

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

Section Meeting I

*International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapon  
-Partnership with NGOs and National Governments-*

**15:00-17:30, Friday, August 5, 2005**

***Himawari***

***International Conference Center Hiroshima***

Chairperson: **Alyn Ware**

Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

Speaker:

**Chantal Bourvic**

Counselor, Val de Marne, France

**Gisela Kallenbach**

Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany

**Alain Audoubert**

Mayor, Vitry-sur-Seine, France

**Ellen Woodsworth**

Councilor, Vancouver, Canada

**Ana Vicente**

Mayor, Palmela, Portugal

**Heinrich Niemann**

District Councilor for Urban Development and elder Deputy Mayor,  
Marzahn-Hellersdorf von Berlin, Germany

**Pierre Villard**

Co-Chair, Mouvement de la Paix, France

**Yannik Hake**

International Law Campaign, Germany

**George Regan**

National Chairman, Nuclear-Free Local Authorities U.K.

**Asin Marika Abdul Karim**

Councilor, Kandy, Sri Lanka

**Mary Ellen McNish**

Secretary General, American Friends Service Committee, U.S.A

**Masayoshi Naito**

Representative, Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Japan

**Keiko Nakamura**

Acting Secretary General, Peace Depot, Japan

**Johanne Winchester**

Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA

**Douglas Roche, O.C.**

Chair of Middle Power Initiative

Former Canadian Senator and Ambassador for Disarmament to the UN

**Teruo Takemoto, Director General, Citizens' Affairs Bureau, Hiroshima, Japan:**

Hello, ladies and gentlemen. I am Takemoto for Hiroshima City Hall, in charge of civic affairs. We would now like to begin the Section Meeting 1. Please allow me to introduce our chairperson. This is Mr. Alyn Ware, consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms and he was the Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and UN Coordinator for the World Court Project which led to the advisory opinion. He is currently a consultant at large for the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, outreach educator for the Aotearoa New Zealand Foundation for Peace Studies. Now, Mr. Ayn Ware, please.

**Chairperson, Alyn Ware, Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms:** Thank you very much and welcome to the afternoon meeting, Section 1, on International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons: Partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations and National Governments. Along with our mayors and other city representatives, we have participating in the section government representatives, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society. So this should assist in our consideration of this aspect of the Mayors for Peace campaign, the collaboration and cooperation with other members of civil society.

I propose to conduct the meeting in the following way. Firstly, I will make some opening comments on the topic. Secondly, I have a list of participants who have already requested the floor to speak. We have a list of I think 15, so we will then allow them to take the floor for up to five minutes for initial remarks. Then we'll take a break for coffee and refreshments, and then when we come back we'll open up the floor for questions, ideas, proposals, discussions, questions, et cetera.

So with regards to the focus of this section, it's to discuss ways in which means for peace can effectively cooperate and engage with key non-governmental organizations, national governments and other sectors of civil society in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, and in particular, in the achievement of nuclear weapons abolition by the year 2010, with the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020, the Vision 2020.

One of the aspects of the Mayors for Peace campaign, which has led to its high profile and its influence, is that it shapes its campaign activities very strategically, so although the campaign is quite simple and idealistic, a nuclear weapons-free world, the form and program is quite sophisticated, taking into consideration specific roles that mayors and cities can play within the current international political environment. There will be times when mayors for peace should work as mayors, by themselves, to maximum the attention of the unique roles that mayors and cities have, and to promote and generate increased awareness of the responsibilities of cities and mayors. However, there will be other times when Mayors for Peace should collaborate with specific groups or with specific constituencies, building on existing or potential links between mayors and that constituency. An example of this is the relationship that's been built 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 then there will be other times when Mayors for Peace should collaborate in a much wider and more general sense with a cross-section of the abolition movement.

So in our discussions today, it will be useful to think about the strategic value of these different types of actions and collaborations. But also it would be valuable in our discussions today to examine some of the examples of collaboration and cooperation that have already occurred between Mayors for Peace and other sectors so that we can learn from these and build upon them. I will just mention a few of those but I'm sure many of our speakers will mention others.

One example is the relationship between Mayors for Peace, the Abolition Now Campaign, the International Peace Bureau and the wider abolition movement which has helped to encourage mayors around the world to join the Mayors for Peace emergency campaign.

Another is the strategic work which Middle Powers Initiative and Abolition Now Campaign have helped in order to shape the nuclear abolition strategy which Mayors for Peace is advancing. That includes, for example, looking at how best to engage with international disarmament fora, like the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the United Nations General Assembly.

Another example, which I mentioned briefly before, the relationship between Mayors for Peace and the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament. A good example of this was the Joint Statement by mayors and parliamentarians which was released at the 2005 NPT Review Conference, but which is still significant and politically useful because it talks about the role that governments should take in the current political context, and there are copies of that Joint Statement available for those who have not endorsed it at the front door. Most of you probably have already picked one up, in Japanese and English.

Another example, and this is a collaboration between Mayors for Peace and governments. We've got a number of governments at the 2005 NPT Review Conference that have collaborated with Mayors for Peace, including sponsoring press conferences and fora. That included countries like Canada and New Zealand.

Another example of collaboration with government, again this is New Zealand, just recently the New Zealand Minister for Disarmament contacted every mayor in New Zealand to encourage those not already members of Mayors for Peace to join.

So those are just a few examples of collaboration that's already happened and has had some considerable success.

And finally, it would be useful in our discussions this afternoon to think about collaborative strategies for Mayors for Peace, working with like-minded governments in non-governmental organizations to advance nuclear abolition in light of the disappointing 2005 NPT Review Conference. In this respect, it would be useful to consider, for example, how we could collaborate on promoting such initiatives as the Article VI Forum, which Senator Douglas Roche launched yesterday, and also the proposal to encourage the United Nations General Assembly to establish a sub-committee to commence nuclear disarmament deliberations and negotiations, which was in the Mayors for Peace program announced yesterday. So that's a few thoughts to start the discussion going.

It's now my honor to introduce Ms. Chantal Bourvic, the County Councilor of Val de Marne, France, to give some comments. Following Ms. Chantal Bourvic, I'll be inviting Ms. Gisela Kallenbach to give comments. Thank you. Is Ms. Chantal Bourvic available?

**Chantal Bourvic, Counselor, Val de Marne, France:** Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, dear colleagues, we feel that we would need to proceed with our actions in the most effective manner, and for the sake of the abolition of nuclear weapons we would need to gather our forces and strengths and gather as many people as possible.

And the local governments are very close to the citizens and therefore they play a very important role in serving our citizens. And therefore we should be cooperating closely with the NGOs and various associations and always the local governments as well as national agencies.

The provincial assembly of Val de Marne and the regional local authorities are cooperating together to send the delegation here to Hiroshima, which is now experiencing the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing. We have also brought about 30 young people and they belong to different organizations as well. The third encounter among international youth will be held and they will be participating in this international conference, as well as participating in other events that are held during this week. These young people are uniting to fight against various problems in the world, including poverty and hunger, as well as peace.

Of course there are many citizens wishing to participate in activities, not only limited to nuclear disarmament, and by disarmament we are not only focusing on nuclear arms but this involves issues that are related to other inequalities in the world and includes the issue of poverty as well.

So now that we are gathered here in Hiroshima, it shows us how important nuclear abolition is for the sake of securing peace in the world. They are able to have a first-hand experience by coming to Hiroshima, and by doing so they would be able to learn that their activities cannot be effective in reducing poverty unless there is peace in the world and wars cannot be gotten rid of if there is no solution brought to inequality. So we should gather our wisdom.

We have been looking at Vietnam, which has been going through many years of civil strife, South Africa, El Salvador, have also gone through conflicts. And also Palestine, which is occupied by a nuclear weapons State, we are partnering with these four countries to fight for peace. Israel is receiving support from the United States in an unconditional manner and it creates much discord in the Middle East because of this. And therefore, we are fighting to bring about peace in the region. Niger is also one of the poorest of the countries in Africa. Since they have been fighting for many years, Niger has not been able to come out of poverty so readily. The natural conditions are very harsh. There is much hunger or damage from locusts and grasshoppers.

