report's estimated number is 15–20,000 new victims per year, but 15–20,000 new victims in 65 countries still remains totally unacceptable. That is one new landmine victim every 30 minutes or approximately 150 new landmine victims around the world during the days we are here in Hiroshima.

Just a quick update on this progress. There are now 145 States Parties and 8 Signatory States, or 80 per cent of the world. On transfers, as I said, a de facto ban is in place, even for countries that have not joined the convention. More than 37 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed by States Parties, and there has been a dramatic drop in production. There used to be 55, 5-5 countries producing landmines. Now there are only 15, 1-5, and out of those 15 some are not currently producing but we keep them on the list because they have not banned landmines.

There has also been a significant decrease in new use of AP lines by States. Only four governments since May 2003 compared to 15 governments using them in 1999. The use by armed non-state actors has also decreased.

Mine clearance, victim assistance, resource mobilization have all increased.

Global mine action funding is estimated to be \$2.3 billion over the past decade. It sounds like a lot but it's not enough to address the problem.

And most importantly, as I've said, the number of new victims is going down each year, but remember they are added to the 3 to 4 to 500,000 landmine survivors who will need care for the rest of their lives.

Even with these significant achievements during the first seven years of the convention, we must not be complacent because what the ICBL has always called "a weapon of terror" or a weapon of mass destruction in slow motion continues to have devastating humanitarian, developmental and socio-economic consequences in 82 mine-affected countries. We will not rest on our laurels. The ICBL will not stop until they have completed what they set out to accomplish: a mine-free world.

So what lessons can be drawn from the AP mine ban movement to contribute to the Mayors for Peace effort to translate the vision and the dream of a world free of nuclear weapons into reality by the year 2020? I will mention only nine points, though there are many more.

First, identify a few key like-minded governments and work closely in cooperation with them to galvanize the necessary political will and to develop a strategic action plan for the coming years, one that is practical and visionary. Perhaps Aaron Tovish's presentation last night addressed this matter.

Number 2, if necessary, take the process out of the United Nations, as we did with the Ottawa Process, unless the consensus rules and tyranny of the minority can be circumvented.

Three. Raise the voices. Dr. Inoguchi mentioned the Raising the Voices program which was a leadership training program for landmine survivors. You can raise the voices of the hibakusha and subsequent generations of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki so the citizens and governments of the world understand the horrors of a nuclear holocaust.

But also raise the voices of like-minded governments. They need pressure from you to be able to do this. We face this all the time in the landmine convention, even with the most committed governments like Norway and Canada that have been very strong since the beginning. They are constantly telling us, the people we work with, you must put pressure, priorities are elsewhere now. We need to get the budget and commitment from our government so please continue to push us to do this. So raise the voices of like-minded governments and citizens of the world calling for a ban on nuclear weapons. Another government, South Africa, said to me when I told him I was coming here, he said, "We need more pressure from civil society, otherwise this will not happen." As Senator Roche said yesterday, we are the majority and our collective voice must be heard. International public opinion and many governments, the majority of governments, are on our side.

Number five. Bring together all the organizations, mayors, parliamentarians and others calling for a ban on nuclear weapons and deliver an unequivocal and united message to the international community. Why not turn your 2020 Vision into a truly international and united campaign to ban nuclear weapons?

Number six. Get the issue on the agendas of every relevant movement in national, regional and international organizations and governments, not only for nice words on paper, like resolutions, but for concrete action and implementation of such declarations of intent.

Number seven. Become the experts. Yesterday someone asked statistics on the costs of nuclear weapons and stocking all of that. Become the experts, and issue briefing papers on the facts, the dangers and the horrors of nuclear weapons.

Number eight. Again, when I was preparing to come to Hiroshima I met with Prof. Jozef Goldblat of the Geneva International Peace Research Institute, who I'm sure many of you know. He has suggested that perhaps the first step should be a prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons, rather than seeking a ban, a total ban on everything.

And finally, proceed with determination, commitment and plain hard work.

Now none of these nine points are rocket science. And I'm sure you're doing many of them already, but this is what has gotten us in the campaign to the success that we have had to date. But again, implementation is the key, because we have a long way to go to rid the world of AP mines.

As ICBL's ambassador and co-laureate of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, Jody Williams, said on 19th July at the first ever conference of the Global Partnership on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, or GPPAC, a new acronym to me, the conference was entitled "From Reaction to Prevention: Civil society forging partnerships to prevent violent conflict and build peace." And it was held at the UN headquarters in New York. Jody said, and this was just two weeks ago:

This conference is a tremendous demonstration of civil society's commitment to creating a new agenda for conflict prevention. The GPPAC Global Action Agenda that has emerged from three years of work by thousands of women and men around the world helps focus the mind for continued work. But more importantly, it provides a basis for enhanced action by civil society to strengthen efforts to prevent violent conflict and to build peace. It clearly demonstrates our commitment, one that must be matched by governments and the international institutions at all levels in order to forge a real partnership for change.

In conclusion, ICBL's goals have always been clear. Our message has not changed from Day 1, from 1992. The total ban which we achieved, now to universalize the convention, to monitor the implementation, and to ensure that victim assistance and humanitarian mine clearance programs are adequately funded.

Your Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision emergency campaign to ban nuclear weapons must strive forward with this same clear vision and the same sense of determination and purpose. The AP Mine Ban Convention is one of the few multilateral processes, which is working successfully today. The close partnerships between governments and civil society has been key to our success. Continued success in the full implementation of the convention will serve to resolve not only this global humanitarian crisis but also to underline the importance of the Rule of Law and International Humanitarian Law.

Failure to do so will relegate our historic achievements to the dustbins of history. For the sake of humanity we must not allow this to happen. Collectively, we have made history. Collectively, we will work to ensure that place in history by translating the promise of the AP Land Mine Convention into life-saving reality on the ground.

For the sake of the millions living in mined communities and the tens of thousands of new mine victims each year, we must and we will succeed in securing a world where children and adults can "walk, play and live without fear" that their next step may be their last.

Our work is far from over. This week when I was checking email, I got a notice from the campaign that the United States is considering very seriously to resume the production of anti-personnel mines. They haven't used them since the Gulf War, the United States has not produced them since 1997, but earlier this year the Bush

Administration announced, following a two-and-a-half year review that in fact the United States would not join the convention. I believe it's probably the only country in the world that has said they will not join the mine ban convention. Others have said we cannot join now, we believe in the humanitarian goals and we will eventually join. So we have our work cut out for us. And so do you.

For the sake of the survival of humanity, you must and you will be successful. We must and we will be successful in achieving a world without nuclear weapons. May you be energized and inspired by the urgency of achieving this by 2020, if not before. Thank you. Domo arigato gosaimashita.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Ms. Walker, for your informative, insightful and energizing speech. We are really encouraged by what she said. And her speech strongly impressed us that this is really, truly a humanitarian age. As long as you have strong and clear humanitarian objectives and determination, people always gather together to achieve those purposes, and in essence of that it would be better if we can have some like-minded countries, I would rather call them conscientiously-minded countries, like the case of Canada and Norway and other countries in the case of ICBL. So there is some strong hope which we can cling to. We have to thank Ms. Susan Walker once again.

And just in passing, you heard many times over the name of Ms. Jody Williams, who was also representing the ICBL together with Susan Walker. And there is a commonality between myself and Ms. Jody Williams. It is that her birthday and mine are exactly the same, Oct. 9, 1950, and this makes me feel an affinity to Ms. Williams. And what is more, this is the same birthday as Snoopy. He was born on exactly the same day, so we three have the same proud commonality.

Now I'd like to –

Walker: Excuse me, Professor Mogami. In honor of your sharing the birthday with Jody Williams, may I ask you and Mayor Itoh-san to come. I would like to present you with this copy of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Chairperson: Something related to Snoopy?

Walker: Yes. Snoopy would, I'm sure Snoopy would be in favor of the Nobel Peace Prize and the ban.

What this is are the key documents in the Ottawa Process, also the report from the Nairobi Summit, our theme was "Wanted: A Mine-Free World." And a copy of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Chairperson: Well, thank you very, very much again, Susan. And now we will move on to the presentation of the representatives of each city. I will call on them according to the order as distributed to you. And I'll call on one person, and at the same time I'll call on the person to be followed, who will follow the current speaker, so I will ask the next speaker to be ready in time. And we will keep doing this for about an hour, and after that we'll take about a ten-minute break, and after that we will resume the presentations until 1:00 in the afternoon. And in order to save time,

and since you are the principal actors of this conference, I'll try to give you as much time as possible, so I'll refrain from making comments on the presentations of each of you, however important it may be. So I'll be, basically, quiet. So please, this is my cooperation to you and I would like you to cooperate with me.

So the first speaker is the Mayor of Aubagne, France, Monsieur Daniel Fontaine. And the second speaker is the Chairman of the New Haven Peace Commission, Mr. Alfred Marder. Monsieur Fontaine?

Daniel Fontaine, Mayor, Aubagne, France: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Daniel Fontaine. I am the Mayor of Aubagne, France. I am also a member of AFCDRP, that's the French Peace Authorities Association, I am the Chairman of that AFCDRP.

First of all, I would like to start my presentation as to how we brought as many as 25 local authorities to this meeting. And to you Mayor Akiba, I would like to thank you for organizing this wonderful setup for the Mayors for Peace. In France, AFCDRP members, and also we do have the French Association of Mayors for Peace, and we are acting as the chapter of the Mayors for Peace.

In 1985, Hiroshima and Nagasaki took the initiative in creating this organization, Mayors for Peace, but in those days there was not much participation by France. In 1985, there were only five or six local authorities who were participants. But after founding AFCDRP, the number of French local authorities who are participants in this organization exceeds 60. As the country France, which advocates itself for the nuclear deterrence, this is a substantial number. French local authorities and the cities throughout the membership of AFCDRP concur with Vision 2020 campaign because we realize that it is necessary to think about seriously the world peace, and in the minds of the citizens for many, many years this was the high level of interest. In reality, peace is a global but yet daily issue. And this is indeed the issue which has to be tackled from all perspectives. Based on this notion, we hope that we will be able to contribute a lot for the ideal of creating peace.

