

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

Section Meeting II

Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts and the Atomic Bomb Survivor's Message

15:10-17:15, Friday, August 5, 2005

Dahlia

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Motofumi Asai**

President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University

Speaker:

Claire Pessin-Garric

Vice President, Seine St. Denis, France

Jean Prince

Mayor's Delegate, Chaville, France

Irene Michaud

Representing the Town of Leverett, U.S.A.

Batbold Tsevegmid

Mayor, Zuunmod, Mongolia

Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff

Mayor, Galle, Sri Lanka

Michel Cibot

City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France

Yahia Al-Shaibi

Mayor, Aden, Yemen

Daniel Fontaine

Mayor, Aubagne, France

Toshiki Mogami

Chairperson of Plenary Session I and II,

Professor, International Christian University, Japan

Hervé Brahmy

President, Seine St. Denis, France

Koichi Otani

Coordinator of Zuunmod, Japan

Tadaomi Saitoh, Chairman, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Hiroshima, Japan: Ladies and gentlemen, I am Saitoh, Chairman of the Hiroshima Peace and Culture Foundation. Because of the lively discussion during the morning, we are now starting this session with a 30-minute delay. May I now present the chairperson of this session, Hiroshima City University, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Prof. Asai.

Prof. Asai joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1963 in Australia. At the China Embassy he worked, and he worked as the head of the conventions and the treaties in China and Asia, and he acted as a professor at Japan Nihon University and Meiji Gakuin University. He was also the head of the Research Institute in Meiji Gakuin University. His expertise is Japanese diplomacy and peace studies. And this year he became the professor and head of the Hiroshima Peace Institute. Professor Asai, you can have the floor, please.

Chairperson, Motofumi Asai, President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University: Thanks very much for your kind introduction. Very frankly, I feel very strong pressure because this is my first time to preside over a multi-lingual meeting, so allow me to speak in Japanese instead of in English. First of all, allow me to talk about the uniqueness or the characteristics, as well as the purpose of this concurrent session.

About the characteristics attached to this concurrent session, I should give you the historical background. In 2001, there was the Fifth Mayors for Peace meeting. In the previous meeting there were two concurrent sessions: one is To Make an A-bomb Experience a Legacy Shared by All, and; the second concurrent session was Exploring Paths Towards the Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts. But at this time, they have decided to put them together in one concurrent session. That is the reason and the background that this concurrent session was founded.

Therefore, in this concurrent session, because they were separate concurrent sessions, we are going to put those two themes together to be discussed in this concurrent session. So our task is grave and very difficult.

Just for your information, in the concurrent Session 1, the theme is International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, which is exactly the same theme which was discussed in the earlier Mayors for Peace Conference. So after having understood the characteristics of the concurrent session, may I now share with you the purpose of having this concurrent session so that we will be able to have the common ground and understanding for the participants who are in this gathering.

The theme is the Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts and the A-bomb Survivors' Message. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, how can we link it with the A-bomb survivors' message? To be frank with you, as a chairperson, at the outset I was not able to understand exactly what the linkage was between the two. But I was briefed by the sponsoring Secretariat and I came to realize how we are able to link those two issues together. As a chairperson, since there were some difficulties for me in understanding the purpose of this meeting, therefore, in order for you, the participants, to fully understand the purpose of this concurrent session, probably it's better for me to share with you my understanding about the purpose of having this meeting.

To give you the exact theme of this conference is to ask ourselves, based on the A-bomb hibakusha messages as a legacy of the human beings, how can we tackle the peaceful resolution of conflicts? This is the question raised. If I say this you might wonder, how come hibakushas' message can be considered as a legacy which is common to human beings? Your question is valid.

In the concurrent session, in the previous meeting, there was the discussion to make the A-bomb experience a legacy shared by all. That was one of the themes. In other words, the discussion was centering on whether hibakushas' message is the legacy which is common to all human beings. Therefore that kind of question is quite valid if you have some questions of such.

Now whenever we talk about the hibakusha message which is common to every human being, what specifically is it? You might wonder. And also, according to the schedule of the conference, all the participants are requested to listen to the testimony by hibakusha sometime tomorrow. Therefore, before you listen to the testimony of hibakusha, it will be almost impossible to understand the hibakusha message. Some might think that way. Such questions are also reasonable and valid.

