

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

General Conference

14:30-15:30, Thursday, August 4, 2005
Phoenix Hall
International Conference Center Hiroshima

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

Explanation of Agenda Items by:
Steve Leeper
U. S. Representative of Mayors for Peace Secretariat
Aaron Tovish
2020 Vision Campaign Manager

Speaker: **Johanne Winchester**
Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA
Ellen Woodsworth
Councilor, Vancouver, Canada
John Hipkin
Mayor, Cambridge, U.K.
Irene Michaud
Representing the Town of Leverett, U.S.A.
Frank Liu
Director of Japan region, Communications Coordination Committee for
the United Nations, USA
Gisela Kallenbach
Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany
Miho Cibot
AFCD RP French Mayors for Peace, Malakoff, France
Alan Ware
Global Coordinator, Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament
Fumio Ueda
Mayor, Sapporo, Japan

Chairperson, Tadatoshi Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan: And now I would like to call the session to order, the session of the General Conference of the Mayors of Peace. Based on the covenant of Mayors of Peace, I will chair the General Conference today as the President of Mayors for Peace. Before discussing the agenda items, I would like to introduce the chairperson of each session and ask them to be recognized.

First of all, let's see, where are they seated? There. First of all, I would like to introduce Prof. Toshiki Mogami of the International Christian University, who will chair the whole program of the General Conference as well as the plenary sessions 1 and 2.

Next, I would like to introduce Mr. Alyn Ware, Consultant, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, IALANA, who came all the way from New Zealand. Mr. Ware will chair the Session Meeting 1.

Lastly, Prof. Nobuo Kazashi of Kobe University who will chair the exchange with Hiroshima citizens. I guess he's not here. I will recognize him again when he's here. Actually, it's not limited to Hiroshima citizens, citizens of the world.

And Prof. Asai, President of the Hiroshima Peace Institute who will chair Session Meeting 2. He is absent today on other business but he will join just shortly.

Now this session of the General Conference is where member cities of Mayors for Peace discuss the agenda items. Today we have participants from non-member cities of Mayors for Peace. Please understand that your participation will be as observers, but that does not mean that you cannot speak. Please speak freely, but when it comes to vote-taking, those who are not members will not be asked to vote. That is the rule. And also, the representatives from national governments, NGOs and the general public are asked to participate only as observers as well. So thank you for your cooperation.

Now I would also like to ask representatives of non-member cities again to take this opportunity to join Mayors for Peace, and I'm sure you will be convinced that it is a good idea after you have listened to the discussions which will start shortly.

Now we will take up the agenda item 1, Election of Executive Cities. I would like to call on the Secretariat, which has been preparing for this conference for many months, to give an explanation of the agenda item.

Secretariat, Steve Leeper, U. S. Representative of Mayors for Peace Secretariat: Good afternoon. For those of you who have handouts, the handouts of the agenda items, this item is on page 1 of that handout. I'm just going to give some brief background of these recommendations that we're making now.

At the Fifth Executive Meeting in Hannover in September 2000, it was decided to find and involve leading cities, especially in nuclear weapons States or suspected nuclear weapons States, that could help to strengthen our activities in those countries. In addition, the by-laws of this conference stipulate that we are obligated to consider regional balance in our selection of executive committee members. For these

reasons, and because all the individuals mayors I will now introduce have provided invaluable support to Mayors for Peace, the Secretariat is recommending that the following cities be elected to serve as Vice-President Cities.

Donald Plusquellic is Mayor of Akron, Ohio. Mayor Plusquellic, who was until June this year the president of the US Conference of Mayors, was instrumental in getting that conference to pass a resolution strongly supporting Mayors for Peace and our 2020 Vision. That resolution has proven to be a powerful tool for recruiting US mayors and promoting the campaign.

Gary Moore is Mayor of Christchurch, New Zealand. We have never had an Executive City from Oceania, and Mayor Moore has a strong personal commitment to our cause. In addition, New Zealand has for decades been at the forefront of the struggle against nuclear weapons and it will be extremely beneficial to our organization to have Mayor Moore as our contact in his highly advanced anti-nuclear nation.

