

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

Plenary Session II

The Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapon by the Year 2020

14:15-15:30, Saturday, August 6, 2005

Himawari

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Toshiki Mogami**

Professor, International Christian University

Reporter of Session Meeting:

Alyn Ware

Chairperson of Session Meeting I

Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

Motofumi Asai

Chairperson of Session Meeting II

President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University

Speaker: **Michel Cibot**

City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France

Alick Shaw

Deputy Mayor, Wellington City, New Zealand

John Hipkin

Mayor, Cambridge, U.K

Gisela Kallenbach

Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany

Miho Cibot

AFCDRP French Mayors for Peace, Malakoff, France

Alfred Marder

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

Daniel Fontaine

Mayor, Aubagne, France

Susan Walker

Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant

Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer

Chairperson, Toshiki Mogami, Professor, International Christian University:

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. The time has come so we'd like to open Plenary 2 session. And this session will be composed of four parts, one is the report from Plenary 1 and the second is the report from the Session Meeting 1 and the third is the report from Session Meeting 2. And then after that I'll give you a short wrap-up report.

So it is my task to give you a report on Plenary 1 which was titled The Next Step for Mayors for Peace. And each of us will spend about 15 minutes or so, I would say less than 15 minutes, because time is limited so I'll try to abide by the time limit.

Plenary 1, which took place yesterday, started with Miss Susan Walker's vigorous keynote speech. She told us a lot about her rich experiences when she was actively involved in the work of the ICBL, which won the Nobel Peace Prize. She gave us many meaningful suggestions if this Mayors for Peace are to emulate the ICBL type of activity. For example, she told about the importance of raising voices, for us to raise voices, as the pressure from civil society. And she also said that you have to be explicit in your aims and you have to proceed with determination so that you can succeed some day.

She said many other interesting things, but one point which struck me strongly was when she said that you have to be ready to act out of the UN. People like myself, I am an international lawyer, and I have the tendency to think of turning to the UN from the beginning, but she suggested that sometimes it is necessary to step out of the mindset of the UN in order to succeed. And rather, you may have to rally with civic society more than the UN itself. So there must be a good combination of both.

So after this vigorous keynote speech, we had the presentations of 21 cities. As a matter of fact, there were many more applications for presentations than we had imagined. This was a very happy situation and we were very happy about this, but I have to apologize to you once again. Because of this large number, we were compelled to extend the session in an extraordinary way. But the presentations were rich enough that we never felt that we wasted time in any way.

The presentations were too rich to summarize in a few words or sentences, but I'd like to take up only five major points. One is that there was strong support for the cause of the Mayors for Peace, like non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and the 2020 Vision, everything. The presenters were almost unanimous in their support for those causes, and they were almost unanimous equally in their denunciation of the nuclear doctrine, I felt.

And the second was that people were almost equally unanimous in their conviction in the positive roles the mayors can play. Many people stressed their closeness to citizens which would enable them to sense something different and to act in a different way from the central government, national government. And they are also conscious of the power of the civil society of which they regard themselves as part.

And third, probably in connection with this sense of closeness with the citizens, many emphasized the importance of peace education. There seems to be a commonality

growing among the city representatives that children and other future generations are the most important assets of society in our endeavor for peace.

And fourth, in relation to this, several indications manifested themselves that the promotion of a culture of peace is also indispensable. This has to do with the love of nature, environment and all living things. It has also to do with the notion of reconciliation, which is the focus of the Mayors for Peace. In short, this puts forth the attitudinal change which will enable us to find an alternative to killing and violence.

And fifth and finally, there were also indications of the importance of memorizing. Memories of the past tend to wither away, so if we are to build a better future on the basis of past mistakes, we have to construct a mechanism through which our memory is sharpened and stabilized. The important thing is that all this will not be a memory for retaliation but a memory for reconciliation.

So these are the five points which I think were important in yesterday's presentations and discussions. And it was a long, long session but I do believe that despite its length it was a very meaningful and fruitful and rich session. Thank you very much.

So next I'll call on Mr. Alyn Ware of IALANA to report on Session Meeting I .

Alyn Ware, Chairperson of Session Meeting I , Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have the honor to give the report on Session Meeting I , which is on International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons: Partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations and National Governments. The meeting included mayors and other city representatives, government representatives, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society.

Sixteen representatives took the floor to make comments and this report will summarize some of the main themes, actually ten of them.

One, on strategy. It was noted that Mayors for Peace should think strategically about the nature of collaborations with other sectors, and that indeed it has been doing this. And there will be times when Mayors for Peace should act within its own constituencies of mayors and cities, highlighting the unique contribution that this organization can make and focusing on the specific roles of mayors and cities in promoting nuclear disarmament.