The nuclear weapons are now in the hands of human beings, which can annihilate the lives on earth in an instant. So we should also know that mankind also has the possibility of turning this around, to utilize the technology in a more fruitful way, to

save the people from poverty and hunger instead. As I have mentioned, we have been partnering with these four countries that I've mentioned before, and by doing so we hope to abolish nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. And based on this, the funds that are made available could be utilized for the welfare of citizens and for the sake of building friendship among the people of different countries.

So as local governments or municipalities like us or in the provinces or in the regional sense, different local authorities and NGOs are trying to work together to provide peace. And the local government should play the important role of getting that peace to their citizens and we should carry their message. There is a writer who has written on peace, Bertolt Brecht. Well, nature is harsh, it brings wind and rain, but wars are not nature-made, they are man-made, and in the spring, May Day, human beings breathe. Peace cannot bloom flowers immediately. It is human beings that bring about the flowers.

**Chairperson:** - France, for her comment. And now I'd like to invite Ms. Gisela Kallenbach, a Member of the European Parliament. Thank you.

**Gisela Kallenbach, Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor Akiba, honorable participants, ladies and gentlemen, the collapse of the NPT must have been a shocking realization for the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki who are still suffering from the effects of the dreadful events of 60 years ago. Manifestly, there is still no real understanding of the principle of guilt and atonement. This makes our voice more important than ever, and this is why I deliver to you today an appeal from the Members of the European Parliament. You might find a copy at the table at the end of the room.

We, the Signatories, we, who have signed this, have resolved to speak up for nuclear disarmament and call on the European Union to do everything in its power to ensure that nuclear weapons are never deployed again. By means of this Statement, we want to encourage mayors in our own cities to join the Mayors for Peace movement. I have successfully achieved this in my home City of Leipzig,, and I'm happy to announce again that our Lord Mayor Mr. Wolfgang Tiefensee has become a member of this organization with the agreement of the Council of Elders of Leipzig City Council. Please allow me to pass on the personal greetings of Mr. Tiefensee and to you, to you all at this point.

In his Message of Greeting, which I handed over yesterday evening to Mr. Akiba, he remembers the demand of the East German peace movement in times of worldwide armament to turn words into plowshares. He calls on us to talk about antipathy and depression as a consequence of violent conflict, and not to conceal the opportunities that are lost in life when government expenditure is devoted to armaments instead of education, youth or health care.

However, it is not enough to just collect signatures for the demands of Mayors for Peace. I think all of us, we agree on this. There must be more. A true movement will be created from this initiative should we succeed in convincing our citizens that nuclear weapons must be banned worldwide and that a deep commitment to peace and

disarmament is ultimately the most important legacy that we can leave our children and grandchildren.

This commitment also includes the reconditioning and reparation process. I notice only too well from my own experience in Germany. I am listening very closely throughout the conference to what mechanisms you use in your various cities to achieve this aim, and how we can ensure that the yesterday- announced one year campaigning gains the full support of the civil society.

Also, this year's Review Conference of NPT represents a common standpoint for EU countries on fundamental questions, which is an enormous step forward. As a Member of the European Parliament, it is not only important to me that the European Union worked for nuclear disarmament and against the further proliferation of nuclear technology, we Europeans must clarify whether and how Europe will become involved in measures to counter the further proliferation of nuclear weapons as part of the European Security and Defense Policy within NATO or under the guise of the European Union.

As a member of the Green faction of the European Parliament, I am convinced that multilaterality and diplomacy must be given priority over bilateral agreements and military intervention. The additional protocols to the NPT must form the basis for monitoring obligations. The treaty relating to the comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons testing must ultimately be ratified by the remaining countries. In order for it to come into force, nuclear countries themselves must take their obligation seriously with regards to nuclear disarmament pursuant to Article VI of the NPT.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, with today's presentation of the call from the Members of the European Parliament, we would like to show the people of Japan that they are not alone in their commemoration of the victims and political efforts to stop any repetition of this tragedy. Let's stand together and let's take up the proposals contained in Mr. Akiba's letter to the Review Conference and support other activities, like those proposed by the Middle Power Initiative or by yesterday's keynote speaker, Mrs. Prof. Inoguchi, in order to create a new negotiation platform for the ban of nuclear weapons. Thank you for your attention.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Ms. Gisela Kallenbach, a Member of the European Parliament, for her comments. I'll now take the opportunity to invite Mr. Alain Audoubert, the Mayor of Vitry-sur-Seine, to make some comments. And then following Mr. Alain Audoubert will be Ms. Ellen Woodsworth, Councilor of Vancouver. Thank you.

**Alain Audoubert, Mayor, Vitry-sur-Seine, France:** So now that globalization is proceeding, I think that there is a recognition that a solution to peace and global environmental issues are of the same nature. Let me repeat. As we see the progress of globalization in the world, there is a widened recognition that the solution to peace and global environmental issues are the same battle. And many NGOs of my town are participating in the campaign Vision 2020, which I can report to you with great satisfaction. Thanks to the initiatives taken by our city, we have many events taking place and various NGOs are expressing their own concerns as well as their own topics of interest, and they are expressing various desires for disarmament.

Currently 25 residents of Vitry-sur-Seine are in Hiroshima now and some have joined the Mouvement de la Paix or they are staying under the planned program of our city, So whether they be direct peace movements or humanitarian movements or movements for the sake of assistance or cooperation or for cohabitation or co-development or for the sustainable development or for the environmental protection, the local organizations and NGO activists have this strong awareness that they need to deal with the evil on the earth that is produced because of actions and behaviors closely related to power relationships.

Now \$875 billion of the world military expenses is immense, and it is three times the amount of the budget that is spent by the UN for hunger, literacy and medicine or potable water and environment, and so such recognitions are leading people to stand up for Vision 2020.

With more and more population being concentrated in large city centers, the local governments are expected to play an international role together with the United Nations. I believe we need three types of effort. First, we need a peace movement, such as Mouvement de la Paix, and also we need to deepen our exchanges with appropriate organizations to promote the participation of citizens.

Secondly, many NGO activists should exchange with other NGOs, for example, under the World Social Forum. The World Social Forum for 2006 will be held in Caracas in the Americas, Karachi in Asia, Bamako in Africa, and the European Social Forum will be held in Athens. And therefore there will be events taking place in different parts of the world. By respecting diversity of the World Social Forum, the Mayors for Peace perhaps could try to incorporate the Vision 2020's goals into the activities of these attempts that are being made to build another world.

And we should make further efforts to increase the number of participating cities in the Mayors for Peace in order to enhance our activities on a worldwide scale. We have two cities with which we have twinned with Vitry. And they are also participating actively in our peace initiatives, and we are urging them to participate in the Mayors for Peace meetings in 2006.

In France, we have 60 member cities but they are smaller-sized or middle-sized cities. Under the cooperation of Hiroshima City, Paris has contributed by planning the A-bomb Exhibition, but we need to involve such major cities like Lyons and Marseilles.

Under the same spirit, Mayors for Peace could perhaps deepen their relationship with United Cities, which was an organization borne by the joint efforts of IULA, and the World Sister City Union. I think we would need to make such further efforts in order to heighten the awareness on the part of the citizens for nuclear abolition. Thank you very much for your attention.

**Chairperson:** I would like to thank Mr. Alain Audoubert, Mayor of Vitry-sur-Seine, for his comments. I would now like to invite Ms. Ellen Woodsworth, the Councilor of Vancouver, to make some comments. Thank you. Following Ms. Woodsworth, I will be inviting Ms. Ana Vicente from the City of Palmela to make some comments.

**Ellen Woodsworth, Councilor, Vancouver, Canada:** Thank you very much. It's a pleasure and an honor to be at this conference, especially in Hiroshima at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Dear friends, 60 years ago the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed by two atomic bombs that killed tens of thousands of civilians. It was a crime against humanity. We pay tribute to the victims and to the survivors whose efforts for redress and peace have played a foundational role in the peace movement in Japan and around the world. We mourn their passing. In November last, we in Vancouver lost a Hiroshima survivor and anti-nuclear activist, Kinoku Laskey. We must not forget the survivors or their message, Never Again.

We also pay tribute to the City of Hiroshima and their mayors past and present by establishing the worldwide organization Mayors for Peace. You have set an example of how cities must take up their responsibility to assure that peace and nuclear abolition are achieved. Vancouver is proud to be an active member of Mayors for Peace and the International Peace Messenger Cities.