Leonardo Dominici is Mayor of Florence, Italy. He is also President of the National Association of Italian Municipalities and has personally assured Mayor Akiba that he intends to commit that organization representing most of Italy's major cities, to supporting our campaign.

Patrik Vankrunkelsven is Mayor of Laakdal, Belgium. He is also a member of the Belgium parliament and a devoted activist. He has been arrested for attempting a citizen's inspection looking for weapons of mass destruction at a NATO site in Belgium, and he has been a central figure in the remarkable campaign that recruited 233 Mayors for Peace in Belgium. I believe that more than half of Belgium's mayors are now members of Mayors for Peace.

We are extremely lucky that these four outstanding mayors have agreed to join our Executive Meeting, and they have been so appointed by Mayor Akiba under his authority as President. At this point we have one President City, Hiroshima, seven Vice-President Cities, and four new Executive Cities. According to Article IV, paragraph 2 of our by-laws, the new Executive Cities can be elected Vice-President Cities only by a vote in the General Conference. If elected, according to Article V they would serve for four years until the next General Conference. There is no restriction on the number of terms they can serve.

Prior to this 6th General Conference, the Secretariat approached all current vice-presidents to inquire if they are willing to continue serving. In response, the mayors of Nagasaki, Hannover, Malakoff, Manchester, Muntinlupa and Volgograd agreed to continue as vice-presidents. Unfortunately, the Mayor of Como, Italy has decided to resign his position.

Assuming that you elect all these candidates, we will have an executive committee of ten Vice-President Cities led by the President Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima. Thus, we will have 11 officer cities. We do hope that you will approve these nominations. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Now we have discussed this matter in the Executive Committee, and based on the discussion the Secretariat would like to ask you to approve this appointment of officers by a show of applause. May I have your applause of approval? [*applause*]

Okay, thank you very much. I would like to ask the new vice-presidents to take a leading role until the 7th General Conference.

Next will be agenda item No. 2, The Future Role of Mayors for Peace. Again, I would like to call on the Secretariat to give you an account of the plan for this coming year, as well as a glimpse to the future years, so please.

Secretariat, Aaron Tovish, 2020 Vision Campaign Manager: Good afternoon. We have had an extraordinary campaign up until this time over the last year-and-a-half or so. It has done wonders for getting the name of Mayors for Peace out to a much wider public, and it has established a reputation, a good name for the organization in circles of power and among the people.

Our challenge in the coming year, which is the main focus of the presentation that I've been asked to make, is on building that reputation and exploiting it to the good of the campaign and its objectives.

I want to first draw your attention to the draft pamphlet that describes the history of the organization and will present the plans once they have been discussed, modified and approved. The section that I'm dealing with begins on page 4 and continues relentlessly for over four pages. I will not subject you to four pages of small type. I will instead refer to the agenda item 2 of the conference work and I will move through it more or less reading it but also adding some commentary, and for that I apologize to the interpreters.

Several of the speakers have already -- now I'm louder aren't I -- have already referred to the kind of attitude that we need to take into this campaign as we move forward, one of recognizing that nuclear weapons have had their day, that any attempt to defend further prolongation of nuclear weapons is out of step with the great majority of people and we represent that great majority. And so you'll see that the campaign plan tries to build on that attitude in a very concrete and we hope successful way.

The campaign will consist of events and projects or ongoing activities. There will be three major events in the course of what we can think of as the calendar, not the calendar year, not the fiscal year, but the campaign year. In this campaign, campaign years go from August commemoration to the next year's August commemoration. So we'd like you to think in terms of August to August when it comes to the forward movement of the campaign.

So in the coming campaign year we have envisioned three main events. The first would be an effort to revise Disarmament Week which begins on UN Day, which is the 24th October. We will call on cities around the world to mark these periods with local public events for education and outreach. The importance of this timing is that

this is when the First Committee is meeting in New York, and I will get to that when we go to projects.