There will be other times when Mayors for Peace should collaborate with a specific group or constituency building on the existing or potential links between mayors and that constituency. An example of this is the relationship between Mayors for Peace and the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament, which highlights the mutually reinforcing roles of mayors and parliamentarians in promoting nuclear disarmament.

And there will be other times when Mayors for Peace should collaborate in a much wider sense and more generally with a cross-section of the abolition movement.

Two, on partnership with governments. Collaboration with governments was noted as especially important, particularly in building government support for a nuclear weapons abolition treaty. Mayors for Peace has gained credibility through collaboration with like-minded governments, for example, at the 2005 NPT Review Conference. And there was encouragement for deeper collaboration with new agenda countries and with countries that become part of the Article 6 Forum, which was proposed by Senator Douglas Roche and the Middle Powers Initiative.

Three, partnership with non-governmental organizations. There was considerable discussion on such collaboration. This included collaboration with groups like Abolition 2000, the International Peace Bureau, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and many others. These have helped Mayors for Peace to build membership, to assist Mayors for Peace in developing its abolition strategy, and its participation in international disarmament fora like the Non-Proliferation Treaty. And these groups have also helped to engage cities in local disarmament and peace actions. The plan of Mayors for Peace to establish an advisory group of NGO representatives and disarmament experts was welcomed.

Four, partnership with other local authority organizations. There was discussion about strengthening relationships with other local authority organizations and networks, such as local government commissions and associations of nuclear-free local authorities.

Five, partnership with parliamentarians. The report on the positive relationship between the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament and the Mayors for Peace, including the release at the 2005 NPT Review Conference of a joint mayors and parliamentarian Statement on Nuclear Disarmament. And it was hoped that more mayors and parliamentarians would endorse the Statement in order to support the mayors for peace Jump-Start Disarmament Project, which is the one specifically calling on the United Nations to establish a committee at its General Assembly in October to kick-start preparations and negotiations to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world.

Six, youth. Considerable importance was placed on engaging youth as actors, equal participants in the Mayors for Peace campaign and activities, and also in disarmament peace actions and events in cities. The International Law Campaign, Peace Wall, which many of you have seen around the Dome, is one example of such a positive youth action, and this was initiated by a German youth. It was hoped that there would be increased representation by youth in future Mayors for Peace meetings, including possibly on delegations from member cities.

Seven, promotion at the United Nations. It was noted that collaboration with governments and NGOs should focus on the Mayors for Peace programs adopted at this General Assembly, and in particular, the Jump-Start Disarmament Project on nuclear abolition negotiations, and also the educational projects on informing children and the public on the effects of nuclear weapons.

Eight, events. A number of forthcoming events were noted as possibilities for engagement with other sectors by Mayors for Peace and also by member cities. These included, for example, the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly, the World

Social Forum, the World Peace Forum in Vancouver in June, the World Urban Forum, also in Vancouver in June, and the 10th Anniversary of the International Court of Justice Case on Nuclear Weapons in July of 2006.

Nine, outreach across religious and ethnic groups. It was noted that Mayors for Peace is engaging members from a variety of communities reflecting the breadth of religions and ethnicities. In that respect, Mayors for Peace has an opportunity to transcend and transform ethnic and religious barriers and to promote understanding in the pursuit of world peace.

And finally, on communications. There was some very useful information offered on how Mayors for Peace could generate a more powerful media presence and develop affordable, live audio-visual communication links and virtual meetings between its members and also with key partners through new software such as ICUII and other developing technologies.

And in conclusion, the meeting concluded with a rousing tribute from Senator Roche to Mayors for Peace for its vibrancy, its creativity, and its potential to make an historical contribution in cooperation with like-minded states and NGOs to achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Alyn Ware. And then I'll call on Director Motofumi Asai of Hiroshima Peace Institute on Session Meeting II .

Motofumi Asai, Chairperson of Session Meeting II , President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University: Thank you very much. I would like to make the presentation on the results of the concurrent Session II . The number of participants in the concurrent Session II was very small in number. At the starting point I was very much afraid whether we were able to start the meeting, but with the positive and enthusiastic involvement by the participants, we did have very good results.

The advanced notification for the intervention were six in number, but two were attending the concurrent Session 1. Therefore, in the concurrent session, after finishing their statement they went back to concurrent Session 1. Therefore the total number of the advanced interveners were four in substance. In the first round of presentations there were two points which were raised.