And on some personal note, I took this job as the head of the Hiroshima Peace Institute, as was introduced by Mr. Saitoh, in just April this year. Therefore, I have to say I am not fully confident to assert that I am fully understanding the meaning of the hibakusha message as a legacy common to all the people.

Then you may wonder how we can make any meaningful discussion in this Session Meeting No. 2. Because as a chairperson I found one solution. In other words, I'd like to first of all share with you some statements made by Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima City who has made extraordinary efforts to sustain hibakushas' message as a legacy shared by all and propose them as a temporarily common recognition of what hibakushas' message is for the purpose of discussion, and use them as a starting point for starting up discussion in this meeting. Of course some of you may have a different idea and understanding about what hibakushas' message is, and of course your opinions are quite welcome, and I'd like you to express your ideas of what you think as hibakushas' message in the subsequent discussion. And please request the floor by raising your hands.

Now Mayor Akiba, in his Peace Declaration of 1999, stressed three important contributions left by many hibakusha for the rest of the world.

At first they said that they were able to transcend the infernal pain and despair that the bombings sowed and to opt for life...their families, their schools, and their communities were destroyed in a flash. They hovered between life and death in a corpse-strewn sea of rubble and ruin circumstances under which none who would have blamed them had they chosen death. Yet they chose life. We should never forget the will and courage that made it possible for the hibakusha to continue to be human.

Their second accomplishment is that they effectively prevented a third use of nuclear weapons. Whenever conflict and war break out, there are those who advocate nuclear weapon's use...Yet the hibakusha's will that

evil not be repeated has prevented the unleashing of this lunacy. Their determination to tell their story to the world, to argue eloquently that to use nuclear weapons is to doom the human race, and to show the use of nuclear weapons to be the ultimate evil has brought about this result. We owe our future and our children's future to them.

Their third achievement lies in their representing the new worldview as engraved on the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims and articulated in the Japanese Constitution. They have rejected a path of revenge and animosity that leads to the extinction for all humankind. Instead, they have taken upon themselves not only the evil that Japan as a nation has perpetuated but also the evil of war itself. They have also chosen to put their 'trust in the justice and faith' of all humankind in order to create a future full of hope.

Those are the passages and excerpts from 1999 Peace Declaration by Mayor Akiba. And I believe that the third point is especially important, it has a very important bearing in our discussion in this room. So please allow me to quote some of the other statements by Mayor Akiba to delve into this point.

Now about this Cenotaph referred to by Mayor Akiba, it includes the following inscription which says, "Let all their souls rest in peace. For we shall never repeat the evil," According to Mayor Akiba, because the second sentence doesn't specify who shall not repeat the evil, it caused a great controversy in society and some people said should why citizens of Hiroshima or hibakusha apologize? Shouldn't the United States be made to offer an apology? However, at the end of the day, many hibakusha and citizens of Hiroshima chose to interpret the second sentence to mean that we, all humankind, shall not repeat this mistake and evil, and therefore this inscription remains unchanged.

After this story, Mayor Akiba also added as follows,

This presents a very important world view. The world is seen not as a place of hostilities and animosities. The relationship between the State and people to people are not considered as a fixed antagonistic relationship. Rather, people who chose those sentences for the inscription did so because they believed that the nuclear weapons are the product of human science and technology, and therefore it is the responsibility of the entire humankind to abolish nuclear weapons and construct a peaceful world. This view thus never breeds an idea of retaliation or revenge.

This is the understanding and the view presented by Mayor Akiba.

In a nutshell, this is captured very well in another passage of the 2000 Peace Declaration by Mayor Akiba which says, "to break the chain of hatred and violence, to set out bravely on the road to reconciliation," and also the title of Mayor Akiba's book, *Reconciliation Instead of Retaliation*. Those can be understood as hibakusha's message which needs to be shared as a legacy for all humankind.

I hope you have understood my understanding and this explanation. I'm sorry that I have taken such a long time. Now I would like to welcome the statements from all of you. Five persons have already requested the floor, and as the way to proceed with the discussion in this room, first let those five people to make statements and then we'd like to have a ten-minute intermission and then we'd like to open up the floor for further questions or statements or comments regarding your views about the theme of this Session Meeting No. 2 which is Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts or Hibakusha's Message as a Legacy Shared by All. So that is the way I propose that we proceed with our discussion.