The second major event is going to be in Vancouver in June 2006. We're fortunate to have here representatives from Vancouver who will give us much more detail on this, but a particularly marvelous coincidence, which makes this irresistible, is that the World Urban Forum will take place just before and slightly overlapping with the World Peace Forum. And it doesn't take too much to add 1 and 1 and get 2. Mayors, peace, Mayors for Peace. We're going to be there, we're going to urge our membership to be there, we will build ties to cities at the Urban Forum and we will build ties to our peace movement allies during the World Peace Forum.

And that in itself will be an excellent opportunity to promote the third major event in 2006, in this first calendar year, and that is the 10th Anniversary of the International Court of Justice. The unanimous opinion of the universal obligation to pursue and conclude measures leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects – Alan will correct me if I didn't do that absolutely perfectly -- that advisory opinion will have been in force, you could say, for ten years, and we know that it has not been complied with. And so we will launch a month of action for compliance starting with the Tenth Anniversary with a massive demonstration in the Hague with the help of all our European colleagues hosting people from all over the world, and we will continue activities on a local basis culminating here in Hiroshima and other Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day commemorations around the world.

These events are opportunities for mayors to get involved who have not yet been involved, and we are going to work throughout the year to ensure that we have broad participation from our membership and from new mayors as well.

But these events are only successful if the long-ongoing activities, the projects of the organization, are stirring up the determination and the public support that's needed for mayors to really throw themselves into this. And we have several important projects under way.

The first is that we are already approaching governments, asking them to take into account the lack of results from the NPT Conference, the lack of results from the Conference on Disarmament, recognize that one of the main problems in both of these bodies, as well as the Disarmament Commission, is that they have been hamstrung by the consensus rule, which in effect gives a veto to any country. And as we know, a small number of countries have been abusing that veto, and we are going to look to the First Committee to establish a new, complimentary, supportive sub-committee that is not hampered by this consensus veto and that can operate on the same basis as the First Committee and the General Assembly and that is by majority vote if necessary to advance the work needed to plan for the achievement of a nuclear weapons-free world by the year 2020. This will be an important new direction for the international community, and we are already finding a great deal of interest in this, and we are hoping that we can push that through.

The activities on UN Day will coincide closely to when the First Committee will actually be moving towards a vote on this and related resolutions and we are hoping that it will give courage to countries to see this through. I could mean, while it is not

at all certain, it could mean that negotiations could begin in Geneva as early as January 2006.

The second project: Ask the People. We are going to try to promote in perhaps 50 countries, and hopefully we'll succeed in maybe 35, to get national opinion polls conducted by newspapers and other respectable and scientific polling operations, to reconfirm what has been found in a smattering and a disorganized and varied set of polls over the years, and which Ambassador Roche referred to, which is that huge majorities of people want to see their governments get down to work and sort out this threat and eliminate it.

So this will be an opportunity over the course of a single year to get polls taken in a broad spectrum of countries, nuclear weapons States, potential nuclear weapons States, non-nuclear weapons States, demonstrating that no matter where the poll was taken, people want to see this problem solved in their lifetime so their children can have a better world.

Third project. You may recall, and I'm actually pleased to see so many of the mayors who were in New York with us today, you may recall we had a presentation from the Rand Corporation. The Rand Corporation was commissioned by the Department of Homeland Security to do a study on the impact of a nuclear detonation in the Port of Long Beach, which is right next to the Port of Los Angeles. A quarter of all exports and imports in and out of the United States go through that port. And what the study found, and what he presented to us in New York, was that they still could not fully track and fully comprehend the economic impact of such a disruption of world trade. And it occurred to us that it would be very useful to do a similar study in other major advanced technological centers of the world that have become so dependent on the just-on-time delivery of the world trade system.

So we're looking to promote a similar study in East Asia and a similar study in Europe, and we're hoping to bring those results to the attention of political leaders and people everywhere. It's a wonderful coincidence, again, that the new president of the US Conference of Mayors is in fact the Mayor of Long Beach, California. So we have a good friend and ally in this effort. In fact, it was Mayors for Peace that brought this study to her attention.