One, when we think about the peaceful resolution of conflict as a precondition, two presenters emphasized the importance of education. One speaker said explicitly that as a preventive measure of conflicts and for sustainable development of society, we need to put more importance on education for peace. Another speaker said, for us in French local authorities, abolition of nuclear weapons is not the ultimate goal, but it is one of the important but basic means to promote a culture of peace. This delegate also said, in order to let children, especially older children, know the danger of nuclear weapons, it is possible to teach them by using very specific examples and also games under the name of the game, "Path for Peace."

As a Chairperson, with those comments, I wanted to have a thorough discussion in the following discussion time, but because of the following reasons, there was no further discussion on this subject.

The second point, there was a call for hibakusha and the hibakusha organization to be awarded the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize and there was a very positive intervention. Hibakusha refused to be treated as victims, as an individual, as a group they are appealing the spirit of peace. It is indeed the living proof of Gandhi's spirit, she said. She also proposed specifically Hidankyo to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize which set the pace for further discussion to follow.

After we moved into the discussion session, most of the statements focused on hibakusha and Hidankyo, hibakusha organization issues. From France and Belgium, there was the comment that hibakusha is not known much in Europe, and also there was a very hard question by them whether Japanese people are serious about letting other people know about hibakusha. Not retaliation, but they have asked us, the Japanese, whether we have asked the United States to apologize and demand moral compensation of the United States as the perpetrator of the A-bombing and the Holocaust. And to make Hiroshima and Nagasaki as the legacy common to all people, in order to give legitimacy to Hidankyo, it is advisable to offer the Nobel Peace Prize to Hidankyo.

Therefore, in this concurrent Session II, in the Appeal of this Mayors for Peace there should be a sentence which says Hidankyo should be offered the Nobel Peace Prize. There was a specific proposal. Therefore this comment was delivered to Prof. Mogami, who happened to be attending in this conference session.

I personally think Mayors for Peace should be actively engaged in the activities to have Hidankyo offered the Nobel Peace Prize in order to heighten international voices and reinvigorate Japanese nuclear weapon abolition. That is considered to be fading over Hiroshima memory. I sincerely hope that the plenary session will take this up seriously.

So this is so much from the report from the concurrent session, but allow me to further make my perception about the concurrent Session II. As I expected in the beginning, there were so many people attending in concurrent Session I, but not many in concurrent Session II. I believe this resulted from how two themes were selected to begin with.

The theme of concurrent Session I was International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons; it's very easy to understand that theme. On the other hand, in Session II, the theme was Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts and the A-bomb Survivors Message. This theme was separated in the earlier conference, in the year 2002: the Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts and Making the A-bomb Experience a Legacy Shared by All. And in this 2005 meeting this was put together.

To be candid with you, ladies and gentlemen, as a Chairperson of this session, in the beginning I did not understand exactly what the purpose of this concurrent session was. I believe one of the reasons why we did not have many participants in this

Session II is that compared with the concurrent Session I , which did have the explicit purpose stated, the points to be discussed in Session II were unclear.

This is my humble proposal, Chairman, to the Mayors for Peace. I sincerely hope whenever you select the themes for the concurrent session you will select an attractive enough theme which can make every participant feel difficult to decide which one he wants to attend. This is my request. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Prof. Asai, including your very good suggestions for the future of this conference.

Now it's time for you to take the floor. I know that some of you want to take the floor and say something additional based on the three reports, or, as I promised you yesterday, you can add something to the topic of Plenary 1 yesterday because we ran out of time. So those who are willing to say something, please feel free to raise your hand. Yes, please. Yes, Mr. Cibot.

Michel Cibot, City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France: I am Michel Cibot. I am a Representative for the City of Malakoff and AFCDRP. In terms of cooperation with NGOs and parliamentarians, I am all for that, but as a representative of the local government, I think that this all relates to peace culture or the culture of peace and nuclear abolition. I think local governments should take ownership of these issues and activities, daily activities, so that the local governments are able to talk closely with the citizens to take ownership of these issues in order to motivate the citizens. And I think this may not have been emphasized as much in the past.

One other point, the September 21 International Day of Peace, let me talk about this. September 21 is declared as the UN International Day of Peace, so we should take advantage of this day to work on this day as the day to promote peace. The culture of peace, this is a notion that is defined by the United Nations. Once again, there is this concept of the culture of peace that could be furthered. It is a concept that is internationally and legally supported. So let us promote this. And also to nominate the Hidankyo as a candidate for the Nobel Laureate, I am for this.

Chairperson: So I think it was mentioned that we should focus the point on ownership, and also to link this with activities at the UN. Thank you very much for the comment.