The invasion of Iraq has created new problems and challenges. The City of Vancouver joins with millions of others around the world to say No to the invasion and the Canadian government declined to join in the "coalition of the willing." Inspired by the resurgence of the peace movement worldwide, we believe that we must work to abolish nuclear weapons and put an end to militarism and war. Global military expenditures are robbing cities of the funds necessary to assure healthy communities, education, housing and basic infrastructures, and are denying the world the resources to end poverty.

On March 31, 2005, the City of Vancouver Council voted unanimously to support, to help fund, and to actively participate in the World Peace Forum to be held from June 22 to June 28, 2006 in Vancouver immediately following the World Urban Forum, also being held in Vancouver. The City of Vancouver also agreed to contribute \$150,000, and then we had the endorsement of the Vancouver Parks Board, the Vancouver School Board and the Vancouver Public Library.

The idea of holding a World Peace Forum surfaced in March 2003 at a Vancouver conference, Preventing Crimes Against Humanity: Lessons from the Asia-Pacific War 1931 to 1945. This was a unique anti-war conference focused on issues of redress from World War II, including Asian victims of biological warfare, forced labor, sexual slavery and other human rights abuses, victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japanese-Canadians who were dispossessed and exiled by the Canadian government, as well as First Nations people, long the victims or crimes against humanity and genocide, most recently, the abuse they suffered in so-called residential schools.

It was during this conference that the United States administration began its bombing and invasion of Iraq. In the course of this conference, it became clear from many participants that it was necessary to wage a worldwide campaign against the invasion and war but that a campaign-based strategy alone was not sufficient. In order to achieve a balanced global perspective to guide us in the future, the peace movement needed to develop a better understanding of challenges to peace in the various regions

of the world, from the Middle East, to Asia, the Americas, and Africa. Without such a vision we may not have the capacity and flexibility to respond to future crises appropriately, i.e., on the Korean Peninsula. This was a contribution that reflected the multicultural nature of the conference.

The proposal for a World Peace Forum also drew on a number of other currents represented at the conference. Elders, who had participated in world peace meetings from the 1940s and 1950s, reminded us that such a thing is possible. Furthermore, a number of people had attended the anti-globalization meetings at the World Social Forum. And I attended these meetings to discuss with the World Social Forum the possibility and the necessity of holding such a forum, and was it appropriate to hold such a forum in North America, in Vancouver, at this time. There was overwhelming support for this proposal.

Inspired by the survivors of the crimes against humanity, hoping to grow a regionally-inclusive peace movement, and drawing on the history of previous world peace meetings and inspired by the World Social Forum, the proposal for a World Peace Forum saw the light of day.

The World Peace Forum, as I said earlier today, not knowing that I would actually be standing before you at this point, is growing at leaps and bounds as people arrange to have their conferences in Vancouver and others during the World Peace Forum, and others are planning to have their conferences during the World Urban Forum. We have developed a structure with an international advisory body, with a Canadian advisory body and with working groups, and these working groups, whether it's the youth working group, the women's working group, the sustainability working group, the anti-racism/anti-caste working group, are developing connections globally with their counterparts, and we encourage you, if you have an active youth component, to email us and let us connect our youth with your youth. And as I will be doing this evening, meeting with the women who have come here to discuss the impact of wars and nuclear war in particular on women and drawing those analogies.

We very much at this conference want to network with each other, we want to strengthen our existing movements, our existing organizations, learn from best practices around the world, and we want to ensure that there is a legacy that comes out of this conference. We want to solicit constructive summaries, case studies, active practices, which the youth have changed the name from "best practices" to "active practices" because they say active practices means you're doing it and best practices may be just intellectual models, and the youth want to get down and get things moving.

We want to make sure it's a civic community partnership, so it's neither the municipal governments nor the communities but both working in partnership, and we've developed an organizational model which reflects that. You might want to make sure that it's gender equal, that it reflects the diversity of people, and that First Nations people around the world show us the way forward and give us their examples of their resilience and their sustainability and their victories as they move forward.

We want, for example, case studies, such as we've heard this day, of the role, how was it that half of Belgium's mayors are members of the Mayors for Peace or how

was it that New Zealand's mayors were able to all support the initiatives that we're working on today? And what role have the NGOs or social movements played in achieving this high level of participation? There are lessons from these that we can learn from each other? We will use these summaries as a basis for discussion both before and during the World Peace Forum. Constructive summaries could mean positive or negative experiences but which emphasize ways we can work together in the future.

This project will involve three stages, one, soliciting examples from around the world, from individuals, as well as organizations civic and civil, using the central website as the depository for these reports, and we hope you will take a look at our website, [www.worldpeaceforum.ca](http://www.worldpeaceforum.ca).

Two, the international advisory body will attempt in early 2006 to distill a summary of these experiences and present some proposals about future ways for local governments and communities to work together. This discussion paper will be circulated to all participating organizations and posted on the web for discussion prior to the conference. Feedback will be solicited and circulated by the web and other media.

And three, all sessions at the World Peace Forum will be expected to discuss and respond to the discussion paper and related materials. The international advisory board will meet one or two days before the forum convenes to further discuss the feedback and to make any recommendations they might consider appropriate. These will be circulated to all delegates as part of the discussion package. A broad civic civil group will convene and the workshop and forum will be expected to post the results of their deliberations on the topic immediately after their sessions are over. And a final summary will be prepared.

So this gives you a taste of how we are moving forward, how we have learned from the Mayors for Peace, and we hope that we will see you all in June 2006 in Vancouver. Thank you so much.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Ms. Ellen Woodsworth, Councilor of Vancouver, for her comments. I would now like to invite Ms. Ana Vicente, Mayor of the City of Palmela, to make some comments. Following Ms. Vicente, I'll be inviting Mr. Heinrich Niemann to make some comments. Thank you.

**Ana Vicente, Mayor, Palmela, Portugal:** First of all I would like to say that it's an honor to share this conference and these moments with you, especially at this time in Hiroshima.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, the great philosopher from Athens, Socrates, said that he was not only from Athens, he was a citizen of the world. We, mayors of the entire world, feel citizens of the martyr City of Hiroshima. Such a fact increases our responsibility facing people of Hiroshima and other cities.

Buildings are made from the bottom to the top. We mayors, know that our force comes from the bottom, from the citizens we represent, those who elected us. Our struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons depends on our capacity to globalize our

unity. We are very near to the people because we are the local power, the last chain of the power. This proximity allows us to have a real perception of their aspirations, but on the other hand, to answer directly to them.

This explains why in my country so many tens of municipalities have signed the petition to abolish the nuclear weapons. Different mayors with very different political and ideological orientations have signed the petition. The fact that we have local elections next October may be an explanation for the fact that I'm the only Portuguese mayor here in this conference.

Friends, the Hiroshima explosion became a hellfire for women, men, no matter their philosophy, and all the innocents, like children and old people. Nuclear weapons when used destroy everybody and everything. Nowadays they can destroy the planet and its life. The destructive power of the thermo-nuclear bomb is a thousand times more powerful than those that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We and our children and our towns, we are all enemies of those who try to support their power in nuclear weapons. That's the point we have to face and to make clear for our citizens and for the public opinion in general. Everybody must fight for the abolition for such powerful weapons now, immediately. I think that we, mayors of the world, we come here to claim our repulsion for crimes against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but we are conscious that it means a battle.

Unfortunately, the country which considers itself leader and powerful in the world, insists in this strategy and insists that nuclear weapons are to be used. Their strategy and the non-respect for the international treaty and the uninterrupted research and development of new experiences makes instability all over the world. And if we have other nuclear powers that also follow the same way, spending financial resources, we could feed millions of people, maybe stopping hunger.

Humankind cannot become a prisoner of the strategy of the bellicose countries nor are the prisoner of a casual accident which could simply make a holocaust. The nuclear weapons existing are enough to destroy life on our planet. What kind of dementia or sickness can explain that countries still run to increase their nuclear capacity, trying to be the first one. Nuclear weapons represent the instability factor in the world and avoid sustainable development. They must be banished now, also for the stability of international order.