Participation in international, regional and local conferences. Mayors for Peace obviously needs to find allies everywhere it can, and mayors operate in regional and international contexts, not just in Mayors for Peace but in all kinds of different organizations. Mayors for Peace often gets invitations to participate in such meetings, not just meetings of mayors, but also peace movement meetings and so forth. We need the capacity to be represented at those meetings by mayors, if not by mayors then by staff members of the Secretariat or other people we want to empower to take those roles.

We will be establishing an Advisory Committee to the campaign. Thus far, the campaign has received on a very informal, but very useful basis, advice from experts, peace activists, mayors, ex-mayors, and we want to formalize that a bit and regularize it so that we have the benefit of their advice on a consistent basis.

We also need to strengthen the membership database. As the membership grows rapidly we need to install new systems so that our communication with the membership improves, rather than deteriorating.

We also, as a major tool of communication, need to bring on board a web designer who can make sure that our web is not irregularly up to date, is not only up to date but extremely user friendly and valuable to those who visit it.

There are several education projects that will be discussed during the course of this meeting, and you can get more information about them.

But then I must come to the question of fundraising. And I want now to draw your attention to the dollar signs on this report, and you will see that the Secretariat and our offices outside of Japan have an annual bill of over \$380,000. That bill, up until now, has been consistently covered by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we all hope and pray that they can continue to do that, but the activities of the campaign create an extra financial need, and this burden should not fall on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They are just two of the thousand members of this organization.

If you look at the difference between what Hiroshima is covering in terms of the infrastructure of the organization and the total cost of the campaign year that I've just described, you will see that it's about \$160,000. So the Executive Committee has decided, or is recommending, that the Mayors for Peace membership take an active role in making up this difference of 160,000 and covering the costs of this campaign as we have it planned, and hopefully we can even expand it as additional funds are raised.

If you just do pure mathematics on this, and this is not a specific proposal, but if you take 1,000 members and divide it into the \$160,000, you come up with the need of \$160 from each city. That's not a lot of money. But we're also looking, in fact, to raise money from a number of other sources besides contributions gathered and contributed voluntarily by cities. We're going to be going to foundations. A number of the projects I've described are likely candidates for grants from foundations. And we will be going to other NGOs, corporations and individuals and literally directly soliciting their support for the work of Mayors For Peace.

Mayor Akiba has done work in this area himself here in Hiroshima and has found a very, very positive response, and we hope that other mayors will take on this task as well and that other NGOs will pitch in as well, and we are more than happy to cooperate with NGOs in specific fundraising initiatives.

An example is given that the Global Peacemakers Association in the United States has contracted with an organization called EPOP Productions to put on a concert, a major concert, and it's possible that this will generate significant revenues in the next campaign year.

I have skipped a page, if you're following me, I've skipped to page 5 to discuss revenue. I'll just quickly draw your attention to the fact that as the General Conference here was responsible for a budget over a four-year period, because conferences are held every four years, the budget does not claim to be at all detailed in

the following three years. There are activities, there are Secretariat expenses and then you'll see there's an Executive Committee Meeting in August 2007 at the end of that campaign year, and then there's the next General Conference. The expenses for those meetings have been covered by Hiroshima in the past and so we're again focusing the attention of the membership on helping us raise the costs of what we expect to be an increasingly powerful and therefore expensive campaign, although the cost is, we feel, quite moderately projected, and we're hoping in fact that as the campaign develops we'll do far better than that. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. And now we open the floor for discussion, new ideas. If you have any comments, questions, whatever, I'd like to invite you to speak up. Please raise your hand. And also for the sake of simultaneous interpretation, you have to speak through a microphone. Does anyone want to speak at this point on this agenda item? Oh, yes, yes, please. Please identify which city and what?

Johanne Winchester, Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA: Yes, I'm Johanne Winchester from the Communications Coordination Committee of the United Nations. Two thoughts. Does anyone know what the average nuclear weapon costs? And does anyone know what the total nuclear weapons budget for building, maintaining stockpiles, stewardship, et cetera, is globally, just to put our small budget in perspective. So this is something –

Chairperson: Is that a rhetorical question? So that you can actually give us an answer? If that's the case please give us the figure.