Alick Shaw, Deputy Mayor, Wellington City, New Zealand: I'm Alick Shaw. I'm Deputy Mayor of Wellington City, New Zealand. It seems to me that the key contribution that we can make as leaders of local government is, in fact, to apply pressure to our national governments. And if we look at the policy that New Zealand has adopted on a national basis, the origins of that policy in many respects arose of municipalities from one end of my country to the other declaring themselves nuclear-free, but not simply making the gesture, but making the gesture in order to ensure that our government took an active position on that issue in the United Nations particularly, but also in all the multilateral organizations of which we are a member.

It does seem to me, ladies and gentlemen. that that aspect of applying pressure and recognizing the position of our nations is not altogether present or is not as clearly present in the documents we have before us as I think it ought to be.

Mr. Chairman, I really believe that this is the key to our action. Certainly international conferences are important in terms of strategizing, sharing experiences and so on, but unless we direct our attention to the positions of individual governments, we will make no progress at all because it is they in the end who are going to make the decisions.

Let me close by reading to you one verse of a poem written by Hone Tuwhare, a great New Zealand poet, who wrote this piece in tribute to Hiroshima. It's poem called "No Ordinary Sun":

Tree let not your naked arms fall
nor extend in vain entreaties to the radiant ball
This is no gallant monsoon's flash
no dashing trade wind's blast
The fading green of your magic
emanations shall not make pure again
these polluted skies...for this
is no ordinary sun.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. There may be insufficiency in the documents. I believe your suggestion is well-taken and so we would like to take note of what you have suggested and try to work out something together. Thank you.

Excuse myself for the moment and ask Mr. Alyn Ware to take the Chair in the meantime, and I would like to ask others to take the floor and also make remarks.

John Hipkin, Mayor, Cambridge, U.K.: I would like to make one very minor suggestion in response to what we previously heard as the report from Group 1 and a more general comment on peace education. The suggestion I'd specifically like to make about the involvement of youth would be to explore an idea that we've already adopted in Cambridge, which is that the mayor should have a Youth Ambassador. If every Mayor for Peace nominated a student, a school student, a senior school student or a young university student who would act as the mayor's Ambassador, who would accompany the mayor on important occasions when the discussion of issues of this kind were raised, I think that would work. It certainly worked in the case of my own Ambassador who is a keen young man from a peace organization and I think the experience of being allied with the mayor has meant a great deal to him.

On the general question of peace education, my plea is simply, let it be education and not indoctrination. I believe that children distrust their teachers when their teachers oversimplify the complexity of the issues that face mankind. The issue of war and peace is a complex one. There are difficult arguments to work your way through, and I have seen many, many instances in my long life as a teacher where teachers have defrauded their pupils by giving them an over simplistic notion of how the world is and might be. So let us respect them by dealing with these issues in all their real complexity.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank you for your comments, and in general it seems that it will be possible to include some of these points in the reports of the working groups. They are not finalized and set in stone, so ideas will be able to be reflected.

Just with regards to peace education, to let people know that there may still be some brochures on peace education out at the front desk. If not, feel free to up to me afterwards. These are ones put out by the New Zealand Ministry of Education, which has gone out to every school in the country and reflects exactly the sentiments that you are talking about, what is peace education, education and not indoctrination. Excuse me for putting in my own comments there. Thank you.

Are there other comments on the reports from the plenary and the two sessions? Oh yes, over here, thank you.

Unknown: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have heard from the report, it is very important that we, the local leaders, put much pressure on our governments, and I would like to start with the Japanese government because I don't see the Government of Japan putting in much effort in this activity, because when you read the report you can find out that even this conference has been almost totally sponsored by the City of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we want to see that the Government of Japan has come in strongly.

And as you know, this conference, we hold it every four years. So we need to strengthen the national chapters of Mayors for Peace so that we encourage the Secretariat to see to it that the national chapters of Mayors for Peace are very, very active so that we get these frequent meetings and reviews so that there is a momentum. Because it seems that we are almost the remaining strong pressure group to see to it that the nuclear weapons are abolished. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. In each country, Mayors for Peace chapters should be strengthened. I believe the momentum has already been seen and there are a lot of our cities which have already embarked upon such activities in the local areas, and we would like to encourage such activities further. Any other interventions?

Gisela Kallenbach, Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany: A very short remark. I just want to reassure that the existing close cooperation with European institutions should be reinforced and strengthened because I really, I am personally convinced that the difficult but successful unification process in Europe could be a good example to other parts of the world. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Yes, please.

Unknown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to emphasize the very important matter brought about by the lady professor in her presentation, the power of knowledge.