We don't have many participants in this session meeting, so first I'd like to see, I'm not really sure whether all those five people who have request the floor are here. First is Ms. Claire Pessin-Garric from France. Are you here?

Claire Pessin-Garric, Vice President, Seine St. Denis, France: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, Mayor Akiba, I would like to express my appreciation for inviting us all here to Hiroshima. Together with your colleagues in Hiroshima we are gathered here. Together with the citizens of Hiroshima we are gathering, which gives us a great privilege.

The conflict which causes a lot of losses of death could have been avoided if we could have used the money for other purposes, such as development. The formidable amount of money which was invested in the military industry could have been utilized for other purposes. A quarter of the defense budget can be spent to satisfy the needs of people, such as housing, health and education. Sustainable development is the selection of ours.

AFCDRP believes that this is the significance of having this association. These political activities in our community, in Seine St. Denis, we believe the basic human rights, education, housing, health, the rights to have those basic needs, the right to listen to opinions, and rights to be listened to, and the assertion of the rights to be involved in the decisions are something we need to accomplish. We believe the basic rights related to culture are also important.

In such a framework, in order to eliminate regional and local conflicts, we are involved in various activities, and I would like to elaborate some of those activities we are engaged in . Especially among the local authorities overseas, we started the international cooperation movements. Gabon, Palestine, Portugal, Mozambique and those are the partners, and soon Vietnam, Algeria and Israel will be members of our counterparts.

Needless to say, peace and sustainable development can be achieved with those partnerships, especially when there is the common interest and we try and understand the identity of human beings in such movements. Together with the inhabitants of Seine St. Denis, we would like to offer our assistance and help by creating solidarity among the people who are suffering from poverty. For example, in Southeast Asia the tsunami in December, and in London, Iran and African continents there was a series of chaotic situations and terror.

In Seine St. Denis, for the past 30 years there has been a strong appeal for the protection of human rights, especially the rights to culture. Culture is inevitable in order for us to look at ourselves. Culture is the shortest distance to others. In that sense, it is necessary to understand different cultures to eradicate conflicts, to recognize the other's culture is necessary. If we do not do this, that will create terror and that will create hatred and create terrorist attacks. The rights to culture are necessary to be affirmative with its own culture and to assimilate with the other's culture, and by assimilating the other's culture we believe we will be able to get the good result. Diversification culture has to be accepted. In a globe of 6 billion people, I believe for the future this is a very good opportunity for us to understand others.

We now live in a world which is based on free trade. In such an institution, we are not able to rectify the problems lying between South and North because this is the organization which was created based on hegemony. Although Chagall says, if somebody likes me I have to express my appreciation. These are the words I'd like to quote on this occasion. I think it's time to create another road.

We have created the Cultural Agenda 21. This Agenda 21 was adopted in UNESCO and World Forum. Preparation for Agenda 20 was a good example of our activities, understanding the differences in culture. In spite of the differences in political regimes, we are able to be engaged in the common project, and this is one success. Cultural Agenda 21 is very important, not only in Europe but also in the other regions. This can create the energy for motivating people to be engaged in peace-making activities.

This is an urgent task for us to develop our next generation. There were a series of tragedies. One such example was seen in one town. There was a gangster gunshooting. An 11-year-old citizen, a boy, was killed in that gun accident which was impermissible. New violence was also witnessed. Guns were witnessed in the schools. Pistols and guns are used in communities. But the citizens of Seine St. Denis are very much diversified and we do have the sensitivity. And there are people who are living in this community with 150 different nationalities. We respect each other. That kind of respect has to be fully respected. Educational programs are also necessary in order to think about sustainable peace and we are understanding the different cultures. It is now a time to challenge those issues in the world.

Young people are the peace harbingers and we have brought these Peace Messengers together with us. They are engaged in peace activities. And those are the young generation who can become peace creators. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. In order not to create hatred and hostility, the importance of culture is something we should never ignore. I myself was confident about the importance of culture. As I was listening to Ms. Garric, you have talked about the importance of culture in our civilization. Thank you very much for your excellent comments. Thank you very much.

The next speaker who asked for an intervention is the mayor's delegate from Chaville City, Mr. Jean Prince.

Jean Prince, Mayor's Delegate, Chaville, France: Good afternoon. I am from the City of Chaville with a population of 18,000. The theme I'm going to talk about today might not be directly related to our main theme of this conference, which is the abolition of nuclear weapons, but allow me to talk about this subject.