Peace impacts on various aspects such as East Asian culture and security. Through that dialogues we hope that we will be able to tackle the issue which might be considered far from the daily life of people, without creating apathy in the minds of the people. We hope that we will be able to tackle these various problems in order to establish peace.

I would like to give you one good example I came across in the school children's education from four to five years old. There was a program for education. There was an interview with the children and they were able to create or refuse violence. As for the need for dialogue, assimilate the other's culture and try to find the solidarity. Through those educational programs, children are able to do the same as is seen in the United Nations and UNESCO, and this kind of dialogue among children will give life and the future to our world. If cities are able to do the same, then this kind of value set can be strongly promoted. Peace values should not stay only at schools and conference rooms. This is not at all an abstract theme.

Peace is the inevitable result of justice and sharing on a global scale. The use of nuclear weapons and the use of weapons are creating a threat to human beings in the future because we have not come up with a solution peacefully to eradicate the cause of tension. Mayor Akiba continues to give the warning to the authorities and organizations in the world about the threat of such nuclear weapons. In May this year, Mayor Akiba has clearly stated his opinions at the United Nations podium in New York. We, the members of AFCDRP, would like to deliver our appreciation to Mayor Akiba for his courageous delivery of the speech.

I wonder whether it is possible for us to rectify all those problems which lie in our future to abolish nuclear weapons. Those weapons are in the accessible range of the States and state actors and non-state actors. We can no longer sacrifice many people's lives with this threat. There are a lot of differences in income among the States and individuals, but our lives, our environments are at stake. Based on such purpose on those conceptions, in many conferences there is much deliberation seen, the hope and aspirations of human beings are common. Because the threat of nuclear weapons is so serious we have to give the global perspectives. Nuclear weapons are not a single anomaly in our period. It is a horrifying omen for our future as human beings.

For the cities and local authorities in the world, there are a lot of roles to be played by them in fighting against nuclear weapons. Every single citizen in the world has the hope to live in a peaceful society and world. We do have strong confidence in that belief. The cities consist of people who are in different ages, and this is the most appropriate place that we can enjoy the flowering of peaceful flowers. I belong to AFCDRP France. We focus on the sustainability of actions. We have campaigns concurring with Vision 2020. We hope that we will be able to continue such campaigns to encourage such movements. And at the same time, the membership of France local authorities, 60 of them in Mayors for Peace, this is our commitment. I would like you to understand. Thank you indeed very much, ladies and gentlemen.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Fontaine. And the next speaker is Mr. Marder from New Haven, USA.

Alfred Marder, New Haven, Chairman of New Haven Peace Commission, U.S.A.: Mayor Akiba and honored guests, first, for the interpreters, I am going to move away slightly from my prepared text.

The 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is not only an occasion of remembrance but more. It is a harsh reminder that a political weapon of horrible dimensions was ushered into the world 60 years ago aimed at cities and their people, a weapon so frightening it was capable, and is capable, of holding all humanity hostage. Faced with the reality of even a more critical time today, mayors and officials of cities have the sworn duty not only to raise their voices for the total abolition of these weapons, but must use the full resources of their cities to mobilize their citizen in this campaign.

Just as we gather here, in my city we are mobilizing for vigils, bicycle rides, demonstrations, exhibits for August 6. Proclamations have been issued, City

Councils have endorsed. All this is happening in perhaps thousands of US cities this coming week.

We must do more. And we can do more. We are proposing, in addition to the track of enlisting governments to come together, to formulate a treaty calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons, two additional steps. Number one, there is a resolution that has been passed at the United Nations, calling for a Special Session on Disarmament No. 4. This will provide an opportunity for those of us in the anti-nuclear weapons movement and the anti-war movement to mobilize throughout the world. There is a working group that has been set up and I would urge that the mayors and Mayors for Peace, my organization, the Peace Messenger Cities, and others, begin to campaign to insist that our governments endorse the Special Session in the year 2007.

But in addition to that, we are proposing a part of this campaign that I believe every single mayor can endorse. We are calling for divestment of investments from doing business with any company that is participating in the manufacture or deployment of nuclear weapons.

A little touch of history. Those of use who were in the leadership of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa used the weapon of divestment to force corporations, to force institutions, to force cities to divest their pensions from any corporation doing business with apartheid South Africa. That proved to be a fantastically successful campaign, less in terms of costing corporations dollars, but in mobilizing the moral and spiritual sense of our countries that we could not tolerate any longer a situation in one country maintaining the apartheid system.

We recognize that nuclear weapons are not apartheid. We also recognize that the United States is not South Africa. However, if the cities were to direct their pensions from any corporation involved in nuclear weapons manufacture, it would have major ramifications. And may I emphasize, *this is cost-free*. It is cost-free. There is no financial penalty for instructing the pension management from moving the investments from one corporation to another. If universities, trade unions, religious bodies and individuals, as well as cities, regions and states were to join the campaign, it would create that political atmosphere that would not be ignored and could not be ignored, even in my country, the United States.

Again, I emphasize, this campaign costs nothing. And in most cases, it depends upon you as the mayor if you were to instruct the pension investment folks that your city would no longer tolerate financially backing corporations manufacturing nuclear weapons. This campaign would not take focus or energy from any of the other suggestions that have been made. We believe that this campaign must operate on any number of tracks for us to succeed. This campaign that we are suggesting is a grassroots campaign, a local campaign, a campaign in which mayors and cities can play a leading role. It would enhance efforts to gather governments to fashion a treaty calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Dear friends, it is now up to us.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Marder, for your interesting proposals. And the next speaker is the Mayor of Geneva, Switzerland, Mr. André Hédiger. And the following speaker will be the Mayor of Christchurch, New Zealand, Mr. Gary Moore.

André Hédiger, Mayor, Geneva, Switzerland: Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, guests, ladies and gentlemen, the first thing I would like to say is that I feel very honored to be here with you here.

We are here to discuss the concrete actions that we can undertake to guarantee the security of our children and that of generations to come. Above all, we are gathered here in this symbolic City of Hiroshima to remember the past and celebrate the courage of a people to rise above the ruins and smoke of destruction.

It is our task to remember and ensure that such suffering would never again be inflicted on humankind – for there are no words that exist in any language that can describe the horror and agony that the survivors of Hiroshima, the hibakusha, endure to this day. The written archives of the Red Cross review the terrible impact.

For many years, the United States prohibited any information to be distributed on A-bombs, and at the Red Cross, Dr. Marcel Junod's report is kept in Geneva. He was a doctor sent to Hiroshima and the first foreign doctor who helped hibakusha. He provided medical supplies and he prepared them to be airlifted to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "The Disaster of Hiroshima" is the title of his report. It was written in September 1945. This report was also censored and was not published for many years. In 1982, the International Red Cross for the first time announced the existence of this report in its journal.

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary, Geneva decided to republish this. "The effect of the bomb was mysteriously serious..." as he wrote, "many victims apparently recovering suddenly suffer a fatal relapse due to the decomposition of white blood cells and other internal injuries now dying in great numbers..." This is what Dr. Junod has confirmed.

A commemorative day is important in certain respects because it recalls the past and leads us to the future. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki, very extreme activities were realized, that is, the horrible bomb was developed and then there was an effort of the people who tried to rescue the victims, sacrificing and risking their own lives. There also was strong protest and opposition. This is scientific knowledge, the strength of opposition, and the self-sacrificing effort, these are the things that we need to treasure.

Even now, after 60 years, more than 17,000 A-bombs exist on this earth. Ninety-three per cent belong to the US and Russia. All efforts to try to stop the production and abolish them were discouraged by the nuclear power States. As a guarantee for self defense, they possess nuclear weapons. Now the United States is trying to develop mini nukes; the United States does not exclude the possibility of their use because they are more effective than conventional weapons. They can destroy the hideouts of the terrorists in the mountains. With this, much opposition was heard because no use of nuclear weapons was to be supported, but that effort can be completely negated by this kind of activity. But we need to have a talk, therefore, a campaign to eliminate

nuclear weapons. We need to provide information to the citizens and we need to appeal to the government. Security and peace can only be realized when there is dialogue and trust.

For international society it is important that you prioritize the interest of mankind as a whole and this has to be appealed to the government. Human beings are now faced with many different threats. Children die every three seconds from poverty and other impacts, and very soon more than 2 million would lose their lives due to HIV, 14 million new patients of AIDS appear, and 1.7 million people died of tuberculosis in 2003, and in the same year 8.8 million people were said to be inflicted with tuberculosis. Appropriate medical service, food and the real right of development should be given to the people all over the world. That means we need to provide resources, we need to have knowledge. These should not be used for violence.

At the NPT review meeting in New York, the real issue was not discussed. We should not, however, give up our efforts, as this failure should not discourage us from our efforts to achieve the ultimate goal of a nuclear-free world. For the NPT and then the countries, we need to appeal to them to be in compliance with all the provisions of the treaty. We also need to speak to the countries with active nuclear capabilities to take part in NPT as soon as possible.

Mayor Akiba, taking this opportunity I'd like to pay my respects to your ceaseless efforts. You protect peace, you promote nuclear disarmament, and you carry out international campaigns for Mayors for Peace, which I understand is very difficult. The City of Geneva supports his effort and we will continue to support the objectives of Mayors for Peace in the future.

Taking this opportunity, in Geneva next year we intend to take part in the next World Peace Forum in Vancouver, which will be held next year. In September, the City of Geneva, the city of peace and humanity, will pay homage to Dr. Junod and hibakusha. We are going to name the new plaza, the Junod Plaza. And we need to always remind ourselves of the reason why we are here. We need to get rid of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and for that we need to reach a new stage of discussion. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Hédiger. The next speaker is Mr. Gary Moore from Christchurch, New Zealand.

Gary Moore, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Christchurch, New Zealand: Mayor Akiba and Itoh, fellow mayors and elected representative and all attendees, konnichiwa.

Greetings to the global peace community - those of us here today - and the many billions of people who are here with us in spirit.