As you know, despite the fact that we are in this modern age, where we have advanced communications technology, many more, especially the children, are not yet aware of what happened in Hiroshima, and so my plan at the local level is for me to

bring home information materials, like film showings, like if we have a live presentation of the Peace Ceremony of the victims of the A-bomb, like what we just heard this afternoon, conduct seminars and symposiums. So we need more information materials so that we can start at the two general chains, the process for education for peace.

And therefore I suggest that we have to make use of the present modern information technology to spread the word around, to spread the horrors of the atomic bomb. So I emphasize that we have to remember the power of knowledge. And if our purpose is on the children, our asset for peace for future generations, then we have to educate them as to what happened in Hiroshima in 1945 and to make them effective peace advocates for the future. That's my point, thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much.

It was a very constructive opinion. I concur with you. If everybody is very serious about this kind of peace education, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation does have a lot of teaching materials. They are able to rent those materials out and it's possible for them to second people, of course it all depends on the budget of theirs, but in some way or another they are always ready to provide you with those materials. And we would like to do this in a Hiroshima and Nagasaki educational course, more systematically at the university level as you can see in our proposal. If we are going to do this, or if you are going to do this in the universities, Hiroshima City and Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation is prepared to provide you with materials. Please utilize them. Thank you very much. Any other intervention, please?

Unknown: My question, I have a question, I also notice the State, the government, there was none at the beginning of the conference. There was no government cabinet representation in this event. Now my gentleman behind me was stating that the State, especially the Japanese government, should get involved in an international thing like this, this international event. So when he said not a single cent has come from the State, that is something that we have to take to note, because at the end of the day it's the State that takes the position, even in my part of the world. So the State also should get involved in some form or another.

So I think, I felt it when there was no top-listed - I call it a cabinet minister or some kind of representative of the State, especially commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing, this conference, their attendance is very important.

Chairperson: Are you referring to the Japanese cabinet members or some other –

Unknown: Yes, from the State, from the government of this country. Their representation from the top rank because that is important. I feel, I don't know, that is how I feel and their presence is felt from State to nation to nation, the word can go from the top rank.

Chairperson: President Akiba might want to say something about this proposal because it has to do with the basic policy of this organization. Well, is this related to this? No. Does anybody want to say something about this proposal? No? Related to this? No, no the gentleman behind you.

Unknown: Thank you very much. It's not that I am able to respond to the earlier question, especially no presence by the heads of States in this conference, I'm not in a position of responding to that question, but allow me to talk about a different issue.

As several delegates have already pointed out, I am 45 years old today. When I was 10, at school I was taught about the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombings, and the day before yesterday, I went to the museum where I learnt of the serious atrocity and horror of the A-bombing. With my own eyes I was able to experience the A-bomb.

September 21 was designated by the United Nations as Peace Day. But specifically, there have not been any specific events prepared. This is only the verbatim commitment. Probably UNESCO or the other international organizations should be mobilized.

Fall is going to be the start of the new educational term in Europe. In the curriculum of the new courses, we hope that peace should be educated and taught to the children by using video and films. I think it's possible to mobilize UNESCO if September 21 is set as the peace day, this can also be called as the day for the education of peace.

I was very much stunned by seeing the pictures of the A-bombings. Seeing is believing. You have to see the actual terror, the atrocity. I have seen those pictures and I felt so depressed yesterday. And our local authority, whenever there is an election, we elect the local councilors. And there have been a lot of election campaigns in the local authorities. But for the citizens to elect the right local councilors, they have to also give thought to the terms of the local councilors.

Now going back to peace, peace does have diversity, without peace we cannot do anything. Peace is the concept which is very much diversified and it is multi-faceted. Physical peace, mental peace, there are different peaces, but the A-bomb instantaneously could destroy all peace. There are different types of peace in the world. But all those peaces will be destroyed to ashes in a split second. In order to avoid that situation from happening we have to take the initiative on our own, on the local authorities. This is a long time-consuming movement.

CHAIR MOGAMI: Yes, we have to take more specific movements and activities and give the thoughts to the features of the local authorities. Thank you.

Miho Cibot, AFCDRP French Mayors for Peace, Malakoff, France: My name is Miho Cibot. In 1985, when the first Mayors for Peace was held, ever since then I have been attending the conferences. In 1985, in the first meeting, that was indeed the very beginning meeting. We did not know how long we would be able to continue the Mayors for Peace meetings. And in the General Assembly we did discuss whether we are going to continue this meeting. In those days, this Mayors for Peace, this idea came about by the initiative of then Mayor Araki.