I am a member of AFCD RP. What we are seeking is a sustainable, peaceful culture. Therefore, in that sense for the people living in our local authorities, abolition of nuclear weapons is not the ultimate objective. This is one of the methodologies to reach the sustainable peace culture. In that sense, in the very small town of Chaville, what can we do in this domain, in this area?

City Governors are very close to the citizens. The population is not very large. Group activities and community activities are very much energized, but the funds are limited. What can we do in the longer perspective? We have to make a plan for action. We have to offer information and we have to act upon the plan. Because of those reasons, the peace culture issue should be considered not only by adults but also by the children so that we will be able to create the peace culture in our community. And we have been starting that type of education.

Because the time given to me is very limited, I will just give you one action of ours. In the extra-curricular activities, we are providing education for children by using the city activity center. We have set an education program, sustainability in education, and for each change of scholastic year, we introduce the educational program, that's PAGARS, that's art, sports, environmental, education center.

The purpose of this educational program is as follows: We have hired instructors who are qualified and we motivate the children between 3 years and 16 years of age. Through education, children are able to know each other. They try to rectify their conflicts among themselves and try to understand differences with others and respect each other. The education is equivalent to peace culture, in sports to try and understand the control of his own body, as well as the others' bodies, as well as the handicapped people's situation. Sports leads us to peace culture. Art also leads us to peace culture. Other than that, I'm sure the other colleagues of mine will talk about peace. Therefore, on my part, if I may continue, based on the testimony of hibakusha of Hiroshima, I think it's possible to expand the scope of network of peace-making.

When it comes to the danger of nuclear weapons, for the children, especially in the elderly children, we were able to make them involved by using the game. We have the game which has the title of "The Road to Peace" in order live, to overcome the violence there is the package of the educational materials related to Palestine and Israel. I'm not going to talk about those educational programs more in detail, but, simply speaking, this project is quite effective. As one of the national programs under the auspices of AFCD RP, by giving thoughts to the different ages of children, under the appropriate guidance of the instructors, we are now implementing such educational programs for establishing the peace culture. This is what we can do in one small local authority in France. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, M. Jean Prince. Well, personally, as Mr. Prince said, nuclear weapons abolition itself is not the ultimate goal of the activities of non-nuclear authorities in France, but one of the important methods to construct world

peace. And this is truly an impressive idea for me. In Japan, nuclear weapons abolition is viewed as one very basic ultimate objective. It is more or less taken as such, so abolition of nuclear weapons is considered as one of the means to construct an eternal peace and a peace culture is truly an enlightening comment and view. And also, what he stated as the case with the statement by Ms. Garric seems to indicate the importance of culture and education.

Now then, may I ask the US Representative from the Town of Leverett of the United States of America. The Town of Leverett, Ms. Irene Michaud. Are you here?

Irene Michaud, Representing the Town of Leverett, U.S.A.: Konnichiwa. My name is Irene Michaud from Weston, Massachusetts, American Friends Service Committee in the United States, here representing the Town for Peace, Leverett. This presentation and prayers are a tribute to the hibakusha and the bomb survivors' message. Western Mass, AFSC, Nipponzan Myohoji and Traprock Peace Center, have been working with many hibakusha supporters to seek the Nobel Prize for Peace 2005 for the hibakusha and Hidonkyo organization which represents them.

Supporters of this effort have written letters of nomination and support to the Nobel Committee. We have received copies of some of these letters written to the Nobel Committee. We've put them together in this booklet. I want to share with you some of the statements about the bomb survivors and about their messages.

One letter of support, nomination, says "Their commitment to promote international peace and to campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons, demonstrates a courage and a zeal for humanity that is deeply humbling and is demanding of our support and recognition from the international community," end of quote. Another supporter wrote to the Nobel Committee stating, "As individuals and collectively, the hibakusha survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, have reflected the spirit of peace in turning their personal tragedies into an enduring plea to rid the world of these most terrible weapons of mass destruction." Another statement says, "I can think of no group that has done more for peace than the hibakusha through decades of hard work and volunteer commitment to move the world away from war, particularly nuclear war."