Winchester: I don't know the answer. I wondered if someone here knows.

Chairperson: Okay. Does anyone have a figure? But yes, I'll promise you that the Secretariat will, and some of the expert friends who are present here, will come up with the figure and make that available to you. That's a very good point in proportion with the total amount of money utilized for creating nuclear weapons and maintaining them and so forth, in comparison with the budget we have just proposed. And I think that'll make a very good point to the rest of the world, and I think in terms of the fundraising efforts that will drive home the importance of our work as well.

Winchester: And the second announcement is that my colleague, Mr. Liu Frank and I, who is the Asia-Pacific Coordinator for CCCUN and our other colleague who is coordinating Japan have just come from a meeting in Tokyo with a major musical talent who also happens to be a senator in the Diet in Japan, and he and one of our business colleagues have offered to work with the Mayors for Peace campaign, self-funded, not asking for any money from the mayors, to create concerts in Asia, hopefully working with EPOP.

Chairperson: Okay, thank you very much. There are other musicians and celebrities that I personally came to know recently who have offered their services as well. So I think the list of those people who will be cooperating with us will get longer as time goes by. So if you have any suggestions or any leads to people who

could help us, please get in touch with the Secretariat so that we can really strengthen our network. Yes, please.

Ellen Woodsworth, Councillor, Vancouver, Canada: My name is Ellen Woodsworth. I am the Acting Mayor of the City of Vancouver and I'm very pleased to hear that you will join us in Vancouver at the World Peace Forum, and I hope that all the delegates here will join us. It's a crucial time. The theme of the conference is "Cities and Communities Working Together to Build a Peaceful, Just, Sustainable World," and it draws upon the deep desire of young people to join the peace movement with preceding generations of activists who fought against nuclear weapons and for disarmament and tying the struggles for peace budgets as against the budgets that are being used to build nuclear arms. So I just wanted to identify myself and I'm happy to talk to anyone who'd like to know about this, and I hope we can continue that discussion. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. I'm sure many of us will be visiting Vancouver next year. And in preparation for that, if you could tie what you're planning in the conference in Vancouver next year with what we might be or we could possibly do in conjunction with your efforts and discuss that during this conference, I think that would be quite fruitful, so thank you for your intervention. Any others? Yes, please.

John Hipkin, Mayor, Cambridge, U.K.: Mayor Akiba, thank you for this opportunity to speak to the conference. I'm John Hipkin and I'm the Mayor of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. I simply want to stress, if I may, the importance of local activity. Cambridge is a small city, it's a renowned city, I know, but it's a comparatively small city. Could I just give you the example of what happened in our community in the build-up to the war against Iraq?

Leading members of the City Council were not afraid to demean themselves by appearing in the marketplace very Saturday morning, asking people as they went about their shopping, as they went about their ordinary business, to sign a petition. That petition was directed in the first instance to the City Council. It asked the City Council to formally oppose the intervention in Iraq. That resolution was passed.

Subsequently, a further resolution was presented to the Member of Parliament for Cambridge who resigned her government position. In order to support the petition she knew that it would make her unpopular with her own government, but she was prepared to stand by the people of Cambridge. Subsequently, the member of the European Parliament representing Cambridge endorsed the campaign.

I simply want to stress, although I support all the measures which have been outlined this morning, there is no substitute for mayors getting down amongst the people, working locally, putting pressure on the immediate politicians in their own communities who are in the best position to affect policy. I wish you well Mayor Akiba, and thank you for inviting me to Hiroshima.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a wonderful report of courage in the City of Cambridge. And I would like to add to your comment as somebody who has lived in Cambridge, USA, and as somebody who is in a position to report to you that

Cambridge, Massachusetts is also quite active in the efforts. And I'm really pleased to see that both Cambridges are exemplary in our efforts towards creating peace, and I would like to thank you for your report and welcome to Hiroshima as well.

Any other comments or opinions? Yes, in the back, please.