Here in Hiroshima, and in Nagasaki, it is impossible to not feel that it is here where humanity took a deadly wrong turn on the road of destiny. It was here that our species first felt the fury and finality of what the foolish like to call "our mastery of the atom." The only "mastery" shown here was that humans were capable of taking the fatal step in giving us the potential for complete destruction of our species.

It is appropriate that we should also be here, where the horror that became reality, that we should turn back from that deadly past. There can be no more fitting time to increase our efforts for peace than when much of the world seems mesmerized by the politics of terror. The world has known, right here, the ultimate in terror. It is a form of terror that some think is acceptable because it is held in the hands of governments of major and powerful nations. It is still terror! Governments are made of people just as flawed and fallible as any of us here today, and many of them forget that we hold this world in trust for our children's children.

In a world beset with terror, massive economic and social change, and climate change, the path to survival and peace is through embracing our common humanity. The pursuit of peace as a quest specially suited to a global group such as Mayors for Peace. We mayors are elected by our local residents to be the First Citizens in our communities. We are the ideal medium with which to dilute the poison of terror and war. As a fellow mayor said to me in New York earlier this year when we were at the United Nations, it is on cities that nuclear bombs will fall, not on governments. In cities, live people.

I believe that in most people exist the common desire for peace and prosperity. As First Citizens, we have a moral and ethical responsibility to reflect this desire of our citizens. Mayor to mayor, city to city, and person to person, we can build bridges of understanding and insight beyond the ability of our national leaders and corporate hubs. We already have about 1,000 mayors involved with the Mayors for Peace movement. A simple request here today is that this 1,000 will be joined by thousands more over the years.

Our goal is to rid the world of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. We should say that we desire to live on a planet which has no war. I remember a child once asking its mother, "Mother, what is war?" We must make this a historical question.

Our worst enemies on our journey will be a sense of cynicism and defeat. We must not give these enemies any power. They are illusions used to shackle much of the modern global community into a world of hollow, mindless consumerism. There is no product more worthy of pursuit than peace and a civil society. Without this product, the rest of life becomes indeed one of terror, futility and hopelessness.

In my own life journey, I have had the joy of overcoming the forces of cynicism and defeat many times. Five years ago in New Zealand, at a time of very high youth unemployment, a small group of mayors started an organization called Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. At that time the prevailing view was that unemployment was not a concern for mayors.

Our goal was zero unemployment. We chose to start with youth unemployment. We have set a goal in our country as mayors that no person under 25 would have nothing to do. They will either be in training or in jobs. The cynics said it could not be done, that other cities would not join us, and that there would always be a number of unemployed people in our communities. And they were wrong.

The majority of New Zealand mayors are now members of Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. Our country has the second-lowest rate of unemployment in the developed world. Our whole attitude towards unemployment has changed. And it changed because some of us said that unemployment was not acceptable and that we needed to be both idealistic and pragmatic at the same time. We took an impossible vision and we're well on the way to achieving and making it a reality.

Let me illustrate with another story. Before I became mayor my job was to establish work schemes with groups and communities hit by the massive economic changes in New Zealand in the 1990s. Amongst the hardest-hit were the Maori people. Some of them were living in their coastal town of Kaikoura, two hours' drive north of Christchurch. Prosperity had left the town, as had hope and optimism. We talked to the residents to see if we could find something that might be developed to uplift the town. Some people said that tourists might be interested in taking boats out to sea to watch the migration of whales in the area. The cynics were dismissive, and the defeated of spirit could not imagine it happening, particularly by the Maori people. But a tiny group could imagine it, and when all other funding failed they mortgaged their homes to turn this dream into a reality.

These days, Kaikoura Whalewatch is rated as one of the top eco-tourism destinations in the world. And the journey took us many years. It is a booming business, about to become a \$100 million New Zealand business. It has completely revived and renewed its community. It plays an important role in attracting tourists to the South Island of New Zealand and it exists because a few people rejected cynicism and defeat and held on to a vision.

We can do the same with Mayors for Peace. We already have 1,000 members representing 1,000 cities. Instead of promoting us as being just anti-nuclear, let us be especially pro-peace. Let us make the step towards righting the immense wrong done to our common humanity, and let us start today. That's the challenge for Mayors for Peace.

Remember, we as mayors, as cities, are not a threat to nation-states. Without a backdrop of peace, there can be no successful international trade. People stop trusting each other. Imagine if as the mayors of the world we said: We will hold hands and we will promote trade, peace city to peace city. We will promote culture, peace city to peace city. We will promote our people to know each other, from peace city to peace city. We will promote the civil society in every peace city. We will exchange artists from peace city to peace city. We should turn our minds, attendees, to how we can assist cities right now in Zimbabwe and North Korea.

As nation-states play games with each other, let us form a whole new network across the world, peace city to peace city, and say, We can rid the world of nuclear terror by a massive insistence on the path of peace! Tinakoto-tinakoto-tinakoto-katol.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Moore. And the next speaker is the President of the US Conference of Mayors, Ms. Beverly O'Neill.

Beverly O'Neill, President of the US Conference of Mayors, Mayor, Long Beach, U.S.A.: Thank you very much, Prof. Mogami, and to Mayor Akiba-san and distinguished guest speakers, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all of you. I am really honored to be here with you. I think that this room is full of friends because each one of you is making a difference. Throughout the world, you have come from throughout the world, and you are making a difference for our world. I thank you for that. We all should feel fortunate that we're here because we are with people that have the same commitment we have, we are here with people that have the same compassion and the same heart. And I thank you all for being here for this important discussion, this important conference.

I want to thank Mayor Akiba for the warmth of his welcome and also for the work he has done and the constant efforts that he has done putting this together and using the strength of the membership throughout the world. I thank you very much, Mayor Akiba-san.

I am Beverly O'Neill, I am President of the United States Conference of Mayors. I am here today representing them, I'm also Mayor of the City of Long Beach, California. Our organization is 75 years old and we represent over 1,000 of the largest cities in the United States. We have had a strong bond with mayors from throughout the world. In Japan, for many years we've had exchanges of US and Japanese mayors and in all the exchanges that we have had with mayors coming to Japan they have visited Hiroshima.

We were honored that Mayor Akiba addressed our conference this last January in Washington, DC, it's our annual conference we have each year, and also the conference was honored to participate with Mayor Akiba and the United Nations Secretary Kofi Annan at the Mayors for Peace meeting in April at the United Nations, and I know quite a few of you were there at that time. And I'm pleased to be here to extend a short message to all of the participants. And I'm pleased to be here because I feel this is a significant event.

Our organization has long strongly advocated a decrease and elimination of the threat of nuclear weapons. At our annual meeting each June we have policy resolutions that provide us the advocacy that we use in Congress and with the White House throughout the year. Dating back for several decades, the Conference of Mayors has enacted strong policy calling for the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Last year in Boston, the mayors of the United States unanimously passed a resolution entitled Support for the Commencement of Negotiations on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. This resolution declares that weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world. And that calls for commencement of negotiations on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. It declared the US Conference of Mayors will remain engaged in this matter until our cities are no longer under the threat of this destruction.

In the year of the 60th anniversary, the use of nuclear weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is interesting to review the Conference of Mayors' 1985 resolution that specifically pointed that reversing the nuclear arms race. That marked the 40th

anniversary for the use of nuclear weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and endorsed the declaration that 1985 is the year to reverse this arms race.

We stand here together today united in this cause. And I would like to especially recognize our executive director. The presidents change each year in the mayors organization. I am fortunate to be president this year, but we have the same executive director that we've had for many years, and I want to recognize him, our executive director who has played a key role in the growth and development of this organization, our organization, and with his guidance and leadership we have been consistently a strong voice for mayors, and Tom Cochrane where are you? Sitting somewhere? Right over there.

The Conference of Mayors believes in the strength of mayor-to-mayor cooperation. We have supported several international mayoral summits and worked for cooperation among mayors of the world, and that's been said several times this morning, people talking about mayors talking with each other. We are trying to do this. We have done this for years, and I think more of this is going to be happening because mayors all over the world speak the same language. Every day they see their constituents, every day they meet with their constituents, every day they are confronted with their needs and their fears of the future. If the network of mayors in your own country has not yet gone on record for the elimination of nuclear weapons, I would encourage you to consider asking your mayors' association to pass such a resolution because united we are a strong voice.

Today we are in an historic time. And we are in an historic city. It symbolizes both the destruction that mankind can do, as well as mankind's hope to achieve a better world, and we stand together in a united effort to achieve brilliance by wisdom and experience and strength informed by conscience. Through all of our efforts together, the mayors of the world, we can realize our goal of eliminating the threat of nuclear war. And that can be our century's claim to distinction and to progress. That kind of world is what all of us in this room seek. That's why we're here today and that's why I'm so proud to join with you on this occasion. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: The next speaker is Dr. Herbert Schmalstieg, the Lord Mayor of Hannover, Germany.

Herbert Schmalstieg, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hannover, Germany: Mr. Chairman, Prof. Mogami, Mayor Akiba, distinguished guests, colleagues, friends, when one talks of the dangers to peace and the growing threats in the world, in these days only a few people will call to mind Hiroshima and Nagasaki or regard nuclear weapons as a primary danger. As dates that symbolize our fear of war and violence, it is less likely that we will name the 6th August or the 9th August 1945, but rather the 11th September 2001, the 11th March 2004, or most recently, the 10th July 2005.

In the face of this wave of extremist violence that could break almost anyway in the world as we meet here, other dangers recede in our awareness. Understandable as this is, it is important not only to resist terrorism but also, and especially, to fight the origins of terrorism. These origins include, above all, the increasingly hopeless futures of so many young people; they include unemployment, poverty, hunger and

hardship. But it is just as important, and particularly this year, 60 years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, not to forget the nuclear threat, a threat which is just as real today as it has always been. As long as there are all nuclear weapons in the world the danger will persist that the number of countries that can acquire these weapons will increase, and as long as the possibility cannot be excluded that criminal organizations will get access to nuclear weapons, there will be, no peace in the world.