A history professor states of the hibakusha, "They have refused to be simply victims, but have dedicated themselves to the proposition that there shall be no more victims anywhere in the world." A law professor states, "The hibakusha, Hidonkyo organization, can truly be said to be living examples of the true force that Gandhi once represented in another more localized context." Professors have written many books about the use of atomic bombs. One professor and author states, "Hibakusha was a source of support to American scholars who were critical of the US use of force at the end of World War II, and they have carried the banner for the abolition of nuclear weapons for many years now."

The hibakusha's message is appreciated by another nominator who states, "They are living monuments to the necessity of never forgetting." Also, the nominator says, "I had drawn enormous strength and inspiration from the tireless efforts of members of Nihon Hidonkyo." Another nominator states of the hibakusha, "They have taken the horrors that they have experienced and used them as a moral basis to work for peace

around the world.” As one nominator states, “They have challenged the horror that was visited upon them and rejected revenge and bitterness and have called for peace and forgiveness and an end to the nuclear threat.”

Also, the hibakusha have been at the forefront of humanities efforts to save the world from nuclear annihilation. The Peace Abby writes, “Their inspiration as wounded healers speaking out against the use of nuclear weapons, wherever and whenever, gives hope to the entire world.” A US Veteran for Peace states, “In this mad time of possible proliferation, their voice has been ringing throughout the world for peace.”

In summary, the bomb survivors’ messages are messages of courage, humanity and spirit of peace. The hibakusha's message is a tremendous demonstration of hard work on their part. The hibakusha are a living demonstration of Gandhi’s true force. The hibakusha have educated the scholars and carried the banner. The hibakusha call for peace and reject revenge.

In conclusion, the hibakusha gives hope to the entire world. Let us honor them for their contribution. Arigato gosaimashita.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Thank you very much Ms. Irene Michaud. She presented their campaign to award the Nobel Peace Prize to hibakusha and Hidankyo association, the association of hibakusha A-bomb victims, and she quoted passages from various nomination letters to the Nobel Committee. And she also stated that those letters indicate that hibakusha’s efforts and contributions are the living symbols of the true force activities raised by Gandhi. And I personally also pay the highest tribute to the activities and efforts made by Hidankyo, the association of A-bomb survivors. And what Ms. Irene Michaud just stated also echoes hibakusha’s message interpreted by Mayor Akiba, which I quoted at the very beginning of this discussion. Thank you very much.

So before we move on, I would like to ask a representative from the City of Zuunmod of Mongolia, the Mayor of Zuunmod of Mongolia, Mr. Batbold Tsevegmid.

Batbold Tsevegmid, Mayor, Zuunmod, Mongolia: Good afternoon, my name is Batbold. I am the Mayor of Zuunmod of the Province of Tuv of Mongolia. On the occasion of the Conference of Mayors for Peace, on behalf of the City of Zuunmod of the Province of Tuv of Mongolia, I would like to offer some words of greetings. First and foremost, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to be given this precious opportunity to take part on this important conference and visit this beautiful city.

We, the Delegation from the City of Zuunmod, are extremely honored to be able to be part of such an historic conference. Today it is extremely meaningful that we participate in such a campaign together with cities from all over the world. This conference gives us another opportunity to deepen our friendly relationships between cities. May friendship and peace prevail on you. Let us work together.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the participants at this conference. Thank you.

CHAIR ASAI: Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor of the City of Zuunmod. Now the Mayor of Galle of Sri Lanka has rushed to this venue kindly, so may I have the Mayor at the podium, please.

Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff, Mayor, Galle, Sri Lanka : Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great privilege to be here with you today at the commemorating ceremony of the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. As a Sri Lankan, I am very happy to be here with a small presentation to you all from Galle Municipality, as the Mayor of Galle, which was devastated by the tsunami last December 26. It is regarding the safer world today.

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

At the same time, there is another threat too, and what it is, it is the threat of terrorism. It is all over the world, and even in my country terrorism is there for the last 20 years. Frequently, we hear of bomb attacks by terrorist groups to places like the USA, and recently in the UK, and in most of the countries like in Sri Lanka. This has caused untold suffering and embarrassment and this aspect needs our immediate attention.

When we think of the present day world, how the increasing use of nuclear power generation has caused unrest among nations. Powerful world powers already possess them and there are nations, for example, India, Pakistan and North Korea are also in the process of developing and expanding their resources on nuclear energy. It has led to controversial arguments about the safety of the world.