We are in Hiroshima and a market town that saw, in the first second of the atomic explosion, to be killed tens of thousands of citizens and our fight gets more and more actually in since years.

The citizens we represent feel easily that war in general is an horror, but nuclear war is the worst one. They know that the enemy are all of us: politics, armies, simple people from left to the right, religious or not religious, workers and intellectuals, in the town or in the countryside.

In my municipality, an old small town called Palmela, there is a castle on a hill from where we can look at the sky, the rivers and the neighborhood cities, including Lisbon and its beautiful bridges. We all can see, and all we can see has been made by Mother

Nature or by the hard work of the people. I cannot imagine a nuclear mushroom growing up in the sky and coming down and destroying life and burning all history with centuries, menacing the future generations.

We realize the deep sorrow of Hiroshima and we don't want any more Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We want a world free from nuclear weapons. We want to be sure that it will not happen again in Washington, Moscow, Beijing, Tel Aviv, Palmela or any other town. There are no good or better nuclear weapons; all types make horror and pain.

In my municipality we get used to dedicating some of our energies to prove that peace must be a fight for all of us, when we talk about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but also when we talk about Iraq or Timor. We get used to the idea that people must know each other, must respect their difference, must be tolerant and must develop friendship and cooperation all over the planet. That's why we, the local government, practicing international cooperation can help the fight for peace in the world.

And in this spirit I think that we should globalize our cooperation and make contacts maybe with, for example, a recently formed organization last year in Paris which put together all the municipalities in the world. It's an organization which is called CGLU, Cité et Gouvernements Locaux Unis and which is close to the United Nations.

The political powers must listen to their citizens when millions have moved into the streets against war and for peace. Local power can feel and hear better citizens' claims. And citizens know that there are no developments without peace.

To finish, I want to share my feeling that Hiroshima is an example of suffering but also an example of hope. I want to congratulate the citizens and the local government for the beautiful town they have heartily rebuilt. Long live peace. Thank you very much.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Ms. Ana Vicente, Mayor of the City of Palmela, for her comments. So now it's my honor to invite Mr. Heinrich Niemann, who's representing Marzahn-Hellersdorf, which one of the 12 districts of Berlin. Mr. Niemann. Is Mr. Niemann here? Ah, there, thank you, sir. Following Mr. Niemann, I will be inviting M. Pierre Villard, Mouvement de la Paix, to be speaking.

**Heinrich Niemann, District Councilor for Urban Development and elder Deputy Mayor, Marzahn-Hellersdorf von Berlin, Germany:** Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, my town Hellersdorf, a part of Berlin, is for the first time participating in a conference general of the Mayors for Peace. My first task therefore is to listen to all your ideas and experiences.

In the plenary session today, the President of the Berlin Parliament Mr. Momper spoke about general positions of the German capital. We think that in such a big city as Berlin it may be useful that the parts of the city take care of their own very concrete responsibility, not only in the usual aggressions of city administration, but in the global things too, and therefore we became a member of your movement.

I represent one of the 12 districts of Berlin, the youngest among them, only founded not 30 years ago because of the grading in this area, the large housing estates with about 100,000 flats. Now about 240 inhabitants live in my town, Hellersdorf. Other specialties of my city are, it is that part of Berlin where in 1945 the Soviet Army first crossed the border of Berlin to defeat the fascist Hitler state.

And two years ago, in my city a Japanese zen garden was opened called Garden of the Joining Water. It was created by the Japanese garden architect and priest, Shunmyo Masuno, a symbol for peace and humanity for the richness of our planet. This garden is part of the project Gardens of the World situated in our city. All that means, our young populations, its historical roots and obligations and the cultural eyes to the world are the challenges for our city, the authorities and the citizens, the young and the old, to do more and more substantially to keep peace.

First, we have the duty to inform the sensibility to educate the young generation, the children, and lately our grandchildren. I feel that is not only necessary but possible, and more than before. Young people are aware of the dangerous situation and they have a lot of ideas to bring forward their demands. I am very glad to inform about such activities in my town Hellersdorf. Those 16 years old pupil, Gislinde Böhringer, joined the youth peace group, took part in the peace activities in New York at the United Nations NPT Review Conference in this May. She was an actor of the protective wall for international law. Surely yesterday you have seen it around the dome. I gave up rather quickly my little stupid attempt to find out the line of Gislinde on one of the little wooden stones. Thousands and thousands and thousands of individual signatures form a wall. What a powerful symbol.

Other young people formed in the 90s as a reaction to the NATO bombing of the former Yugoslavia a big peace sign by stones and flowers in the public park and I allowed it as the Councilor. The name of this park is now Jelena Santic Peace Park. They organize their meetings, concerts and other events about themes of war and peace.

Please allow me some personal remarks. As a medical student, as a charity the Berlin Humboldt University, I heard lectures by a Professor, a renowned physician and biologist. He was a member of an international physicians group in the early 50s of the last century who researched the effects of atomic bombing in Hiroshima. He taught us, more than 40 years ago, not to be neutral as a physician in the case of nuclear weapons. This was and this is a heritage for my life. Later on, as a member of the IPPNW, in the national physicians movement for the prevention of nuclear war, I witnessed in 1988 during a scientific test of meeting near a Nevada test site, at this time a shocking news about many hidden nuclear tests by the USA ignoring the meanwhile accepted rules of international information.

In 1990, in Semipalantinsk there is a Soviet test site. The public got for the first time an impression of the impacts of the nuclear test to the population and the nature of Kazakhstan. And 16 years ago, in 1989, I participated here in Hiroshima and in Nagasaki, in the 9th World Congress of IPPNW. From the historical side this was a last congress in the world of the two superpowers and the Cold War, but even then the arguments for nuclear weapons were already out. The end of the Cold War brings the

elimination of nuclear weapons. That was the hope and the eligible demand. Today the reality is nuclear disarmament is not on the way as necessary.

Now, since more than a dozen years, I work as a councilor for the ecological and urban development in the very young city. Yesterday, I read in the museum a fatal sentence, that there will be no cause here in Hiroshima for 75 years, a man, a woman's lifetime. My city is only 26 years old. I declare here in Hiroshima on behalf of Marzahn-Hellersdorf of Berlin that its authorities and its citizens will do their part in the movement of the Mayors for Peace.

In the year 2020 Marzahn-Hellersdorf will celebrate its 41<sup>st</sup> birthday as a grown up and a blossoming city, part of Berlin, in a world free of nuclear weapons, in a peaceful community with every other city in each part of our unique planet. Thank you very much.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Mr. Heinrich Niemann from Marzahn-Hellersdorf for his comments. And I'd now like to invite M. Pierre Villard from Mouvement de la Paix to give some comments. Following M. Pierre Villard I'll be inviting Mr. Yannik Hake from the International Law Campaign. Thank you.

**Pierre Villard, Co-Chair, Mouvement de la Paix, France:** Thank you. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, and mayors gathered from around the world, NGO representatives, I would like to express my appreciation first of all for inviting NGOs to this conference, and as one NGO representative, our NGO is called the Peace Movement which is one of the strongest movements for peace in France. The A-bomb and H-bomb ban in congress has also been held here in Hiroshima and I had the opportunity to attend the congress.

In order to avoid nuclear weapons we would need to oppose nuclear weapons, violence in general, but we see proliferation eroding the peace. I believe we can have many dreams for ourselves in this world but not all dreams would come true. At the May NPT Review Conference, we did not end up with a decision to abolish nuclear weapons after all. We had great expectations for this conference, but the nuclear weapons States tried to maintain their own positions and therefore the conference failed to bring about productive results. So we are seeing a negative trend in the current world. The United States won the war against Saddam Hussein but the United States has not won the fight against terrorism yet.

How can we stand up to fight against terrorism? For this, we would first of all need to deal with issues poverty, underdevelopment, and a lack of democracy and respect for rights. We would need to focus our attention on these fundamental issues, otherwise, we would not be able to fight an effective fight against terrorism. After 2001, the United States has been engaged in various forms of destruction and we have great concerns about this. American people, there was much opposition against the war in Iraq and this has isolated the United States in many ways. There was a division of views in the UN Security Council and there was no consensus even among the nuclear weapons States.