It is by no means simple to make progress along the road to complete nuclear disarmament and to fulfil the 2020 Vision; we have to learn this lesson again this year. The Seventh Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York ended up without producing any results, provoking increased skepticism about the chances of success for multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. The cities, and we as mayors, therefore have an important responsibility: to express the anxieties of our citizens and our politicians, to our governments, in the face of the continuing nuclear threat, and to demand once and for all such steps towards complete nuclear disarmament.

For this reason it is good to see how more and more cities, more and more mayors are recognizing this responsibility in joining us in our concern. The significant increase in affiliated cities shows this clearly. The days in New York, the participation by so many mayors of cities all over the world in the NPT Review Conference was, to this extent, also encouraging. We must persist in our commitment to our cause; we may not slacken our efforts. For we can do much to ensure that the realization of the necessity for comprehensive nuclear disarmament grows, so that it also one day will become reality. On the question on what each of us in our cities can do to achieve this, I will give just a few examples.

First, and foremost, I believe, we must be committed to education, to taking the arguments for disarmament to children and young people and encouraging a commitment to peace - in kindergarten, in school and after school. This is where the foundations of active work for peace are laid. The Mayors for Peace Conference being held at the moment here in Hiroshima is truly a good example.

Secondly, the cities must always raise their voices in protest at threats to freedom and community life, for these are the issues that affect us directly. In this we must seek to work with non-governmental organizations, citizens campaigns and groups. Since June of this year, a "Peace Tram," for example, has been running on the Hannover tramway network, decorated by striking graphics by young artists calling for peace 60 years after the A-bombs on Japan.

Thirdly, cities must also take their appeals and demands for nuclear disarmament to the national governments. They must make it clear that it is not only the concerns of political representatives, but also the interests, the anxieties of local citizens that the cities are speaking for. We are only strong if we are united. This is true not only in one's our own country, but also across national borders. In a world that is increasingly growing closer and more open we must also, on issues that endanger our coexistence and peace in the world, seek and strengthen international cooperation.

And therefore, fourthly, we may never slacken in our efforts to ensure that the circle of cities that, together with us, are striving for a world without nuclear weapons continues to grow.

As a contribution in this spirit I would now like to present our President, Mayor Akiba, with new declarations of affiliation from six German cities and local authorities whose mayors have committed their communities to Mayors for Peace with their signatures. We have now in our country, in Germany, 236 members in our organization, and we are very proud that we can say this for you, Mr. Akiba, in this conference. In this way we will grow stronger and can then, we hope, in the not-too-distant future, finally make it possible that the wish No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis! comes true. Thank you very much for your attention.

Chairperson: I guess we can have at least two more speakers before we take a break. Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan, Lord Mayor of Manchester, United Kingdom, and then after him will be Mr. Evgeny Petrovic Ischencho, Mayor of Volgograd, Russia.

Mohammed Afzal Khan, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Manchester, U.K.: Mr. Chairman, Mayor Akiba, mayors, colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, konnichiwa. It is an enormous privilege to participate in this important conference and I pay tribute to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for their hard work and dedication that makes these meetings possible. I think it is unique and very important to provide this platform for people from all over the globe to come together to share and to learn from one another. It is also a great honor to be invited once again to hold the position of Vice-President City in the Mayors for Peace organization, and I am pleased to accept this on behalf of the City of Manchester.

Many of you will know that Manchester is proud of its record in promoting peace and nuclear weapons abolition. Twenty-five years ago, it initiated an international movement of nuclear weapons-free zone local authorities. The movement rapidly spread in the 80s and many towns and cities worldwide continue to declare themselves nuclear-free zones and pledge themselves to a nuclear-free future.

Since 1984 Manchester has also given its support to Mayors for Peace and we have been inspired by the energy that the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have brought to the campaign, particularly in the recent years and notably with the launch of the 2020 Vision in Nagasaki, November 2003. The goal of nuclear weapons abolition by 2020 *is* achievable. We know it is the desire of the vast majority of people worldwide and local government has a vital part to play in articulating and representing these just demands through national governments.

Through its nuclear-free policy, Manchester has worked closely with peace campaigners in the city over two decades, and will continue to do so. The City Council provides support for local groups and local groups provide support to the Council. Cooperative working is mutually beneficial and builds campaigning capacity.

To reaffirm its commitment to nuclear weapons abolition and broaden the base of its cooperative work for peace, Manchester adopted a new Peace Policy and declared

2005 a Year of Peace, Remembrance and Reconciliation. The terms of the policy demonstrate the value the city places on cooperative work at all levels of society.

Manchester, a city of peace: The council recognizes the contribution it can make through the provision and delivery of its services towards promoting social inclusion, social justice, good citizenship, and peace between the peoples, cultures and faith communities that it serves.

In a post 9/11 world the adverse consequences of conflict and international instability radiate into my city's communities. The values that the city projects in response to international conflict impacts on our community life. In this context the city will assert more vigorously its commitment to peace. With the City Council Leader taking the Presidency of the EuroCities network in July 2005, there is an additional opportunity to signal the value that Manchester places on peace to other European continental peers.

We are now setting about designing and preparing materials to communicate this new policy and we look to the city's 25th nuclear-free zone anniversary in November to launch a communications campaign to raise the profile of the city's peace work, and to encourage people to value the gift of peace more highly. Sometimes, resolving our conflict peacefully and fairly is hard and can involve very difficult decisions and unpalatable compromises, but violence and war inflict more greater suffering. The evidence is everywhere.

To support the 2020 Vision, Manchester has also sought to cooperation with other UK Mayors for Peace towns and cities and national citizens' groups. It has been able to use its position within the UK nuclear-free local authorities network to advance this.

Following the mayors' lobby at the NPT preparatory conference in April 2004, London and Manchester jointly set up a UK Mayors for Peace Working Group bringing in advisors from leading peace groups and benefiting from their expertise and energy. The group meets regularly to implement the campaign strategy of the Mayors for Peace organization within the UK and to promote further support in the UK. A detailed report of the first year of the UK Mayors for Peace Working Group's achievements was delivered to the mayors conference in New York last May by the Mayor of London's representative.

Locally elected councils, the first layer of government and the means by which so many services essential to creating a clean and healthy environment are delivered, carry great democratic legitimacy. Citizens' groups bring expertise, energy and creativity. By combining the two, the whole can often be greater than the sum of the parts. I believe Mayors for Peace recognizes this truth and, without losing its distinctive identity, we will look to combine with leading peace and nuclear abolition campaigns in the future to deliver the just demand of a nuclear weapons-free world. Thank you very much. Domo arigato gosaimashite. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. The next and last speaker will be Mr. Ischenko.

Evgeny Petrovich Ischenko, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Volgograd, Russia: Honorable Mayor Akiba, colleagues, distinguished guests,

ladies and gentlemen, Volgograd has the great honor to be one of the Vice-President Cities of Mayors for Peace and I am privileged today to represent here the City of Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, and our 1 million of its citizens who are waiting for us to come back and to report on the results of this conference.

In April–May this year with over 100 mayors drawn from different cities of the world, the Volgograd delegation was honored to attend the Seventh NPT Review Conference in New York. It has been an enormous privilege and a very moving experience to participate in this important conference. And I pay tribute to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for all their hard work and dedication which has made it possible. They brought us together in New York to discuss our priorities and to elaborate the common approach to the elimination of nuclear danger.

The NPT has become one of the most prominent events in the history of the state relations. Each of us has great aspirations and hopes for the bettering of the international situation in post-conference time. Unfortunately, we have to admit and recognize that as cities the means we can possibly employ to achieve our goal are limited. Then the prerogative belongs to militaries and national governments.

The previous name of our organization implied that vital issue which actually explains our approach to the problem, namely, inter-city solidarity. We represent the local authorities which have much more direct contact with people than central government. We have direct control and direct contact in matters affecting health and welfare, we can ensure the sustainable development of our cities in a peaceful environment. All the mayors in all countries face the similar problems. The number of members cities has far exceeded 1,000 and we must work together to achieve our goals.

We believe that as a city we should provide a wide range of activities and events to enable our citizens to understand the horrors of nuclear war and in so doing enable our citizens to be well informed to oppose nuclear weapons.

As a Mayor of Volgograd, I personally support the Peace Committee in our city. In close cooperation with Hiroshima Peace Foundation, the City of Volgograd hosted the traveling exhibition from the Peace Memorial Museum dealing with A-bomb evidence. In the coming year we will host the Executive Committee of the Peace Messenger Cities. On 6th August, Volgograd citizens will participate in the peace bell ceremony to pray for the souls of the A-bomb victims.

As the same time, the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future is being held in Hiroshima. It has brought together young people from Europe and Asia and provides them the brilliant opportunity to discuss vital issues of life and to destroy some stereotypes.

We highly appreciate that initiative of Hiroshima and we are ready to receive in Volgograd young people of our twin cities and member cities of Mayors for Peace. This will enable us to develop that inter-city solidarity we are talking about today.

Let me repeat here one very well-known thing which reflects the reality. "Pessimists are only passive observers; it is the optimist who changes the world." Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Ischenko. And this is the end of the first half of the plenary session this morning. And we will take about a ten-minute break from now on, and I would like to announce that we will keep some timeframe for questions and answers at the end of this plenary, after all the speakers have finished their presentations. So please prepare your questions and further discussion for that timeframe. Thank you very much.

-Break-

Chairperson: Okay, I think the seats are half full so I think it's time to resume without waiting for the others to come back. And due to some unavoidable reasons I'd like to propose to change the order of speakers at the outset. And I would like to call on the Mayor of Vitry-sur-Seine ahead of the Councilor of Florence. So after this representative from Vitry-sur-Seine, we will call on the Councilor of Florence. So Monsieur Alain Audoubert.

Alain Audoubert, Mayor, Vitry-sur-Seine, France: Ladies and gentlemen, our globe indeed is becoming smaller, and for future generations we have the responsibility to control and manage our globe because of biological diversification and there are a lot of problems related to the globe. And for this purpose we would need to go into a different new stage of development, not confrontation but sustainable development and cooperation need to be what we pursue. And we should not only rely on peace education, but also, nevertheless, education is very important, and therefore that is why our city would like to give the cooperation with all of you towards achieving the objectives outlined in the UNESCO Charter.