As we have experienced in the past, the expansion of nuclear power breeds fear and anxiety and unrest among us. Its expansion is a great threat to world peace if it is uncontrolled. Use will be a great danger, not only for the countries that experiment on it, but it will result in the total destruction and even annihilation of mankind from earth.

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

We hope and pray that the resolution by this body to request the world powers to think again and again before making use of their good offices, to make use of their good offices to control the use of nuclear power a success. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mayor Ariff. Today, if we look at the world, the peaceful use of nuclear energy, it does not stay only with the peaceful use, but sometimes that nuclear energy can be utilized for destructive purposes. That is the point raised by the mayor. In India, Pakistan and DPRK, they advocate the peaceful use of nuclear energy and they had aimed to utilize that nuclear energy for other purposes. As was pointed out by Mayor Ariff, I believe his comment is well taken.

Now then, is there anybody who would like to take the floor at this juncture. Since there are not many people, I would like to urge you to be very enthusiastic in giving your comments or asking the questions.

Michel Cibot, City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France: My name is Michel Cibot. I'm from France. I am from the peace local authorities association, AFCDRP, of France, and I once worked in the Peace Institute of Hiroshima.

The message of hibakusha and the message of the victims should be delivered to the next generation, which matches the theme of discussion. I have been involved in this task for the past 25 years.

Although what I am going to talk about might be different from the main subject, unlike the Japanese people, the hibakusha's message, the victims' messages are not known to French people. I believe the similar situation can be seen in many countries. Hibakusha is not very known to many people in the world because it's very difficult to remember this term or the names. Perhaps more efforts are needed. Their testimony has to be effectively utilized and we have to create such an environment to hear their voices. We have to rectify the problem of ignorance of many countries in the world. Hibakusha's message has to be informed through film or through the publication of books, and books were published by hibakusha or the victims in our case, and in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the French chapter head, who used to be the President of Hidankyo, has published a book.

I always said, how come Hidankyo is not awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize? That was a question I always had. In this year's Mayors for Peace, I sincerely hope that this organization would endorse the Hidankyo to be awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize. Hidankyo is the association of hibakusha A-bomb victims. We should support and endorse such a nomination. By so doing, we are able to deliver the message that hibakusha is still surviving and we can make our self-determination. In an international conference like this we have to have a very specific message to support the nomination of Hidankyo for the Nobel Laureate. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: As Ms. Irene Michaud said, victims, hibakusha's existence, has to be known, and Hidankyo, who has been making their best efforts to let the message be known to the world, has to be awarded with a Nobel Peace Prize.

Yes, personally, Japanese hibakusha information is not very well known to many people in the world. I believe this creates a very grave issue and concern. In Germany there was the Holocaust and this has now become the memory common to all human beings. On the other hand, what had happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki? It's not a memory, a recollection common to all the human beings. Indeed, that is a grave concern.

Probably, I would say the United States, who was the actor of dropping the A-bomb, did not admit that they committed a crime by dropping the A-bomb on Japan. If the United States does not admit its sin, we are not able to make this as a remembrance or the recollection common to all human beings.

Now Hidankyo, to be offered the Nobel Peace Prize, if that decision is made, in order to do that we have to overcome some of the impairments and obstacles we might face vis-à-vis the United States moves. Thank you.

Any other comments or any other people who would like to take the floor?

Jean-Pierre Brouhon, Official Delegation Representative, Ixelles, Belgium: I am from Brussels, Jean Pierre Brouhon. Brussels is one of the European capitals, and this year Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorate the 60th anniversary of the A-bombings.

In Europe, even today this atrocious tragedy committed on human beings is not well-known among Europeans. This is very shocking. Sixty years have passed, but we have not really done a thorough soul-searching on the causes and reasons. So I suggest to the Chairman, and we have to make sure that we have the duty to remember what was done 60 years ago.

And in Europe, the true reason why these bombs were dropped is now being scrutinized by some Europeans with a level of high interest. They are trying to grope for the reasons but not enough people are making efforts to know the reasons why those cities were afflicted with those A-bombings, because, as we see from the activities of NATO or in the United States, we haven't really made serious efforts to understand who are the ones who committed this serious crime and why they did it.

And coming over to Japan I want to know whether Japanese people are making serious efforts to analyze the causes of why these A-bombs were dropped on these two cities.

From the moral perspective, the Japanese demanded an apology and compensation. However, I also hear that Japanese are trying to recommend hibakusha and the legacy of A-bombings to the world's heritage.