So given this situation how the United States has acted was a concern for all of us. Can we wait for the United States to take action? If we did so, we would have to wait

until the 22<sup>nd</sup> century perhaps to see nuclear disarmament, so we would need to start a new process for nuclear disarmament.

The majority of countries are against nuclear weapons and it is only a handful of countries which have nuclear weapons or are either nuclear weapons States or suspicious of having nuclear weapons. We should focus our attention more on countries who have had courage enough to abolish nuclear weapons. The citizens would have to engage in various activities and movements and such citizens movements can change the world and make a difference. The citizens should ask themselves what their roles are and what they can do. NGOs and local authorities would have to play their due roles, and we have the legitimate right to do so as NGOs, and NGOs' roles cannot be replaced by organizations or agencies. We should unite towards a single goal of nuclear abolition.

In order to achieve abolition, we need to have a power that replaces military power. Peace culture, I'm sure, is a possible alternative for military power. Peace Movement is engaged in such activities and for this we need a significant partnership. Regarding the NPT Treaty, we have tried to join forces with the Mayor of Hiroshima and many municipalities have created a network to support the Mayors for Peace. And the French network of Mayors for Peace was established to go hand in hand with Hiroshima City and the Mayors for Peace movement campaign, and this has borne fruit so that on the day of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we are carrying out various activities of our own.

Mayor Akiba has also met our youth representatives. Hibakusha and nuclear weapons should become something of the past and we should be liberated from nuclear weapons by successfully abolishing and eliminating nuclear weapons from the surface of the earth. We must muster our courage towards this end.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Pierre Villard for his comments. And I'd now like to invite Mr. Yannik Hake from the International Law Campaign. Following Mr. Hake, I will be inviting Mr. George Regan from the Nuclear-Free Local Authority. Thank you.

**Yannik Hake, International Law Campaign, Germany:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dear Lord Mayor and mayors, ladies and gentlemen, dear guests, I'm very happy and deeply honored to be granted the opportunity to address all of you on behalf of those working for the International Law Campaign and as a representative of my generation.

We have come here today to let you know that you have inspired us with immense hope. In his speech during the conference on the revision of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Kofi Annan pointed out what an indispensable influence a society has exerted in the past. Had it not, there would be no ban on landmines and no Kyoto Protocol today. This is why we would like to express our gratitude to you, the Mayors for Peace, for your encouraging example which has triggered so much self-initiative with regard to political activities and civil societies.

It is a great honor for us to work side by side with you for our shared endeavor - the abolishment of all nuclear weapons. In doing so together with you, who has set an

example proving the political activities coming from within the civil society, to have their say. In other words, achieving that complete disarmament of nuclear weapons will start an irreversibility will at the same time strengthen the self-awareness in civil society and heighten their inspiration to find a clear position on equally-pressing issues similar to the one of nuclear weapons, in hand encourage them to substantively influence political affairs at the global scale.

As pupils working for the International Law Campaign and together with all young people from around the world with whom we have established contact, we have already found our position. We are no longer willing to mute witness while in spite of global implications and negative environmental, economic, humanitarian and social consequences, politicians slowly focus on the pros of national wealth, national security, national power and preserving that power when making decisions. Politicians take it for granted and presume that it is its natural right to apply military violence at any time and at any place on earth toward an existing or assumed threat to the security of their national well-being.

So we are no longer willing to vote for politicians who still consider the use of nuclear weapons as legitimate means of securing national interests. Also invisible, nuclear weapons are a constant threat for all of the six billion people living on this planet. This is why we call on everybody to assume their co-responsibility and their right to vote, to finally abolish this threat because nuclear weapons are a permanent threat to the life and culture of billions of people, do not target military facilities but civilians, require maintenance and further development, consume vast amounts of money, resources which could be used instead to achieve the millennium goal, in other words, the fight against poverty and global injustice with respect to living conditions for human beings. If used to this end, they would strengthen one of the most important prerequisites for the peaceful coexistence of all people.

In our opinion, the direct root cause turning one of the most significant development steps in human history, i.e. the illegitimacy of military force as enshrined in the charter of the United Nations into an issue of the past soon. The reason for this is that some nations already consider the potential danger of being attacked by such weapons sufficient justification to claim their right on self defense. In doing so they ignore the renunciation of the use of violence and take military steps, even up to the usage of nuclear weapons.

To avert the assumed threat, this means that weapons believed as existing to preserve peace, produce the biggest threat to it.

The only way out of this vicious circle of nuclear violence is open by all nations declaring the complete abolishment of the use of such weapons together with the global consensus of the illegitimacy of such weapons and the complete destruction of all existing weapons. This goal seems to be almost unreachable and too far away yet, and it's up to every single one of us that we keep it together. It is not enough that millions of us dream about it. We have to get up and do something to make this dream become reality.

This is why we together with all signators from around the globe stand up and requisite the politician decision-takers from all nations to do the following: Stand by

and fulfill the promise you gave unconditionally; Rid humankind from the scourge of war; Recognize the illegitimacy of military force as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations already 50 years ago without any exceptions; To the benefit of all human beings on this planet, finally fulfill your international law obligations and start the irreversible disarmament of all nuclear weapons.

Rest assured that we will not just remain passive and full of confidence until you, as the political decision-makers, will start this task. Rather, we will actively look for and take those paths which will help to support this immensely important step of a normal human development from civil society's side. And we will call on you and every single politician decision-taker individually to make a personal choice to practice hard together with us.

As a concrete step on this path, we'd like to invite you, as a member of the Mayors for Peace, to follow the example of Mayor Akiba, Mayor Itoh, Mayor Livingstone and Mayor Schmalstieg to take a small part of this symbolic protection wall for international law to your cities to use it as a seed for your local part of the worldwide growing people's memorial. Thank you very much. If you want to see the wall, it's around the atomic bomb dome. You can go there and watch it.

**Chairperson:** I want to thank Mr. Yannik Hake for talking about the International Law Campaign and for a voice for youth. Just to let people here know that there has been a large youth contingent engaged in the Hiroshima Day activities. In fact, there was a rally of 300 yesterday. And so it's very exciting to see youth engaged, and hopefully later on in our discussions one of the topics that people might like to talk more about is how to engage youth in Mayors for Peace activities and in peace activities in cities.

So now I invite Mr. George Regan from the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities UK to make some comments, and then following Mr. Regan will be Mr. Marika Akma, a Member of the Municipal Council of Kandy in Sri Lanka. Mr. Regan, thank you.

**George Regan, National Chairman, Nuclear-Free Local Authorities U.K. :**  
Thank you, Chairman. Lord Mayor, mayors, councilors and delegates, I chair the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities in the United Kingdom, an organization with, at this time, 75 definite local authorities are represented in our organization, and we are at present extending our efforts into Ireland to hopefully achieve a liaison with the whole of Ireland group to become involved in the same thing. We work closely with Mayors for Peace and report regularly to our constituent groups on the progress and their enormously great work that the Mayors for Peace carry out.

It is an absolute honor to be here as an ordinary Councilor, just a person who works day-to-day with people in my area and doing these things, but I couldn't let the occasion pass without seeing the effect. Coming to Hiroshima is hard. I have never felt so saddened. I will never ever forget the sense of shame that I experienced after visiting the museum and listening to the things there.

I really wonder whether national politicians, whether Mr. Blair, could leave President Bush's coattails for a while and possibly visit Hiroshima. If these people are going to continue to support the use of these weapons, surely they should be aware of the

effects and what they actually do to human beings. Anyway, I haven't written a speech; I have been really quite deeply affected by this experience. I hope to take it back.

One thing I also know, however, and the young gentlemen, the last speaker alluded to it, and clearly it's true: if the world leaders could not be frightened of nuclear weapons, one thing they are certainly frightened of and that is the people who elect them. And our job, as well as working with organizations and assisting Mayors for Peace, is also to get back to the people who will go out, certainly, in the United Kingdom every four years, and elect people. No person in their right mind wishes to have nuclear weapons. Therefore, logically, you would say, no person in their right mind should be electing an individual who has no difficulty encountering such a thing.

We will be challenging, as it has just been recently stated, that the United Kingdom decided to replace Trident. We, as an organization in the United Kingdom, will be using all our political connections and we will challenge this. It's actually an appalling thought at this time that we could go a stage further. I thought Iraq had just about put the icing on the cake for me. But we move on. It's a terrifying thought.