And we are conducting various cultural events throughout the year at Vitry-sur-Seine. From August 6 to 9, we are holding a Peace Poster Exhibition in our park and we are showing a movie titled *A Bird of Happiness*, and also, at the Children's Recreation Center, cultural activities are being carried out using the anthology of the 100 most beautiful peace poems, prefaced by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we also hope to open these events by releasing doves. And we are appealing to President Chirac of France to appeal for nuclear abolition by collecting petitions.

And also, in New York we have just seen our active activities putting pressure on conference participants and we had the speech by the Mayor of Hiroshima and also we had the favorable response from Secretary-General Annan, and they were all effective in some way or another, but the treaty is going back on its own objectives. And more recently, the new nuclear weapons states, amounting to about 30, are also trying to justify the development of nuclear weapons in order to destroy, which is ridiculous indeed.

We have seen the position of the United States which led to the recent failure of the NPT Review Conference, but we need to continue to exert pressure on these governments by uniting the efforts of all the citizens of the world.

The next step for our city is to conduct events. On Sep. 21, which is the UN International Day of Peace, we will have exhibits on A-bombs and we'll invite hibakusha to give us testimonies. And to the French government authorities we'll be sending our delegation carrying our petitions.

The French government has a special responsibility and the French government is quite active in preventing proliferation. For example, the criminal nuclear tests in Mururoa Atoll has been given up on under the pressure of the French people, however, research is still ongoing at research institutes. The government has also dismantled the missile launching base in Albion has reduced its nuclear subs. However, they have also decided to build new submarines and are increasing the budget, therefore, nuclear development-related programs. So we would need to continue to appeal to our own governments as to the rest of the world as well.

There are nuclear weapons States and there are countries that are not signing the NPT treaty yet. Depending on their stance, I think the situation in those countries may differ, but we need to continue to exert pressure on all of these nations and governments and we need to expand our activities to the global scale.

There were 100 mayors going on a peace march, peace activists around the world in New York, the picture of which was carried in the newspaper *Victory*. And at the end of October or beginning of November, I am suggesting that we may try to implement model activities on a global and international scale. Then we would be able to exert further pressure towards nuclear disarmament, and I think we may be able to position those events as an extension to the International Day of Peace, Sep. 21.

We would need to cooperation with NGOs and other citizens around the world, and I think that this will contribute greatly towards the materialization of Vision 2020 and open new avenues for mankind in a new way.

I would like to conclude by this poem: All cities, all people should join hands to realize a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and violence.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Audoubert. I'll call on the President of Seine St. Denis, France, Monsieur Mr. Hervé Brahmy.

Hervé Brahmy, President, Seine St. Denis, France: Mayor Akiba, mayors of the cities and colleagues, and ladies and gentlemen, abolition of nuclear weapons is necessary for us to continue to have hopes for sustainable peace on the globe. I wholeheartedly concur with the opinions advocated by Mayor Akiba. In April 2003, he delivered the speech in Geneva. He says the direct objective is on the nuclear weapons, but our long-term objective is to create the new civilization. Yes, indeed. Objecting to nuclear weapons is fighting against the concept which legitimizes that force is the right way, not for the development of human beings. Weapons are utilized for the exploitation and destruction of human beings, and we are fighting against such a force, including money.

Whenever we hear the names Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it's been already 60 years, but still we feel mournful and sorrowful. In this very place we realize that for many, many years the use of nuclear weapons have had a grave impact on human beings. And originally, come to think of it, they are formidable about money which can be utilized for medicine and education on humane purposes, they are expended for creating deadly weapons in the industries, nuclear weapons technologies which have created the worst barbaric actions gives horror and fear. Especially we hate the existence of destructive weapons such as WMD and conventional weapons. The fact

that we are using those terms and words means that those weapons are taken for granted in our world.

This illustrates how much role is to be played by science and research for the civilization development of humans. And more than that, what we are wishing to create in the world, that world has to be equipped with solidarity, non-violence, basic rights to be protected. Those value sets are necessary in order to eradicate poverty and violence, which can find the causes in exclusivism, ignorance and exploitation we are fighting for the sake of peace. We need to build up immediately cooperation, justice and an equal world.

More and more there is a proliferation of nuclear weapons seen in the world. Each country is promoting their militarization. You find many terrorist attacks. Once again, we have to recognize and respect human beings, and for us and our future generations and for our children we have to make a decision for the future of the globe.

In Europe, we are celebrating the symbolic year commemorating the liberation of the concentration camp of the Nazis. We once again have to recall what kind of experience we have had in the barbarian actions in the dark and bleak period. What was the logic there in those days? There should be something we have to do. There are so many millions of people who think that way, opposition to the Iraqi war in the various sustainable problem solutions seen in the Middle East. There are so many people who have desperation in the hope for creating a peaceful world. By using intelligent dialogue and negotiation we do have the capability to rectify those conflicts.

Based on such vision, we advocate strongly democracy and the rights of citizens. In Seine St. Denis we have strong confidence in our future which can be built up by the actions of young people. Because of that we are here in Hiroshima and we brought 15 young Peace Messengers with us. By looking at the reality of the world, we need to open our minds and we need to participate in this peace culture. I'm sure this opportunity will give those young Peace Messengers to build up their personalities in the future.

Many people still think the world without weapons is only a utopia, I know that. But we did have a wonderful experience in Europe, the convention treaty which was considered to be the complex European constitution. By using the ownership of the people are now in the hands of the Europeans. The convention, however, which has admitted only the increase of the defense expense, was denied by the obsession of the majority. Without the wonderful movement in Europe this kind of movement was not realized.

Therefore, we believe that the spirit of wishing for a utopia will make us move further. As many as 200 peace activists of France are here in Japan, including the young Peace Messengers and parliamentarians. Human beings are the ones who created nuclear weapons and it is our responsibility as humans to try to seek for other alternative ways.

A poet of France said, Paul Eluard says, those who are no longer afraid of themselves will be born because they can have confidence in whole human beings. There are no fools with human faces any more. Together with the new Messengers, who are

responsible for building the new period, I am here with you. I would like to express my appreciation for the sponsors. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you. The President of the House of Representatives of Berlin, Mr. Walter Momper.

Walter Momper, President of House of Representatives, Berlin, Germany: Mr. Chairman, Mayor Akiba, ladies and gentlemen, this conference is of great importance to the entire world, and by taking part in this event the German capital City of Berlin is expressing its deep bond and solidarity with the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As a former Governing Mayor of Berlin and the current Speaker of the Berlin House of Representatives, I am deeply moved by the visit to the city that suffered immeasurable horrors during the Second World War and today has become a symbol of hope which brings us all to work for a strong and for a lasting peace.

We have not forgotten that the Second World War was planned and unleashed in Berlin by the Nazis and that the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were a part and a consequence of the same war. The untold suffering endured by the people of Japan shocked and horrified us in Germany too.

Like Warsaw and Stalingrad, Berlin was among the cities in Europe hit hardest by the war, and today it shares the deep concern about peace in the world. We, too, are aware of the great risk of nuclear terrorism, a tragic accident or a military miscalculation. We are aware of the danger that international terrorism or emerging nations will end up acquiring nuclear weapons or the knowledge needed to produce them and could use them in regional conflicts. It is to be feared that these dangerous developments are already further than we expect them to be.

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will become even more important in the next few years as one of the cornerstones of international politics. All peace-loving nations, and fortunately these are the majority, must work together to find ways and means to stop the exchange of nuclear material and its misuse to make war. Nuclear weapons must be outlawed and stockpiles must be reduced or destroyed.

Demands and declarations alone will probably be unable to accomplish this. However, with solidarity, with determination and shared goals, the community of nations has been able to achieve great things in the past. If we join hands to work for peace and against the threat of nuclear weapons, we will help to make the world safer for peace. That is why Berlin supports the work of Mayors for Peace, in memory of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in solidarity with the survivors and with our eyes on the future, and on peace in the world.

It will remain our responsibility and our obligation to work for the peaceful solution of conflict everywhere in the world. Berlin will do its part to promote peace. With this in mind, I wish us all continued luck and good success in our fight. Thank you very much for your patience.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Momper. The next speaker will be the Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, USA, Mr. Steve Freedkin.

Steve Freedkin, Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, U.S.A.:
Konnichiwa. Members of Mayors for Peace and honored guests, my name is Steve Freedkin, I am the Chairperson of the City of Berkeley's Peace Justice Commission. I am honored to be here representing Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, and I wish to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work towards creating a world in which the atomic bomb remains a terrible fact of history, but only of history and never to be repeated.

Berkeley stands with Mayors for Peace and the peace-loving people of Japan in many ways. Our mayor, Tom Bates, joined the delegation attending the United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. On Aug. 6 at 8:15 a.m. and again on Aug. 9 at 11:02 a.m., the city's peace bell will be rung in remembrance of the two atomic bombings. This is being done in response to a request from a hibakusha from Hiroshima who visited our city in May. On the night of Aug. 6, Berkeley will hold its fourth annual peace lantern ceremony modeled after Hiroshima's event.

Mr. Marder of New Haven has already mentioned some of the ideas I wish to share today. In fact, I told him he had stolen some of my ideas, but that I'm happy to be robbed in this case. He mentioned the boycott of South Africa that helped bring down the system of apartheid. I'm proud to live in Berkeley, the city where the boycott of South Africa began.

The City of Berkeley has a process in which citizens can directly create laws. In 1986, the voters of Berkeley adopted the Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act. This law declares that the citizens of Berkeley consider nuclear weapons to be illegal and the city is to avoid conducting any business with any organization that is involved in nuclear weapons. This goes beyond the idea of pension investments that Mr. Marder mentioned. It affects all business relationships.

The University of California operates three nuclear research laboratories for the US government. Therefore, the City of Berkeley is required to avoid conducting business with the university. In practice, of course, this is difficult because the university's Berkeley campus is by far the largest institution in the city. However, whenever it is possible, the city will work with different organizations and not with the university.