But of course, it is wonderful that hibakusha's message is not a message of retaliation. Hibakusha A-bomb survivors, I believe, have the right that they demand and claim for a memory and compensation. I do not read Japanese newspapers, but as far as I hear, sometimes I understand that those movements and campaigns by hibakusha are more or less isolated and limited to a certain extent. But I wonder if there are any movements to provide moral compensation to hibakusha and A-bomb survivors.

For Europeans who are trying to push for the cause of peace, we believe that hibakusha A-bomb survivors are the speakers of testimonies, and my question is, what are the Japanese and the Japanese government doing for the benefit of hibakusha?

Chairperson: Thank you very much for the intervention. So we have some Japanese participants on this floor, and I think that question is a very important and serious

question posed to us, the Japanese. We, the Japanese people, as regards the tragedy which was suffered by A-bomb survivors, hibakusha, are we doing anything as Japanese fellow country people to assist hibakusha people so that they are able to get moral compensation?

I have various personal observations regarding this point, but let me ask the Japanese participants on the floor who would like to respond to this very important question. Anyone? Any Japanese participant who would like to respond to this question? No one? Well, I am serving as the Chairperson of this session so I don't think it is appropriate for me to share with you my personal point of view, but as I believe this is indeed a very important question posed to us from a friend from Europe, please allow me to make some modest attempts to respond to this curious question posed.

To be quite honest and candid with you, with respect to the moral responsibility for A-bomb dropping, I don't think Japanese people have done enough to demand a moral responsibility to be taken by the perpetrator, the Americans. Of course there are Japanese people who are indignant and angry about what Americans did on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and this is clear from the opinion polls taken in Japan, however, the word "reconciliation" is also considered very important, and hibakusha A-bomb survivors deeply understand the importance of reconciliation. As a result, they are put in a position where they have difficulty demanding moral responsibility, and there is such a social atmosphere which makes such a demand very difficult.

However, including the A-bomb dropping on those two cities, some Japanese tend to believe that that was done and there's nothing we can do about those past events, as we have been so guided. We were guided to believe in that manner by the Japanese government policies. And I personally believe that those Japanese government policies, which have guided us or have misled us to believe in such a manner, are quite wrong. Putting aside whether we demand any material compensation for such a holocaust or tragedy, putting this question aside, I believe that we have to seriously demand and claim a moral responsibility to be fully taken by the United States. Unless we push this cause towards the United States, as Japanese we will keep having trouble in putting this atrocity in the right place in our history.

Now, so much for my intervention. I would now like to return to the floor. Any other comment or request from the floor, please? Just a moment, please. Yemen, I believe the Mayor of Aden is here to deliver his speech. Mayor Dr. Al-Shaibi, may I invite you to the podium, please?

Yahia Al-Shaibi, Mayor, Aden, Yemen: Sorry, I was enjoying the other session. I just found out I've been deficient. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. It is my pleasure and privilege to bring to you greetings from the Republic of Yemen and from the port city of Aden that I have the honor to be its governor.

This General Conference of Mayors for Peace marks the 60th anniversary of the events that changed the world and entered the name of Hiroshima into the world's history books. Whenever the name Hiroshima is mentioned, we recall the first use of a nuclear weapon in war and remember the vast suffering of this city and its people. The very name of the city urges to spare no effort to prevent such an event from ever happening again. The ability of one nation to use nuclear weapons on other members

of the human race has been a nightmare that the world has lived with ever since Hiroshima, and shortly afterwards Nagasaki, were devastated 60 years ago.

It is right that this event should only mark the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, but should also be a special venue for the work of governments and non-governmental organizations that seek to eliminate nuclear weapons from the world as one of its primary goals. Around the world today, the shadow of local, ethnic, national and regional tensions is very evident, and the fact that growing numbers of countries are acquiring the ability to make nuclear weapons tells us that the proliferation of such armaments is a present reality that we have to deal with as a matter of great urgency. The danger that these weapons could be used in a war, or even in an attack by a group seeking to harm a society or a city elsewhere, would affect the whole world, and would affect it in ways that we cannot forecast or imagine. The danger cannot and must not be ignored.