But again, I've had some hope coming to this conference. I have heard people speak of the way forward. I have heard people who have discussed the wide range of activities and beliefs and ways of keeping the momentum going, of increasing the pressure for the abolition of nuclear weapons. This is something, hopefully, we can get back again, as I say, to people, to people who live and work and eat and sleep, and persuade them.

I honestly believe anyone who's had a visit, as I've had in the last few days, have seen and listened to what I've done, no one in their right mind, no person with a grain of humanity could possibly consider such a means of – I view this as, probably an unusual idea, as political experience. You have to work far harder for peace than you have not to. It's far easier to show a big stick. It's far easier to frighten someone than it is to persuade them by peaceful means. And hopefully that's something we can continue to work for. I won't keep you all afternoon and I thank you very much, Chairman, and everyone else for the opportunity to address this conference. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Mr. Regan, Nuclear-Free Local Authorities, United Kingdom Chairman, for the comments. Now I'd like to invite Mr. Asmin, Member of the Municipal Council of Kandy, Sri Lanka, to make some comments. After Mr. Asmin, I'll be inviting Mary Ellen McNish from the American Friends Service Committee to make some comments. Thank you very much.

**Asin Marika Abdul Karim, Councilor, Kandy, Sri Lanka:** In the name of Allah, the most beneficial and merciful. Let me first of all greet you in Islam saying, *As-Salaam-Alaikum*, peace be unto you.

Mr. Chairman and in our place we say, in our part of Sri Lanka we say Worship the Mayors, that's what we say. If I say Worship the Mayors, distinguished guests, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and obviously my fellow brothers from Sri Lanka, it is indeed a great privilege for me to have got this opportunity to stand amongst you

and express my views of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima. Even though this is a privilege, I am sad and hurt when I look back to 60 years.

First of all, let me introduce myself. I am a Muslim living in Sri Lanka, an island known as a paradise of the Indian Ocean. It's a majority Buddhist country and my city is situated in the center known as Kandy, which is a holy place for Buddhists where the Temple of Tooth of Buddha, our host, is called Maligawa. Muslims, Hindus and Christians have built their religious places very close to this vicinity. In other words, within stones' throwing distance. We live in harmony. We actually, it's a beautiful place, a rare thing that is, because as I am a Muslim.

My personality, my name has been misunderstood by most of the people. So I have come here with my colleagues, friends, because we also experience this type of activities with diversifying situations where people have taken use, have put bombs on their bodies and exploded themselves in the city. So we fear these type of happenings in the world.

We have traveled a long way to this city, Hiroshima, to be with you and to be part of you and share your and our thoughts and strengthen the cause of Mayors for Peace.

On a quiet day when people were getting about their work 60 years ago the atomic bomb was dropped on this living city. The world was taken aback, and since then we have been discussing and trying to do something to stop the world from such destruction. I had not been born when this incident occurred, but it is in my memory. It is alive for us even though it happened 60 years ago, I feel it in me.

This day the scientists enjoy the glory of nuclear technology and for nations who possess it. But for us this day is not a day of glory but a day that we stand together condemning nations and scientists who are engaged in developing this deadly bomb. Hiroshima, where we stand, was 60 years ago the ground selected to test the nuclear weapon. Hiroshima was indeed the testing ground for America, to bomb a living city. We had been educated that this nuclear bomb was a clear message to stop the war. Had this message been put forth? Have the nations taken this message and stopped being aggressive?

In my books it is not the number of debts or the area of devastation. Even from a single grenade, if an individual is killed, it is murder. We saw Sep. 11 where two petrol bombs flew to New York and into the pride America's Twin Towers. The whole world witnesses this catastrophe and saw the mighty fire coming down. Once again the world was shocked. Innocent American people going about their usual daily routine, who believe in freedom and choices and believed in living for a better day, fell victim to these petrol bombs. They were innocent.

What happens to us? The politicians take positions. The civilians, the citizens suffer those issues. We have taken party policies to be a part of the religion or the political party has become a part of religion as such. We do not go deep into the policies of the party. We align to the political parties and these political parties, they have their own agenda as such. When they come to power they take visions and we become victims.

After the bomb, we saw the petrol bombs going into the Twin Towers. Why did this happen? We have been told by analysts that this was a message. Once again, a message. Due to this aggression the world witnessed the bombing of Afghanistan. Here again, it was a message they are sending by bombing nations. From there, we saw the rain of bombs falling to Iraq. This was another message to the new world order. In recent times we experienced the incident in Madrid. Here again, these people are sending a message. The British, living in London along with some property, took this message into their own hands to justify their doctrine.

So now people are believing in tying up bombs to their bodies or in a car and then exploding to give a message. And we are not here for that. We want a peaceful nation. We want a peaceful world to live in.

We wonder why nuclear weapons have not been used since 60 years ago. Nations are being bombed as a message. Nations are now in a race to find faster and accurate measures of destroying a country with a blink of an eyelid. This is what the world is heading for. It's very sad.

The bombing of Hiroshima and the message sent by it has been taken from the wrong side of the stick. What was the message at Hiroshima? It was to stop the war, and this method is now taken into the hands of individuals. It's very sad.

What one should dread is that individuals have taken the message sent by the bombing of Hiroshima into their own hands and advocate their beliefs. We stand here in this hall of Mayor for Peace as a nation. We have understood the word of living, condemning all forms of bombs, bombing industries to stop right now. We must, all of us, address this issue and stop. Given we have to come to a decision, even a bomb, it can be a grenade, if they are manufactured it is a disaster.

We should send a strong message and mayors alone are not enough. We should get our leaders to start condemning along with other nations who are involved in this deadly industry.

Last but not least, even though Japan was the land of nuclear experience, today it stands as a land of gifts and technology. We see Japan since the attack has gracefully gifted the world with presents and my country has almost everything made in Japan. Japan has faced its challenge and by that has set examples of non-violence. The great gift to the world by Japan is your advanced technology which every nation is today sharing.

As such, we peace-loving people should join hands with Japan to condemn the nations who have and are developing these nuclear bombs. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Mr. Asmin, Member of the Municipal Council of Kandy, Sri Lanka for his comments. Now I'd like to invite Ms. Mary Ellen McNish from the American Friends Service Committee to address us.

**Mary Ellen McNish, Secretary General, American Friends Service Committee, U.S.A. :** Thank you. It is truly an honor to be here today, even though it is humbling for any American to be present at such an occasion that we will celebrate tomorrow.

It is humbling both because of the suffering caused 60 years ago by the United States government's use of nuclear weapons and because today the US foreign and military policy is once again leading the world into nuclear instability.

Two years ago, when the United States went to war on Iraq, the citizens of the United States and the people of the world were told that Saddam Hussein was a threat because he was close to having nuclear weapons.

Sadly, it has become clear that it is in fact the United States that is becoming the gravest nuclear threat to our world.

We have turned our back on more than 30 years of progress in nuclear reductions achieved under presidents of both political parties in the United States. We need only to look at the collapse of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in May to see the effect that current US policies are having on global security.

Too many nations around the world are taking their cues from the Bush Administration's nuclear policy. Inspiring nuclear escalation in other nations is not a sound defense policy; weapons of mass destruction can never create peace. They can only lead to fear, distrust and violence. Power is lethal without wisdom and restraint.

The people of the United States need others around the world to join with us to help us reverse US policy. Too many present here today know all too well that no nuclear weapon should ever be used again. The mere possession of nuclear weapons is unacceptable for us, our children, our nations and the world's future.

Let me assure that millions of people in the United States stand with you in opposition to these policies, and we continue to count on your courageous, moral and ethical voice.

The American Friends Service Committee, the Quakers, have always abhorred suffering and injustice of war. At the outbreak of World War II, in the United States we spoke out against the internment of Japanese-Americans. For decades, we have helped bring hibakusha to the United States to tell their stories. This year, in honor of their lifelong commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons, we have nominated the hibakusha for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The United States peace movement is doing everything within its power to confront our government and to show that peaceful policies are not only desirable, but practical.

But we cannot be successful alone. We need the moral pressure of the world to hold the US accountable and to force it to change its course. I ask all of you to continue to pressure your own governments to oppose the path of proliferation put before them by the United States.