The efforts of Mayors for Peace are crucial steps towards elimination of nuclear weapons. Cities may also want to take direct action of their own to withdraw support from the nuclear weapons industry, as Berkeley does under its Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act.

For one example, the Hoya Glass Company in Japan makes lenses for laser equipment that is used in fashioning nuclear bombs. Perhaps the cities of Mayors for Peace may wish to boycott any equipment or supplies containing Hoya Glass as just one example. We in Berkeley have developed a lengthy list of companies that have connections to the nuclear weapons industry that we avoid doing business with. We will be happy to assist any of your cities in developing procedures and lists of companies for a nuclear weapons boycott.

Mayor Bates and the people of Berkeley will continue to work with Mayors for Peace to achieve the vision of eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2020. Domo arigato gosaimashita.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Freedkin. The next speaker is the city councilor of Brighton & Hove, United Kingdom, Mr. Brian Fitch, please.

Brian Fitch, City Councilor, Brighton & Hove, U.K.: I thank the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the city councils and those numerous bodies that have sponsored this event enabling all of us to come here to make this happen. Those of us who are mayors or city politicians know how difficult it is to finance such events, and I would like to put on record a really big thank you for the tremendous effort and sacrifice that has been made so that we can all gather here for these few days on this important subject.

I am standing here, this is not the tie of the City of Brighton. This is one that Gary Moore gave me from Christchurch, so if you have the opportunity to be given one of these lovely presents make sure you lift your card up so that you can show the emblem. That's really like house notes. Thank you very much, Gary, for the friendship that you have shown to many of us here, and I think it really makes this conference gel when we can share some of the lighthearted things with serious things.

The subject we are here for, what can mayors and citizens do to abolish nuclear weapons? My city, which is on the south coast of England, is a Peace Messenger City and a member of Mayors for Peace. I am an elected member for over 30 years of the City Council and I'm Secretary-General of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities. So many of you are in Mayors for Peace and Peace Messenger Cities. So if you want to join both, Mr. Marder and myself are here. I think that's a kind of little peace commercial. Thank you very much for that.

Our city is an active member and supports the 2020 Vision of a total abolition of nuclear weapons. We want a nuclear ban treaty and we're working towards it. Our city works with the World Court Project, which opposes nuclear weapons, and is organizing a worldwide campaign. The city, which is a Peace Messenger, is working internationally with 80 cities around the globe. We share objectives, aims, and we try to, at all levels, have the interchange with politicians, citizens, universities, because that's really what makes us.

Many of us here are elected representatives and we're only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. We are elected by people, we're accountable to people, and it's important that we never lose sight of that. The people make us, and hopefully, we can carry through their inspirations and their ideals to the levels that bring peace in this world.

What do we do? On our seafront lawns each year we have a peace event, and if the weather is good, and sometimes the sun does shine in England, we can have 5,000 people at a peace event on the sunny south coast. We are involved on Hiroshima Day back home in the UK when peace activists, the Sussex Alliance of Peace – Sussex is our region, prefecture – and peace activists gather in a variety of places to have a Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day service and they float lanterns on the ponds and lakes

throughout the county. We have had the Hiroshima Exhibition three times in our city. Last year we were privileged to have a delegation from Hiroshima that toured, not only the UK but parts of Europe, and it's been a great joy to see some of you back here, and tonight we'll have the opportunity of renewing those acquaintances. Important work is being done by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and I think we all recognize this and want to work with them.

Following the failure of the NPT conference, we must support and use the New Agenda Coalition. I think we've got to use the opportunity with the states of New Zealand, Mexico, Switzerland, Ireland, South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, and of course Canada. I believe those states have a vital role in the world today because we must not lose sight of the international goal for banning nuclear weapons and creating worldwide peace, and those nations have an important role.

What do we do? Well, we as a city, a lot of my Councilors, when Blair went to Iraq we emailed Blair and we've sent a message that we did not want to go to war and we were opposed to it. We are now, in New York, we had the opportunity of meeting the British Ambassador to the UN, and the delegation from the UK gave a strong message to the government of our views on the issue of nuclear weapons.

We believe that we must use all means, we must use citizens, the people in our cities, the organizations, so that we can actually change government policy and change worldwide policy because policies are made by people and we've got to have a greater influence on those policies, on our own governments, and work through the United Nations to ensure that we begin to get decisions that will achieve the banning of nuclear weapons.

Coming to Hiroshima in 1989 changed my life. I remember coming to Narita Airport and opening the door: I think I know what a turkey felt like on Thanksgiving Day. The heat rushed in and I've never known a temperature like it. From that first visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I was the mayor of the city at the time and I became the Mayor of Peace throughout that period of my office and I've continued with this work at every level. I believe that we as individuals must use the opportunities that are given to us, that we must work with all the organizations that are in our localities and we must take the peace message forward.

Now I've put some World Court leaflets outside. There's one that I will ask you to look at and sign. "I do not accept that nuclear weapons can defend me, my country or the values I stand for." I would hope that as many of you will sign these so that they can go back to the organization and we can show how we, as Mayors for Peace, are standing and signing up to a contract. The World Court Project brochures are available there and there's a lot of really good work being done.

Can I thank you once again for this opportunity, and I look forward to listening and working with you in the next few days. And when we return to our homes I hope that we can keep the contact, use the expertise, share the ideas, so that one day we will come to this conference to announce that nuclear weapons have been banned. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much indeed, Mr. Fitch. I'd like to call on the Mayor of Waitakere, New Zealand, Mr. Bob Harvey.

Bob Harvey, Mayor, Waitakere, New Zealand: Mr. Akiba-san, haere mai, haere mai, haere mai. Haere mai piki mai, haere mai kake mai. I've just greeted you in the language of the Maori people of New Zealand, Aotearoa in the Pacific. And I stand before you today, proudly, here on this platform on this great occasion.

I'd like to dedicate this speech, which will be brief, to a former prime minister of my country, Mr. David Lange, who lies gravely ill in hospital. It was David Lange's concept that New Zealand would become nuclear-free 20 years ago, and from 20 years ago we have held his vision. He made New Zealand nuclear-free and many mayors, there was another mayor, my good friend Mr. Moore of Christchurch, Mayor Moore and I have made sure that the dedication of New Zealand as a nuclear-free city and country stays. So I dedicate this speech to him.

I'd like to give you a background to Waitakere City because I think you should know the context of New Zealand's Aotearoa in the context of Waitakere where I have been the mayor for the last 13 years. Waitakere was born as a city in 1989 when several small towns were merged. It enjoys a spectacular location in the western sector of the Auckland area. It's an urban area shaped by post-war expansion, forms of networks of small villages really, town centers and suburban sprawl.

But we have been proudly nuclear-free now for almost 30 years. We were one of the first cities to declare itself a nuclear-free city. That's pre-dating the government stance with David Lange. And every day since that time we have flown from the Council building a nuclear-free flag. Colleagues, it is a great symbol of what we can do to symbolize what we do.

The theme of this conference is of course peace, and while occasions like this are grand, it's the small things that we do every day that I believe continue to contribute towards the harmony of our communities. So let me give you some quick examples.

New Zealand, and indeed Waitakere, were always committed to the environment. And so when I became the mayor in 1992, I declared the city an eco-city, a city not only of the environment but also of peace. And that means that we have worked with the people to communicate what their needs and vision could be, and believe me, it has worked.

In our community we have built a strong, peaceful local community and we have found that crime and other social ills have evaporated with wealth and relative prosperity.

Being an eco-city has also meant that we are protecting and expanding our "green network."

It's also important that when we adopted Agenda 21 that the communities understood that Agenda 21 brought peace and solidarity through the community. And so it has a calming effect on our communities.

We are home to around 130 separate and different cultures. That is very, very interesting, particularly in the complexity of this modern 21st century. And thus we are a melting pot of the Pacific. Our population is very small, considering most of you, 190,000, and 39 per cent of our population are under the age of 24, very young, very Polynesian. One-third of the population is under 20 years of age. So we are a microcosm really of the whole country.

Waitakere has an absolute commitment to peace and sustainability. We believe the two are inseparable. Peace in Waitakere's terms means consultation and involvement in the decision-making, and so we believe peace has many voices. This is evidenced by the way Waitakere has brought Maori and Pacific Island people together. We have also signed memorandums with our Pacific Island people and our ethnic community board. Councilor Chan is our first Asian Councilor in, indeed, 40, 50 years. So I believe we have tried, and I think succeeded, in creating a peaceful community, a community in which people feel safe, valued and comfortable.

And to Waitakere's credit we have involved a number of peace initiatives and let me just tell you quickly.

We have taken a holistic approach to sustainable development, in particular, recognizing the inter-relationships between the environment and the economy and the people. And I would like to acknowledge here our relationship with our Japanese sister city of Kakogawa. Our main council building features a peace garden, which was a gift from that city to ours, and it features peace roses. And our community understands that the rose takes a lot of work to allow it to flourish, so the rose is named "peace," and in that garden peace flourishes.

I personally, like my colleague Gary, have been involved in peace initiatives all my life, almost for 40 years. But when I became the mayor, I led a delegation of protests against the testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific, closest to our door. We often saw our skies turn red in the night as the testing in Muraroa in Tahiti took place. Enough was enough. We went in 1995 and testing soon stopped. We mobilized the whole country.

In 1996 I was honored to received one of the United Nations Mayors for Peace awards for the work we had done in Waitakere City.

And so I greet you all, but I acknowledge that in dark and in good times we must take ownership of issues of peace.

But today I bring you something special. Here are the letters of every city of New Zealand, Aotearoa, not including Gary Moore and my colleague Alex Shaw from Wellington who are here. This is a whole nation, every city in New Zealand has given me a letter of support, and I present that to my friend, my dear friend, Mr. Akiba, on this because it is so important. Thank you.

And so I follow and finish this speech with just a simple Maori greeting, a greeting that says it all: He tangata, he tangata, he tangata – it is people, it is people, it is people. I also bring him a gift from New Zealand, the gift is a pottery bowl called "peace." Thank you. Kia ora rawa atu to you all.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Harvey. I would like to call on the Mayor of Galle, Sri Lanka, Mr. Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff.

Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff, Mayor, Galle, Sri Lanka: Mr. Chairman, Your Worship the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Akiba, distinguished mayors, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen. We, the Mayors for Peace who have assembled here today in this august assembly at Hiroshima, have a great responsibility thrust on us for the maintenance for peace in the world. It is a very urgent necessity. The subject that I need is towards a safer world has a great bearing on it today than it was at any other time.

Today there is great unrest in the world. Why is it? There is an unrestricted expansion of nuclear power, expansion and the threat of experiments of the world's major powers. They are in the process of experimenting with the further use of nuclear power generation. This has caused a serious threat to all of us, to mankind. Nuclear power can be used both for peaceful purposes, as well as destructive purposes.

At the same time, there is another threat too, and what is it? It is the threat of terrorism. Frequently, we hear of bomb attacks by terrorist groups. Once America was attacked and recently we have heard about bomb attacks in the UK, and in several other countries. This has caused untold suffering and embarrassment to all of us and this aspect needs our immediate attention.

When we think of the present day world, how the increasing use of nuclear power generation has caused unrest among nations. Powerful world powers already possess them and other nations, for example, India and Pakistan and North Korea, are also in the process of developing and expanding their resources on nuclear energy. This has led to controversial arguments about the safety of the world. As we have experienced in the past, the expansion of nuclear power breeds fear and anxiety and unrest among us. Its expansion is a great threat to world peace. Its uncontrolled use will be a great danger, not only for the countries that experiment on it, but it will result in the total destruction and even and annihilation of mankind from earth.

What is needed today is a need for the control of unrestricted expansion of nuclear power. The future program of work needs control and abolition. At the same time, it is necessary to program for the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. It is a regrettable fact that so far the methods adopted to control the nuclear program have not produced the desired result. Even after 60 years of the explosion of the atomic bomb, the effects of it are still being experienced, the effects of radiation are still being studied. It is our bound duty to adopt.

We hope and pray that the solution by this body to request the world powers to think again and make use of their good offices to control the use of nuclear power. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. The next speaker is the Official Delegation Representative of Ixelles, Belgium, Mr. Jean-Pierre Brouhon.

Jean-Pierre Brouhon, Official Delegation Representative, Ixelles, Belgium:

Mayor Akiba, Mr. Chairman, esteemed guests, mayors, there are places in the world which, despite the passage of time, will forever evoke great emotion. Preserved in the spirit of human soul, the power of these emotions refuses to diminish with the passing of generations. These places lead us to a new level of understanding, one whereby we can hope to grasp the real meaning of the term "compassion." Hiroshima and Nagasaki are two such places. In Hiroshima, where the cities of the past still echo around the shops and houses, life has very quickly found a path back to normality, a normality that others so much take for granted.

Today your great city is a symbol to the enduring human spirit, as well as an example to us all of the ability in overcoming a great tragedy. We must all take time to reflect on our duties as citizens of the world. Again, for the tsunami there were lots of efforts seen for the reconstruction of cities. In the time scale of human history, the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki represents but less than the fraction of a second, though it is a moment that should be permanently etched into the memory of each and every one of us.

On Aug. 6 of 1945 science ceased to be solely a tool for the advancement of mankind, for it has now become also the instrument of Armageddon. Science, it could be said, had become the harbinger of death forever more casting a shadow over the whole of mankind. War had ceased to be just a conflict between two attacking armies, but had grown to legitimize the use of weapons of unimaginable power.

The scientist Albert Jacquard said:

Of the previous advancements in history, not the taming of fire, not the advent of writing, nor the discovery of a new continent, has been so decisive. This time men have harnessed the power such that it exceeds the capacity of the planet; they endanger everything that it contains.

Mr. Mayor, mayors of the cities, we applaud the lead you took in the United Nations through the convention for peace, and also with the other cities of the world. And starting from August 2004, there has been another action, emergency action for the nuclear abolition. One thousand eighty are the number of the members in this organization, Mayors of Peace. We have to be very careful, otherwise, we might be doomed to Armageddon. If you look at the newspaper, we have to face many threats, such as terrorism. No matter where the terrorists appear, we have to challenge against terrorist attacks.

But no matter what kind of threats we face, we should never forget the need for the abolition of nuclear weapons because those are similar fighting as you can find the bomb in the subway, armaments and nuclearization will lead the way to the destruction of the world, and we will lose the self-determination of people if we continue to allow those terrorist attacks to happen.

At the present time, the world's nuclear arsenals have a total explosive yield equivalent to a ton of TNT for every man of the planet. No longer can we afford to stick our heads in the sand ignoring the situation, hoping beyond hope that nobody uses their nuclear arsenals.

The human race received a wakeup call on the issue of nuclear weapons and their destructive powers, but since that time nothing has made it possible to reverse the influence of nuclear weapons and their holders. Nuclear tests multiplied while the nuclear arms race gathered pace at an alarming rate. The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, NPT treaty, was disregarded. For the participants armament fighting, they have disregarded the NPT treaty.

As French writer Albert Camus said:

...in view of this terrifying prospect that has been placed at the door of mankind, we can see clearer than ever that peace is the only fight worth fighting for. We cannot just leave it to hope, it is imperative that people address their governments, in order that they might rightly choose between hell and reason.

This can be the only way forward. Let us never tire of saying that it is the duty of every citizen never to forget. Under the names of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we have to continue to give the message to future generations. Hiroshima and Nagasaki experiences and events will not be in vain. This provides the world with a tangible reference point whereby countries can see the futility of a nuclear proliferation strategy. The network of Mayors for Peace initiative like the countrywide Vision 2020 led many countries to express their position in this direction.

"Bourgmestre" is the name for the mayors. We have 235 mayors in Belgium, that's the percentage of 50 per cent who give the endorsement to the purpose and the mission of the Mayors for Peace. This represents in my country an important step at the local level towards the fight for disarmament. We, the inhabitants of the world, are the only ones who have the power, the power to win the total and lasting peace.

To quote Camus again:

The only rational lesson we can learn is the urge/need to commit more vigorously to fight for a truly international society, one where larger nations don't have superior rights to small or medium nations and where war isn't motivated by the appetite or doctrine of one or more states.

Let us go back to our countries and testify to the memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let's not wait for our neighbors to act before we act, but rather to act without delay. The change will come through both through our perseverance and our will to succeed. This is the purpose of the visiting delegation from Belgium that I have the honor to lead. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: So may I call on the Councilor of Florence, Ms. Agostini, finally, and then Mr. Scittarelli after her.

Susanna Agostini, Councilor, Florence, Italy: First of all we would like to thank Mayor Akiba and all the other mayors who have made Mayors for Peace such an important and respected association at the international level.

In the name of Mayor Leonardo Dominici, the Mayor of Florence, I am here today to bring the greetings and the solidarity of the City of Florence. It is an honor to represent my city with emotion and respect in this international meeting, especially because of the importance of the City of Hiroshima as a worldwide symbol. The ceremonies reminding us about the events of our past history and that threw the whole world into chaos, can be the starting point for our new pact of civil and institutional commitment to continue our duty. Florence and its mayor are here represented in order to continue a commitment started in the 50s by an historical Mayor of Florence, Mayor Giorgio La Pira, who already back then, just like Mayors for Peace today, focused his intellectual and literary thoughts on the role of mayors as a bridge between the institutional powers and the citizens' needs.

The threat of a global apocalypse due to atomic weapons is a theme and a problem that all nations and governments must face, although we know that the resistance to find a real solution is still too strong; as proof of that, we can see how the results are far from being satisfying if we evaluate the last modification of the Non-Nuclear Proliferation Treaty signed in New York, which is unfortunately an evidence of this lack.

For these reasons, it is necessary to create a stronger intervention of the communities in the name of the powers of humankind that were evoked by Martins in the famous clause II of The Hague Conference on the limitations of weapons. What we aim is an intense pressure on governments in order to achieve new strong peace policies and the refusal of the atomic weapons.

To achieve this goal we need complicated and delicate actions to awake the citizens' sensitivity of this theme which looks distant from an individual commitment and that for this reason is often psychologically "removed." In fact, in Italy recent studies have proved how the nuclear threat is still a secondary cause of fear compared to other new causes like international terrorism, or traditional ones like criminality. The general answer is: there is nothing we can do against the nuclear threat and we are completely defenseless.

On the contrary, we are here today because there are things we can do! Mayors can play the most important role in this action together with their cabinets and the City Councils. Being the closest institution to the citizens, mayors can achieve important results. Today and in the near future – what we are calling in this conference "Next Steps" – mayors can convince their citizens of the importance of their commitment and transform the natural instincts toward peace into a real need, based on commitment and on the possibility of sustainable interventions. Mayors must become, first of all, the promoters of the diffusion of information about the dangers this threat brings. We should go beyond the new important themes of peace education in the schools and generalize and enhance the education to all the citizens, using the proper instruments of communication, which are immediate and easily understandable by all cultural levels.

We must educate children and teenaged students, we must constantly train the educators, we must give up detailed information to the citizens and to the media in particular in order to spread the knowledge on the real threat of the atomic weapons that unfortunately still exist.

Since 1996 the Municipality of Florence has created the Peace and Solidarity Commission representing all the political parties sitting in the City Council, including Councilor Agostini. The aim of the Commission is in particular to put online all the peace operators associations, both institutional and volunteer, that operate in the Florentine territory and to coordinate and guide their activities into the international scene. Our fiscal mission can count on the volunteer and direct support of free groups of citizens that have been committed for years in the field of peace promotion and that represent a precious aid to our research of a new awareness of about nuclear weapons.

In 2002 Florence has hosted the Social Forum, an opportunity for an international meeting for all the peace initiatives in the world. Florence has always been involved in the promotion of peace.

Another duty of the Peace Commission is the promotion and support of any useful initiative that can help the integration of different cultural traditions in order to create a new global culture based on the acceptance of the others and in the recognition of peace as the most important value in the world.