His idea was this. In 1982, as far as I know, he thought we should never depend on government-to-government initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons. But mayors, when there is a war, they are in the position of protecting the citizens in their proximity. Therefore, we cannot depend on the central government when it comes to

rectifying wars. Local authorities have to cooperate together with the citizens to prevent wars from happening. This is the proposal of this meeting. Mayors and the local authorities in the world, cross-borders, should put their hands together. That was the idea which was envisaged by then Mayor Araki.

Therefore, in this meeting, the comment was earlier raised about the non-presence of the head or the ministers of State and asking for such persons. But I do not consider this is the floor, this is the de facto point of this meeting because there is no presence, there is no initiative of the government. We started to take initiatives on the local authorities. In France, for the past 30 years I have been involved in the peace movement and the activities.

Whenever I was asked by the French people, what do you do, I explain my job and I explain what I do, then those French doctors who have asked questions say, that is not your job, that's what the central government is supposed to do. And there are so many people who share the same view. Those are the types of things which should be tackled by the central government, but because the issue cannot be solved by the central government initiative, we have decided to take initiatives on the local authorities, on the cities, which are very close to the citizens. This is the very important feature of this conference.

And in concurrent Session I , the report was given saying that Japanese movements are not adequate enough to communicate the message of hibakusha to the world. But we have to admit it is very difficult to communicate such a message, but there are a lot of efforts exerted so far. But it is very difficult to find the receiving end, the hosting countries.

In France, come to think of it, about 25 years ago, I think there are an increasing number of French people who can collaborate with us. Although not all the members of AFCDRP are present here, those cities who are not present in this meeting from AFCDRP have been engaged in various peace activities by having the Sadako Exhibition, and also some events for peace.

And in 1983, I created "On the Crane," that's the title of the animation. And this year, on NHK, an international radio broadcasting program, it was translated into 24 languages and this will be broadcast soon this year.

With long-enduring efforts and untiring efforts, we have culminated our efforts to this event. So there are a lot of efforts, and I sincerely hope each one of us is able to put more efforts to create more receiving ends in each one of the countries. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. When it comes to representatives from the State government, as has just been mentioned, there is a history why we don't have a state representative. I hope you would understand.

And the second point she mentioned, is also a wonderful point. It's not that we are not making efforts to communicate, it's just that there's not enough receiving ends prepared. If we have more receivers as our counterparts there will be better communication.

I think we are running out of time, but I think there are few hands up. The three people, or two people, these will be the last comments. The person in the back row, please.

Alfred Marder, New Haven, Chairman of New Haven Peace Commission, U.S.A.: Thank you. In order to take advantage of the opportunity of a number of groups here, we convened a meeting this morning of those organizations that plan to be involved in the Vancouver Peace Forum, and began the process of trying to unite efforts, especially efforts around the abolition of nuclear weapons.

There will be any number of organizations in Vancouver whose main issue, main focus is the abolition of nuclear weapons, and so the Mayors for Peace, the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Abolition 2000, which is the global council of organizations devoted to the abolition of nuclear weapons, 2000 members, hopefully the International Association of Physicians, parliamentarians and others are initiating efforts to come together to use each other and their expertise. And I would urge that we consider the World Peace Forum as the next major stop on the highway to abolish nuclear weapons. I think it provides us an historic opportunity.

Chairperson: Thank you. The next person, please.

Daniel Fontaine, Mayor, Aubagne, France: What we are discussing is about what we do, who is going to do what. My name is Daniel Fontaine. I am the Mayor of Aubagne. I am the head of the AFCDRP.

Four years ago when we had the conference we discussed the same matter. and we changed the name of the organization and we now call ourselves the Mayors for Peace because we wanted to emphasize the role that mayors can play. In that sense we need to keep our direction.

It is the mayors who are the central core of our organization. National governments may take part in our efforts. That's good, but the important thing is, we, as mayors, get together and discuss things and make proposals and we should be the central pillar of this group.

The second point I wanted to say is in May 2005, what happened at the United Nations was considered by the majority as a failure. It's true that we were unable to make progress. Some countries, because of political, economic and military-related hegemony issues, they tried to hide the risk, they tried to hide the threat and risk of nuclear weapons. And they tried to develop nuclear weapons. I'm not going to name the country, you know which countries I'm referring to, and I'm sure you know who is at the height of that effort.

The half-failed attempt should be remembered by us, and in our Mayors for Peace conference we have to go beyond the Appeal that we are going to adopt very soon and we need to have strong resolve and determination. We need to have a strong voice of condemnation for the proliferation. We also need to appeal to the people that we keep the memories.