Together, voices from within the United States joined with voices from around the world can pull us back from the brink of annihilation. Keep encouraging and challenging those of us living in the United States, even as we draw strength and encouragement from the courageous example set by so many of you.

May God, the author of life and the Spirit of peace, bless us all in the task ahead.  
Thank you.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Ms. Mary Ellen McNish from the American Friends Service Committee for her comments. We have three more speakers for the session and then opening the floor to any comments or questions. I'd first like to invite Mr. Masayoshi Naito who is a Representative of the Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, and following Mr. Naito, I'll be inviting Ms. Keiko Nakamura from the Peace Depot. Mr. Naito.

**Masayoshi Naito, Representative, Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Japan:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It seems like the coffee break isn't over but I'd like to begin. Thank you very much for everyone coming all the way to Hiroshima from various parts of the world.

I'd like to talk about the historic significance of the A-bomb experience and the 2020 Vision and Japan. First I'd like to talk about the A-bomb significance. I'd like to talk about the hibakusha experience and the role Japan is to play, and I'd like to talk about the 2020 Vision.

The Network For Nuclear Weapons Abolition is centering its activity as a network in Tokyo and its surrounding regions for nuclear weapon abolition. Hiroshima Mayor Akiba and Nagasaki Mayor Ito in February attended our rally for nuclear weapons abolition.

First, I'd like to once again confirm the historical significance of the A-bombing. The A-bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki I believe changed human history. Many atrocities took place in many different wars, but the cruelty of the A-bomb is clearly different from other histories of war because it showed us the possibility of the self-destruction of mankind. We never had such a possibility by any weapon in the past. So in that sense the A-bombing is different. After the A-bombs they dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki the crisis continues, or the crisis is even larger, and as many people pointed out, many countries now are trying to be nuclear-capable nations.

If nuclear weapons are ever used in the future, then there will be a chain of hatred, a chain of retaliation, and mankind could be destroyed. Einstein created nuclear energy and he said that everything was changed because of that, other than human thought. National interests and power politics should be set aside. We need to come up with a new principle and political system for human beings to coexist. That's point one that I would like to share with you.

Secondly, hibakusha is important as a witness and the testimony as a symbol for the possibility of the self-destruction of mankind. I've been listening to their testimonies over and over, and one thing that I can say is that they are the witness of the last scene on the globe. Sixty years ago, on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, in this direction that I point out, 500 to 600 meters above the sky, an A-bomb exploded. All people around here, I think, were killed.

One hibakusha has said as follows in the testimony, which is very strong in my mind as I remember, what would not have happened if things like that could happen again?

But he said he was shocked because the Korean War took place in a few years' time. He said that he felt that as a result of anything like this, there will never be a war again. This is an important testimony. We can really feel a sense of reality from this testimony. And he is a witness of the last day of earth, I could say. And he suffered for decades after that, and he also has anxiety about his future.

Nuclear weapons are an absolute evil. They should never be used under any circumstances. We should share this view. It's important that the Japanese government takes an important role in communicating this message of hibakusha, but there are many obstacles. One thing is the Japanese relations with Asia. When we talk about our experience of the A-bomb, some people say that it is a campaign of trying to deny Japanese responsibility for waging a war. When there was a survey in the 1980s in Korea, 80 per cent of the people of Korea said it was right to have the A-bomb dropped in Japan and this percentage is higher in Korea than in the USA.

One thing is that as long as the Japanese government is dependent on American nuclear weapons, it's hard for Japan to convince the need for nuclear elimination. So first of all we need to rectify the relationship between Japan and Asia, although the current situation is not favorable.

Another thing is the Japanese government doesn't say it was wrong to drop an A-bomb.

We need to change our relations with Asia and the United States. As many people mentioned, when the government policy is to be changed, it is important that public opinion and the campaign of grassroots efforts need to be strengthened. For Japan, the 2020 Vision is very important. Unfortunately, the Japanese peace campaign, the Japanese campaign for the abolition of the A-bomb and hydrogen bomb were not united. And because of this separation of the campaign efforts, there was a lack of pressure on the government.

One thing we can do is the Global Citizens Conference was held in Nagasaki. Mr. Alyn Ware took part in this conference. This is a conference held together by the City of Nagasaki and NGOs aiming for the elimination of nuclear weapons. When NGOs and local governments work together, then that would be a better venue for more people to take part. People who are unable to take part in previous campaigns, they would be able to take part in such undertakings.

We are at a very important point in history. Japan should play an important role at this important point in time, and the Vision 2020 that Mayors for Peace have started should be expanding to all over Japan and I'd like work together with you. Thank you very much.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Mr. Masayoshi Naito for his comments. Now I'd like to ask Keiko Nakamura, the Acting Secretary General for Peace Depot.

**Keiko Nakamura, Acting Secretary General, Peace Depot, Japan:** Thank you, Chairman, and good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I think I'm going to switch to Japanese now. So, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor for me to be given this opportunity to speak as one Japanese NGO. I was planning to make some comments

based on what I heard in the discussion, but all of a sudden I was invited to speak here and I'm a bit nervous speaking in front of you.

The Japanese NGOs, not only in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they are active in this movement. We are located in Tokyo, mostly carrying out activities in the Tokyo metropolitan area. And we would like to create the heightening of our movement in Japan towards the achievement of the 2020 Vision.

At the General Conference yesterday, I think it was mentioned by the Mayor of Sapporo City, which still remains in our minds, we should not only depend on Hiroshima and Nagasaki alone, that we will need to spread the movement around Japan more widely. That is exactly what we are thinking of. As Mr. Naito has just mentioned in his speech, Japan plays a very important role, and the NGOs and local authorities in Japan should join hands to promote the 2020 Vision.

This morning I was attending and speaking at a different meeting. I do this regularly as part of my work, but I try to give them, the audience, the outline of the 2020 Vision. And there was an elderly hibakusha woman attending the meeting and when I talked about the 2020 Vision and what is taking place in the world where NGOs and local governments are joining hands to achieve the 2020 Vision together, she was very happy indeed to hear my comments. And she said that she was very disappointed with the failure of the NPT Review Conference and she hardly knew what to do about the future. But now that she learned about the 2020 Vision she said that she could look forward to a brighter future.

When I first heard the 2020 Vision term, I was told that 20/20 refers to perfect eyesight and that is the reason why 2020 was chosen. So that was at least what I was told.

And what I keenly feel today is that there seems to be a sense of stifling in the current movement in Japan. And so we need insight into the future by working under this 2020 Vision so that we gain the foresight in to the future. But what I wanted to talk about in this discussion today was when we try to spread this movement around in Japan, we need the involvement of the citizens, generally speaking, and the Japanese NGOs are ready to support such initiatives taken by the individual citizens.

Apart from ourselves, there are organizations called Hidankyo, which is a group of the A-bomb survivors, and in order to promote the 2020 Vision they are also taking up the challenge to speak about the 2020 Vision as they travel around Japan. And in a similar vein, we've been also lucky to carry our message to the Japanese citizens. And in order to do this, I have a request to the members of the Mayors for Peace.

Namely, I hope that the Mayors for Peace could work more closely with NGOs and I'm hoping that we have a mechanism for consultation between the two parties. That is something that I would like to promote specifically in Japan. I hear that in the UN First Committee in this autumn conference, I believe this sub-committee would be established, so I hope that we could remain in touch and to exchange views so that the representative NGOs will be given the place to become more active. May I propose that the Mayors for Peace have such a consultative body with the NGOs so that we are

able to have meetings, if not regularly, on some occasions to exchange views between the two parties.

And secondly, we heard from the example of Manchester, and there are also cities which have declared themselves non-nuclear in Japan, and there is the Council of Non-Nuclear Local Authorities in Japan headed by Mayor Iccho Ito of Nagasaki City, and we would like to cooperate more strongly with such organizations in promoting the 2020 Vision, not only simple cooperation but I think we should work together to create the future together. We support the mayors and their efforts as NGOs, so as Japanese NGOs we are very much interested in how deliberations are going on in your meetings. So perhaps we may have such an exchange session with the Mayors for Peace.