Adding the results of our Florentine work to the results of all the other committed cities in the world that operate on this theme can help us achieving our goals. We can only count on cooperation and on the results achieved at a local level, but each one added to the others and adjusted to the local realities can represent an actual success.

The results of these activities will create a culture of differences that altogether will avoid the atrocities that occurred against the inhabitants of this beautiful city and welcoming city on Aug. 5, 60 years ago, and we should be sure that this will never happen again in the future. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. And may I call on Mr. Scittarelli ?

Bruno Vincenzo Scittarelli, Mayor, Cassino, Italy: Amongst the most serious problems that threaten the peaceful nation and the survival of the earth, the atomic proliferation is surely the most severe, destined to condition the whole humanity of the world.

Unfortunately, war has always been an element very close to the story of mankind, an exceptional event but also recurrent: once resolving the nature of the conflict, the opposing parties have always been able to restart their reconstruction programs and reestablish new political, social and economic balance.

Up to now, therefore, war has always had losers and winners. Men, populations, have been able to restart their historical course. Today, it is no longer possible. The actual war problem in the world is completely different in aspects and dimensions as from the past. A nuclear weapon conflict means the total annihilation of mankind, therefore: no winners, no losers; no slavery, no liberty; no richness, no poverty; no progress, no underdevelopment; but the end of everyone and of all the inhabitants of the world.

Emptiness, death, silence forever.

Today, unless one wishes to choose the road leading to human sacrifice, the controversies of interests and conflicts of power must necessarily be reduced to tolerable conditions, compatible with the necessary international balance.

Peace and the survival of mankind, thus, seem to be obscured by the balance of terror, and not by a true desire to establish worldwide relations that will definitely eliminate all dangers of the explosion of a world war.

The prologue of the tragedy, of the "final solution" we have already seen. Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Nazi extermination camps, are the first testimonies of a very dangerous road that humanity risks to run up to the end.

Must we then give up and prepare ourselves for the worst? Do we have to remain motionless to all this and wait for the tragedy to occur without doing anything to stop it?

We mayors, members of these communities that during the last world conflict have learnt the horrors of the war, must direct our political actions in order to pursue the culture of peace. Every single man, every single citizen must have the desire of peace and refuse the wicked logic of war. The City of Cassino has actuated and pursues a constant and strong political action towards twinships.

Campaigns of sensitization amongst the citizens of the problems connected to nuclear proliferation in order that the national and international public opinion may convince the government to review their programs on the matter. In other words, it is necessary to pursue a serious policy of disarming, stop the running towards terrible war arms, and avoid the terrible reciprocal "chasing" along the road of never-ending military power.

Only with these methods, only with the imposing of agreements on the disarming, even if only partial and gradual, will we be able to avoid the destruction of mankind. It is essential that our actions aim to inform everyone on the risks that atomic arms threaten not only to one nation or to one continent but to the whole world and the whole humanity.

The City of Cassino, ever since 1984, with an official council committee document, has declared its territory nuclear-free. It has also included in its statute an important and valid instrument such as the Forum for Peace that is intended to take place periodically at an international level.

However, our actions must be forwarded to all the State members of the treaty on non-atomic proliferation that must obey all the rules of the treaty. In particular, they must: ensure over the illegal use of nuclear technology, that civil atomic programs do not turn into military ones, that nuclear arms do not fall into the hands of groups of terrorists and that the three components of the treaty must be obeyed. The non-proliferation of nuclear arms, the disarming of nuclear arms, the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Although the objective conditions of our times do not allow much space for hope and reason, openings where everlasting peace may enter exist and thus become an exulting reality for all humankind.

Universal peace must not and can not be founded upon the basis of terror, on scaring a balance full of uncertainties and risks, on opposing armies; it must derive from wisdom and from sensibility.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. And the next speaker will be the Mayor of Kurunegala, Sri Lanka, Mr. Nimal Chandrasiri de Silva.

Nimal Chandrasiri de Silva, Mayor, Kurunegala, Sri Lanka: Honorable Mayor Akiba and the members of councils, municipal councils, and all peace-loving participants, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I must thank Honorable Mayor Akiba for inviting the mayors and the members of councils and municipal councils in Sri Lanka for the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings.

We Sri Lankans, we are subjected to both hand-made calamities and natural calamities. We in Sri Lanka have been suffering, Sri Lankans have been suffering irreversible losses due to the monster of terrorism. Although we didn't have a track of nuclear weapons, we experience the dangers of bomb explosions due to terrorism and terrorist activities in Sri Lanka, so as a result, our daily living, happiness, mirth and future aspirations and all have been deprived. Sri Lankans are a peace-loving nation so we convey our fullest assistance to protect the world from the disaster of nuclear weapons and bomb explosions.

Ladies and gentlemen, very recently Sri Lanka had to face a natural calamity, the tsunami. That's not a hand-made calamity; that's a natural calamity, that's a natural disaster. Thousands and thousands and thousands of innocent people died unexpectedly. Many still remain homeless and jobless due to this unexpected catastrophe. The Sri Lankan government finds it very difficult to rebuild Sri Lanka within a short period of time. Many nations all over the world, especially Japan, America, Germany, France and other countries, help us a lot. And they are still helping us. So I take this opportunity to thank them all.

Ladies and gentlemen, as a peace-loving person, I have a kind, honest and humble request to all of you. Let's get together, hand in hand, to protect the world from the disaster of nuclear weapons and terrorism. Sri Lanka is a paradise of the Indian Ocean. It's very beautiful. Kurunegala is the city, the central city in Sri Lanka. I kindly invite everybody to visit our beloved motherland. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you for being short and keeping to time. And the last speaker will be the Deputy Mayor of Villejiuf, France, Madame Arlette Zielinski.

Arlette Zielinski, Deputy Mayor, Villejiuf, France: Mr. Mayor of Hiroshima, I'd like to thank Mayor Akiba for the kind invitation given to us.

From AFCDRP we would like to thank the previous speaker for explaining what we need to do for peace and peace culture. The residents of the municipalities and the

children of our city agree with the sense of friendship and peace. We have a long history of fighting against violence. Paul Vaillant Couturier was a mayor between 1929 and 1937. He was a journalist and he was an author and he also has edited a song, and in 1917 together with Henri Barbusse he established l'Association Républicaine des Anciens Combattants and it was a fight against the war.

And Villejiuf was a member since the inauguration of AFCD RP, from 2001 to 2010, it took part in the United Nations decade for the culture of peace and for non-violence for the children of the world. And we have 48,000 inhabitants in our city and we have made some endeavors to realize peace. We need to get away from the culture of war, but the culture of war is adjusting and coordinating different worlds.

And on the 21st April the City Council, with a unanimous vote, adopted a resolution which was to be sent to NPT Review Conference in terms of full compliance and immediate compliance of all provisions, in particular the provision of Article IV and Article VI in request of early compliance.

And whenever people suffer from the injustice of wars, violence and difficulties, our children and women and citizens fight against these. And the 21st September we hear the poems and songs of peace-loving artists. The walls are also decorated with the paintings of artists calling for peace. And this day-to-day civic activity is a kind of education for the young people to enhance its awareness toward peace.

We have an inter-center effort. The republican government and our city officials always are urged to work against nuclear weapons. Solidarity is not just a word but it is a very familiar term which is put into practice on a day-to-day basis in every household and in every family.

And on the 6th August the library shows the cinema that accuses the foolishness of nuclear violence. On the 9th August we have a large picnic for peace. Children and city officials and citizens get together in the park named after Pablo Neruda, a great protector and advocate of peace and justice.

And we think about the children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order not to repeat their mistakes of sacrificing children all over the world. Five hundred balloons are flown to the sky and at the same time all churches in the city toll their bells never to repeat their mistakes. Villejiuf is a Peace Messenger City for peace and peace culture we believe is an important future of our society.

On Oct. 6, 1999, the declaration and action program for the culture of peace at the United States UN resolution was adopted. In line with that the city's mayor and councilors focus on education for the promotion of a culture of peace. We have a children's live festival, we also have an event to eliminate racial discrimination. Through these we promote our cause. We try to enhance the culture of peace. We try to prevent conflicts. We try to have a consensus, and we also educate people with non-violence cause.

We also promote international peace and security, the peaceful resolution of conflict. And what we call for, we call for total disarmament and a comprehensive alternate

abolition of nuclear weapons, 50 per cent reduction of major expenses are what we are calling for.

France and other countries and with other local governments, we are working together seeking a country and a nation and a world different from what we have now, where we have no violence. We want to share wealth and knowledge. We want to have a mutual benefit and fair allocation of wealth.

But it's important that we need to find the root causes of war which are poverty and injustice, the imbalance of development that causes confusion. The future of the peaceful world can be realized through the solidarity of all races. But we can do more than that. Our belief and our confidence should be built upon to realize peace on an eternal basis. Let us keep Vision 2020. Thank you.

CHAIR MOGAMI: Thank you very much. Please allow me to announce to you that we will finish this session at 2:00 flat, and I do not make my own comments and I will basically accept your comments in tomorrow's plenary, but in order to make the best of the remaining three minutes, if you have any burning desire to make a comment immediately, I can take one or two during this session. Is there any who wants to make a comment on the spot? No? Yes, please.

Peter Chan, Councilor, Waitakere, New Zealand: To the Chair, I am Councilor Chan from Waitakere City, New Zealand. Well, there are some comments.

War can never end war. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 60 years ago was just one of the many consequences of the war. Sixty years after the war, the world is not getting better. So many people in the world are still suffering from poverty, injustice, starvation, social discrimination, international terrorism, racial conflicts, political and religious persecution. Yes, nuclear weapons must be outlawed and destroyed and this is a pitiful step towards world peace, but there are some other issues that we need to address apart from the atomic weapons itself.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an historic time and an historic place. We must learn from history and respect history. Let us make our point. Let us have our voice everywhere. Let us carry the message of peace from people to people, mayor to mayor, cities to cities, and generation to generation. Together we can make a difference. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else? If so, the meeting will be adjourned now. Thank you very much for your patience and please accept my apologies for having extended this session for such a long, long time. Thank you very much.