There was a very impressive comment I heard earlier and I strongly feel the same sensation whenever I come to Hiroshima. This is my fourth visit to Hiroshima, and when I first came to Hiroshima I had the strongest impression. At that time I couldn't even sleep at night when I visited the museum. The duty of remembering is a duty for everyone. But those who have a direct experience, those who suffered the A-bomb, they should not be the only ones to remember, and that's why we had a discussion at Session Meeting 2 yesterday.

The Hidankyo, there is a proposal to nominate the group for the Nobel Prize for Peace. I think this is a wonderful scheme. By doing so we can express ourselves. At the same time, the world would be able to have no choice but to think about the reality of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Hidankyo's nomination to the Nobel Peace award was not included in the Appeal, but I think in line together with the Appeal we can also think about writing in our statement about what we'd like to do as Mayors for Peace. For the memory it should be not faded, we should think about what we are going to do in the future, and there are many, many people in the city this morning who are still fighting. So that the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be well remembered, we need to support these people in various ways.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Mayor Fontaine's view that has just been shared with us focused upon the fact that the people of Hiroshima wanted to hear the most. I will briefly talk about Hidankyo later. Now the last comment, please. This will be the last comment. From Susan.

Susan Walker, Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant, Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer: : Arigato gosaimasu, Mogami-san. I'm sorry to take the floor when I've had the microphone for a long time yesterday, but I have seven points actually.

The first is, and I strongly feel this, the Mayors for Peace have the potential to be an extremely powerful and effective agent for change. That being said, I think it needs to become much more focused, and I'm speaking very frankly because this is an opportunity that all of you have.

Jody Williams, the '97 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, often quotes a fellow peace prize laureate of ours, Betty White from Ireland. And Betty constantly says, "emotion without action is useless." It is important to raise voices but it is very, very important to be focused and to take practical action. I couldn't agree more with my colleague from Wellington who said one thing the mayors can do is to apply pressure on your local governments.

Our Japanese colleague said that Mayor Araki, when he founded the Mayors for Peace, founded it to try and get rid of nuclear weapons. Of course, all of you as mayors are dealing with every issue in your town, from unemployment to reduction of poverty to peace education, and that is fine and that is all part of your agendas. But I think the Mayors for Peace, if you want to truly achieve getting rid of nuclear weapons by 2020, need to have a very strategic plan of action just like we in the landmine ban convention. I'm working on implementation now. We want to get

mines out of the ground and to help victims. I have been going and talking with individual governments in the field. It can't only be done in Geneva and it can't only be done in New York or at the capital level. That's where raising the voices comes in very importantly.

And I think individual and collective advocacy on the local, national, sometimes regional - we talk about the European Parliament - has to be done, not only international.

The list of the events in the action plan is very good. The First Committee, the World Peace Day, the world forums, these are all important international events. But work has to be done in between. Just three ideas that came to mind was, the mayors, individually, each of you, sending letters to the nuclear powers and also to, frankly, all the governments of the world, asking for support. This could be, maybe a draft letter could be prepared that you could use as a template.

But also, get your government representatives to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That has been suggested. I don't think anyone hearing Takahashi-san's presentation just earlier could not be moved. As Senator Roche said to me, there is no conceivable reason to have nuclear weapons. But that needs to get out.

The third could be countries like New Zealand, a nuclear-free country, speaking to other countries. And I plead ignorance on nuclear issues. I could not, for instance, tell you what country besides New Zealand, I was asking my colleagues, what country besides New Zealand has declared themselves nuclear-free. That is where, as our colleague from the Philippines said, power is knowledge. Some of those essential facts could be included in very simple briefing papers. I was surprised not to find more, or frankly any, here that people could, the mayors, all of the network could take back with them.

And the Middle Powers Initiative Conference that Senator Roche is talking about. I think that will be an example of practical action. They plan to meet in October to discuss the legal, political and technical requirements to eliminate nuclear weapons. We did this in the campaign. We took each country saying, what are the blocking points? Why are they not joining? Who are the influences that can influence? Every country is different. That analysis and work needs to be done, and it cannot only be Hiroshima doing it or Aaron Tovish and his staff of zero? It needs to be, either you need to contract people, but get some of that information.

The hibakusha, I think a lot has been said about that, raising the voices. But for instance, was Takahashi-san's presentation, which was one of the most moving that I've seen, was that videotaped? I didn't think of it before, but that is something that can be used again and again.

The power of media. I won't say any more than that but the media should be engaged on this.

Also the web, which is in your plan, the website being upgraded. We have found in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines the importance of communications and now you have a network of 1,000 mayors, right? One thousand. Yes, I'm finishing.