We would like to support the 2020 Vision that you are promoting, and therefore let us work together to step forward towards a nuclear-free world. Thank you very much for your invitation today.

**Chairperson:** I would like to thank Ms. Keiko Nakamura from the Peace Depot for her comments and for the very specific suggestions for Mayors for Peace, which seem to be very consistent with the Plan of Action that was adopted yesterday, and so I expect it would be considered quite favorably. I would now like to ask Ms. Johanne Winchester, Director of the Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, to give some words. Thank you.

**Johanne Winchester, Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, U.S.A.:** Distinguished ladies and gentlemen and global citizens, arigato gosaimasu, merci beaucoup, xie xie ni, thank you very much for your patience. To the Hiroshima Peace Foundation and Mayor Akiba and Mayor Ito and the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all the governmental and civil society participants and volunteers, thank you all for creating this special gathering in support of peace and reconciliation and a nuclear weapons-free world.

I often feel that I sit in my wheelchair in solidarity with the many millions of victims of violence in the world today. With apologies to our wonderful simultaneous translators, I would like to share with you some practical suggestions and strategies for global solutions. If anyone would like more information delivered electronically, please give me your cards later.

This is a brief overview of communications at work. This entire conference could be made available to the entire membership of the Mayors for Peace and their constituencies. Just a little something to think about, those of us who are still feeling jet-lagged. Also, it would mean that we could have translation in many languages at once.

So here are some questions, and I would like you to consider and provide some answers. We, your communications technologies colleagues, would like to be able to provide you platforms, and I believe we already have the funding available to do this.

So do you need a new sustainable communications platform, economically and efficiently built and managed? Maybe I should start asking for hands to be raised if

it's a yes. Do you need a new opportunity to learn to use technology easily at your own pace, where you want to learn, at your desk, from your wireless laptop, wherever? Do you need a capability to have meetings on demand with live human interactivity without travel but face to face? Do you need the ability to be on your own video network whereby you can communicate with any sized audience in any geography? More questions. You provide the answers. We provide your platforms.

Do you need interactive communications capability where you can gain instant feedback, even live, from your audiences? Do you need connectivity with others, even when there is no wired ability to communicate? Do you need a capability to be more productive with your time and that of others locally, regionally, nationally or internationally? Do you need to create a new set of recurring revenue, that's income, financing for your projects, opportunities that support your efforts continually? Do you need to utilize communications capability that actually *saves you expenses* while creating these revenue opportunities?

Three entities came together a few years ago with a combined 75 years of communications, media, distribution and production expertise. Having served the United Nations, NGOs, NPOs, governments, education and numerous commercial entities, the strategy credentials represent empowering principles. We want to help get our story on the air, on television, on computer desktops, on the cell phones. Global Solutions embodies vision and a mission of global cooperation through positive action encompassing effective and efficient communications, education and recurring revenue systems of self-support. I would repeat, *recurring revenue systems of self support* for all of us who are always looking for the budget to do our projects.

So at the heart of your strategy are what we call CORE competencies, in English it's C-O-R-E. So the "C" stands for core conduits: understand the totality and flexibility of communications and distribution systems available and in need of, and what is required for the key audiences. "O" stands for operating audits: understand your problem in its entirety before a solution is suggested. Audits are an objective way in which to baseline all data from all key perspectives, including constituencies, marketing, financial needs and revenue opportunities. "R" stands for recurring revenue: understand the opportunities, educate the leadership and integrate self-supporting best practices for continuous economic viability, including cost savings and new recurring revenue, that word again. "E" stands for exchange of ideas: understand from your constituencies what it takes to get them involved, committed and continually questioning the validities of today's actions. So interactivity, democratic process, is key to all of this. Now is the time to get to the CORE, C-O-R-E strategy.

I will just mention a couple of technology ideas for some of you who may be familiar with some of these things. There's something called I-C-U-II, ICUII, which is the L-I-V-E, live systems of live interactive video, it's a type of technology that's very inexpensive, available today. Totally software based, you don't have to buy any new equipment. Your solution to communicate from anywhere to anywhere. One on one, up to eight simultaneous locations can be brought in. You can see them all on your screen at once. Wired and wireless, live video communication.

We could be having live interactive video conferences once a week, town hall meeting to town hall meeting. Mayors to their constituencies, mayors to the NGO constituencies, any kind of combination of community that we wish to bring together.

Unlimited monthly use with 216K of bandwidth. You can conduct meetings, collaborate on projects, speak to constituencies, seek instant feedback and present plans. You can also do a certain amount of streaming on a dial-up line, which is what we often find in developing communities.

There's a tremendous training platform in real time which is a key part of what we're going to need, is how do we educate, train, finance for a nuclear weapons-free world and for sustainable security and a world culture of peace. And you can use it anywhere on any PC, any time. You can integrate it to large room gatherings like this that has a large screen and there's free audio conferencing included.

So these are platforms that exist today. We would like to be able to bring them to the mayors and to our other constituents. Hopefully, we'll be working with the City of Vancouver and other cities like Harbin in China, which I just visited which will be doing a preparation conference in planning for Vancouver next June.

So thank you all very much.

**Chairperson:** I'd like to thank Johnanne Winchester for that very interesting explanation of technology that's making it more possible to communicate across distances and more effectively.

Now I'd like to open up the floor for comments and questions. Many people who would like to add any ideas, proposals, suggestions, on the topic of cooperation between Mayors for Peace and other sectors of civil society, governments, parliamentarians, et cetera. Do I see any people who would like to make any comments? I see Senator Douglas Roche. We have a mobile microphone which – do we have the mobile microphone for Senator Roche? Thank you. It's on its way.

**Senator Douglas Roche, OC., Chair of Middle Power Initiative, Former Canadian Senator and Ambassador for Disarmament to the UN:** Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, yesterday I had the privilege of speaking to you so I will not repeat what I said or speak long now. I only wanted to congratulate the Mayors for Peace on assembling this gathering and bringing so many ideas to the forefront.

It's evident that Mayors for Peace is still in its early stages and that the organizing in order to be a stronger network is now taking place. A goal of doubling the membership of Mayors for Peace over the next year could be attained. I think that there is a gathering momentum for Mayors for Peace, and this conference is showing that.

In addition to broadening the base for Mayors for Peace, the work of electronic communication that has just been very effectively been described here ought to be utilized and that would set the stage, so to speak, for a way in which a manifestation of the attractiveness of Mayors for Peace in mobilizing civil society and pushing

governments, this attractiveness will grow and enable Mayors for Peace to speak to other organizations and to work with other organizations.

And this morning we heard from Susan Walker in her nine points, on point 5, to bring together our organizations, to work with other organizations. You've already started to work with parliamentarians, to the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament that Alyn Ware chairs, and the fusion of mayors and parliamentarians can lead to even more cooperation with other groups.

And thus, I conclude by pointing to next year with the World Peace Forum in Vancouver. That is a place where many, many organizations from around the world will gather. It will be a major event, and for Mayors for Peace to play and plan now to play a strong role in either holding workshops or having events, it's up to you to decide, but I think that the frustration that everyone has spoken about here so much coming out of the failed NPT Review is going to give way to a new kind of energy and creativity, and that Mayors for Peace is now poised to play a significant role.

So I urge you to strengthen the base of Mayors for Peace, to work electronically, and to have a stronger international manifestation of the attractiveness of Mayors for Peace, and to have as an immediate goal showing this to the world at the Vancouver World Peace Forum, that will then itself enable Mayors for Peace to go on to even greater things. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** I thank Senator Roche for his comments, and I wonder if there's anyone else who would like to make any comments or contributions. I don't see any hands. Since there's no other people wanting to make contributions I guess we can look at wrapping up the session.

I'd like to thank everyone who made comments and contributions this afternoon. There were a large number, a wide variety of very positive, informing, interesting, inspiring examples and ideas. Many of those, of course, will be of use to use in our own cities in developing our peace programs back home, but also many of these will be fit into the Mayors for Peace international campaign, and also some into the drafting of the Appeal or declaration which is going to be drafted tonight with the ideas that come from the plenaries and the two sections and then will be presented to the plenary tomorrow.

And I think that's about it for this afternoon. Thank you again very much for your participation, for the great contributions, and have a good evening, and I'm looking forward to the conclusions tomorrow. Thank you very much.