Irene Michaud, Representing the Town of Leverett, U.S.A.: Hello. My name is Irene Michaud and I'm here from Massachusetts in the US, and I had the good news just before I left to come here that one of our representatives in Massachusetts wrote a resolution that he brought before the House of Representatives and it was co-sponsored by 16 other representatives. And as a result of that, the Massachusetts House of Representatives has endorsed the Mayors for Peace, which will be very helpful in our continued work. So thank you very much for paying tribute to Cambridge, Massachusetts and the House of Representatives. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for the wonderful report from Massachusetts, and I'm proud to say, as a former resident of the state of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, excuse me, that this time I think you went ahead of the state of Vermont in passing resolutions of the nature. In the 80s, Vermont was the frontrunner in the efforts. So I hope that that trend will spread all through the United States because we do respect American mayors taking the initiative through their US Conference of Mayors and through their efforts and also the state legislature joining the US Conference of Mayors, and we do need to work with Americans of conscience, which I know is the majority. So any others? Yes, please.

Frank Liu, Director of Japan region, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA: My name is Frank Liu, I'm from New York, Communications Coordination for the United Nations, originally I'm from China. Here is a very short announcement. We are going to make a special event to celebrate the UN 60th year anniversary to ring the harmony bell in New York in the Waldorf and we are going to invite President Hu Jintao and some other senior officers of the UN. At that time when we ring the bell, this bell we ring for harmony, we ring for peace, we ring for no war. So we hope that every city mayor, everybody here who are willing, we invite you to join us: when we ring the bell, you can ring the bell at the same time in your city. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Okay, thank you very much for the information. Any others? Yes, please.

Gisela Kallenbach, Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany: Thank you, Mr. Akiba. You introduced me kindly as a member of the European Parliament, but I want to tell you officially that I'm also here bringing with me the very best wishes of a new member of Mayors for Peace, my home City of Leipzig, Germany. And my Lord Mayor gave me in my luggage an address which I would like to hand over to you later this night. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. I should also mention that there's going to be a concert of St. Matthew's Passion composed by Bach on the evening of August 5, and since Leipzig is related to Bach, your Lord Mayor has sent us a message tying Bach's masterpiece with our Mayors for Peace, and I would like to thank you

personally and I ask you to convey our thanks to your Lord Mayor. Thank you very much. Any other comments, questions? Yes, please.

Unknown: I just wanted to inform everyone that the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the Senate of the State of Connecticut voted 34 to 0 in favor of the Mayors resolution. And there's a proposal in Connecticut that our Senate marry the Massachusetts House and so we'll have both houses.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for an encouraging, good report. And so it seems that the legislatures in the United States are beginning to move and are coming in full force in cooperation with us to move ahead toward nuclear disarmament. It's wonderful. Any other comments or questions? Yes, please.

Miho Cibot, AFCDRP French Mayors for Peace, Malakoff, France: I am Miho Cibot from the French Local Authorities Association. I am Japanese and I have lived for 30 years in France. We are acting as the chapter for the Mayors for Peace and we want to recruit as many local authorities as possible to expand the movement of the Mayors for Peace. For the French mayors, there are a lot of mayors who are acting also as the head of councils and assemblies, therefore, not only the mayors but the representatives of the provinces are representing each province and city. And we have created a website of our activities where we introduce the various activities of the Mayors for Peace and Mayors for Peace can be linked from our website.

And also, because this is the 60th anniversary, and to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Association, there are a lot of inquiries about this organization, and we have been engaged in the PR activities. There was a radio interview last night and I have very actively engaged in communicating what we are doing in Mayors For Peace. We would like to have the other mayors do the same so that we can have various activities in many corners of the world.

Chairperson: There was the suggestion that we should work harder so that citizens themselves know that the Mayors for Peace exists and are working very hard towards our goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons by 2020. Thank you very much for your proposal and report. Are there any others? Yes, please.