You could set up electronic groups where Aaron could instantly send a message to every single person that is a member and information can be sent out instantly and I think the UN colleague spoke about that.

So sorry to go on for so long. Just one last clarification on the Nobel Peace Prize. It seems there is some confusion, but you should know that the Nobel Peace Prize, each year the nominations close in January, the end of January, and AFSC has already nominated, they are already nominated, so what needs to be done now is letters of support to be sent to the Nobel Committee. It would be powerful if every mayor in this conference sent a letter of support. But that needs to be done urgently because the decision will be made very soon.

So thank you, and thank you for the wonderful organization of this conference. Sorry to go for so long.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for many useful suggestions and proposals which are quite important items that we can make use of in our future activities. Now I'd like to ask the two reporters of the session meetings to speak for one minute.

Ware: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Just to say I have been very heartened by the comments of this session. They have been both very practical and also very significant in terms of not only ideas for Mayors for Peace but also looking at strategy. And I'm sure we can build some of those into the reports which will be part of the final report for the conference.

I had one comment on the strategy question, because it seems as though there may be what appears to be two opposing views on Mayors for Peace strategy with regards to relationships with governments. On the one hand, there is a view that Mayors for Peace should be concentrating on influencing governments. On the other hand, there is a view, I think, that was put that governments aren't really to be influenced and Mayors for Peace should instead look at building up the authority of cities on this issue.

I'd just like to say that I don't think that these are opposing strategies. They are actually mutually-reinforcing strategies. It may be that in some situations mayors and cities will be able to have an incredible influence on national governments, and in that case, they should focus. An example was given on New Zealand where the cities actually changed a policy of a country which was supportive of nuclear weapons to one which now has legislated against nuclear weapons. That's a positive example that could be emulated possibly in some other countries but not others.

On the other hand, there may be countries where the States are totally not ready for influence from the mayors and it's very important to be able to build up the strength, not only with mayors in other countries but also with like-minded States. We're going beyond borders here. So the mayor of a country in France, for example, there's nothing to stop mayors from there to build relationships with the government members of New Zealand, for example. In fact, New Zealand and Canada and a number of other like-minded States were very positive about working with Mayors for Peace at the 2005 NPT Review Conference. They helped sponsor events there, including press conferences.

So we need to look beyond just our nationalistic framework when we're looking at the influence of Mayors for Peace and really look at building a strategy for what ultimately we will need government to support the treaty on the elimination of nuclear weapons, which is what we're working for of course with civil society support, but we can't leave out governments on that. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much.

Asai: In the case of the anti-personnel landmines campaign, civil societies, civil organizations and NGOs, and in some cases national governments, these parties collaborated to make the campaign a success to enter into a treaty. That was a very impressive comment I heard yesterday.

But when it comes to the nuclear elimination campaign that we are working on, when it comes to the circumstance in Japan, we have to frankly accept the fact that the Japanese government is most negative or inactive, not positive about nuclear elimination. When we want to campaign for nuclear elimination, in Japan what we need to do is, for the moment it's not really realistic to involve the national government, rather, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and other local governments who declare peace should work together, join hands to give pressure to the national government so that the government has no choice but to face the campaign. That is our real challenge.

In that sense, on a global basis, you have New Zealand and other countries who are declared nuclear-free, and together with Mayors for Peace, if these national governments work with us, it is very useful and beneficial. And these efforts in the end would lead to change national government's or cabinet government's attitude of not following always the American policy. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. You may have the wish to speak up but we cannot extend our session as we did yesterday. I won't be able to safely go back to Tokyo if I do this, so I'd like to refrain from doing that.

In the report for Session 1, we had a very good discussion. What actors we have, how we should collaborate with different sectors and different actors to be effective on the part of Mayors for Peace, we heard very constructive views. And in Session Meeting 2, the importance of education for peace was mentioned, and Hidankyo was mentioned. I happened to be in the discussion. It was a very good discussion I heard. In the next session, when I explain about the Appeal, I will mention about Hidankyo. So I'm not going to speak about that any more at this point.

But in any case, in the last session today we talked about how we should operate, what methodologies we should cooperate. These ideas and suggestions, proposals are all useful and there are different suggestions and different views mentioned. That, I think, is one of the good things about this meeting. We are in a learning stage. We have our own views. When you listen to other people's views, that opens up your mind and you would be able to learn more and know more after having heard the views from other people taking part in the meeting. The fact that we have a variety of views is one of the good features of this conference, and I do hope that we can continue on with this kind of proceedings.

So with this we'd like to conclude Plenary II.