Alan Ware, Global Coordinator, Parliamentary Network for Nuclear

Disarmament: Thank you very much, Mayor Akiba. Alan Ware from the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament. Just a quick comment on one of the projects which was proposed here, which is the Jump-Start Disarmament Project which is under consideration for support by Mayors for Peace. I'd like to say that we, the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament, has been in collaboration with Mayors for Peace on preliminary work on this project, and in New York at the NPT PrepCom we released a joint statement as parliamentarians and mayors calling for such negotiations. So we're looking forward to continuing that collaboration with Mayors for Peace, so therefore we would look very closely at hoping that this project does get support. And we will have copies of that Appeal which is continuing for members during this conference. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. We have been receiving -. Oh, do you want to make a comment?

Secretariat, Tovish: Just a point of information. In my description that went through the items, there was one section that was called Advisory Group and Developing Ties. If you turn to page 5 of your more descriptive pamphlet, we feature as the second major area for developing ties in outreach, national legislatures. So that's in this publication, this thing. So I kind of brushed over that in the original presentation, but a great deal of thinking and planning and hopefully results will be coming out of work in conjunction with national legislatures following up on the good progress that we've been hearing about today. Obviously, the main point of outreach is to other mayors and mayors' organizations and that's what I mentioned in my presentation. But I short-shrifted parliamentarians.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. And so actually one encouraging piece I would like to add to your comment is that we have been receiving signed statements from mayors who support the Appeal that went out of the joint meeting we've had. So it's being spread and it is having good effects, so thank you very much. I think that will continue to be quite effective in the future as well. Yes, please.

Fumio Ueda, Mayor, Sapporo, Japan: I am the Mayor of Sapporo City. The anti-nuclear movement, the movement called Nuclear Abolition, we cannot just depend on Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities alone. All the people in Japan share the same aspiration. I am not still a member of the Mayors for Peace Association. There are so many other cities in Japan who share the same viewpoint and perception. We hope that we will be able to expand the scope of the movement because you are gathered here in Hiroshima, in this wonderful set-up and discussion set-up.

I congratulate this organization, and Mayor Akiba, I congratulate your efforts and I am very much encouraged by your big voices for seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons. We hope that we will do the same in Sapporo City. The day of Hiroshima should be brought to Hiroshima City on the 6th August. In front of the City Hall of Sapporo City there was the Winter Olympics held in 1972 and there is the tower for the Olympic flame and we are going to put on the flame of this commemorative Olympic tower to commemorate our activities to put our hands together with you in Sapporo. This is the report from Sapporo. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for your efforts to spread our activities throughout Japan as well. Are there any other people who would like to speak? I don't see any hands. All right.

With that then I believe that the agenda item No. 2, that is, our future plans of activities of the Mayors for Peace, I believe that that means that you approve our future plans. So I'd like to again ask you to show your approval by applause. [*applause*].

Okay, thank you very much. We will proceed as the explanation from the Secretariat told you in this coming year.

Now what we are trying to accomplish is something which is unprecedented in history, that is, cities trying to change something that has to do with the survival of the entire

human race. But at this point it seems that we are accomplishing another unprecedented thing and making a world record which is an international conference of this magnitude and scale actually is moving ahead of its schedule. This is unheard of actually, and therefore we have 30 minutes left, but perhaps because of the jetlag and heat and humidity we may deserve a recess ten minutes longer, but that still leaves us with 20 minutes.

So this is my proposal. Many of you have actually asked for a slot in workshops, in plenary sessions to make a report or to speak for five minutes or ten minutes. But since we did not have much time, I'm sure there are some cities that did not get the slot either in the plenary session or the workshop to speak, and this is short notice, I know, but if you would like to speak at this point, even though you were not given a slot in the plenary session or one of the workshops, please raise your hand. I think we can give five minutes to each city now so that about three or four cities probably could speak at this point. If you'd like to do that you're welcome and this is a good time to do it. Is there anybody who'd like to make a presentation at this point?

Okay, I'm sorry that it's unprepared, you certainly would not wish to make at this point, but we will make an effort to accommodate any city that would like to speak at a later point.

So then I would like to call this session adjourned. Thank you very much for your cooperation.