This conference provides us with an opportunity to express our concern that the threat that world faces is a very serious and real one. And therefore, we must express our united stance that weapons of mass destruction must be removed from the earth. At this time, we are confirming the views of the many millions of our fellow citizens around the world who wish only to live in peace and to show their mutual respect for other nations and peoples. We therefore see it as our duty to demand that research, development programs and other actions aimed at making nuclear armaments should be banned.

Mr. Chairman, the Republic of Yemen will play its part by standing united with the delegates to this conference to achieve the 2020 Vision in reminding the world and its leaders of the interdependence between nations. The globalization that has become an important factor in the world reminds us that we depend on each other for so many of the benefits that the world offers, and it is therefore sad that the threat of nuclear conflict is again something that we must regard as a clear and present danger.

Aden has been a strategically important port city for well over 2,000 years. It lies directly on one of the world's major east-west trading routes at the western end of the Gulf of Aden across the southern entrance to the Red Sea. Because of its location, ships from many parts of the world pass close to the harbor entrance, and increasing numbers of them call at Aden to deliver and to load national cargoes or to drop off containers for transshipment to other ports in the region.

In May this year, the government of Aden held a workshop for representatives of other ports and the key organizations in our region. The focus of the workshop was, how to trace the movement of weapons that might be carried in a container, for example, and pass through a port on the way to the final destination. We invited experts in a number of disciplines to share their knowledge and experience with those attending. This workshop helped people in key positions in our region to acquire a better insight into the potential dangers in which goods and materials of all types are constantly on the move from one container to another.

In closing, I would like to express my compliments to all of you who have invested your time and effort in order to take part in this important event. The world has changed in many ways during the ten years since the 50th anniversary of the bombing

of Hiroshima, and some of the changes have unfortunately been negative. Let us spare no effort to bring about positive changes over the coming ten years, so that we will be able to look back and be satisfied that we did all within our spheres of influence to achieve our goal of making the use of nuclear weapons in settling conflicts a thing of the past and will not be a part of the world that we share. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Mayor Shaibi, thank you very much. Listening to your comments I wonder whether I can invite more comments from the floor, including the comments on Mayor Shaibi's presentation. Please.

Unknown: Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Like other participants who made a contribution, I believe that to share the message and to keep the continuity by sharing the message from hibakusha is very important. As time goes by in the future, those message may completely disappear. I believe that the involvement of young people is going to be more important.

Yesterday I had a chance to meet with young people where they were talking with hibakusha A-bomb survivors. Such an encounter of sharing time together is essential, necessary indeed. In France, not just in France, but for us in France there was a very important commemoration, that is, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the French from Occupation and their liberation from the concentration camps, especially Auschwitz, the Auschwitz concentration camp.

The people who were detained in those concentration camps and researchers who had researched such an important theme have visited the schools to transfer the message of those people. They went to the outskirts of cities and those people themselves have taken the initiative to transfer down their surgeon experience to young people. They know that they have not so many years before they die and they feel the need and urgency to share what they experienced. And I believe that the same thing needs to be done vis-à-vis hibakusha A-bomb survivors. And that should take place not only in Japan, not just in Japan but in the rest of the world, in many local communities around the world.

We make it a rule to have an occasion to take our citizens to Nazi concentration camps. And hibakusha and A-bomb survivors and those people who were detained in concentration camps have been the victims of the deprivation of human dignity. I wouldn't say that all of them are heroes and heroines but they are going to be the heroes and heroines because they had such strong determination to continue to live. And their will to transfer and share the testimonies of experience to others is not at all easy, because when they tell their experience, they relive the suffering and tragedy they once suffered.

Hibakusha A-bomb survivors are not well-known in Europe. For many Europeans, the end of the war was August 5, 1945. August 5 is the end of World War II for many Europeans, but actually the war was drawn to an end in such a tragic manner when A-bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We need to work together to assist and help in such important campaigns and efforts by A-bomb survivors. That is why we are all here.

The Nobel Peace Prize I'm sure is going to be a very important tool to let the people around the world know the message of A-bomb survivors. They are the martyrs, and the people will know through the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a very important intervention. Auschwitz and the Holocaust, which took place in Europe, is now a shared memory for all humankind. However, if you look at the position of hibakusha A-bomb survivors, their experience has not become a shared memory of humankind, and that I believe is a very important and grave situation and a source of concern for all of us who are interested. In order for their experience to become a universal memory around the world, we have to take their experience as a very universal issue.

Daniel Fontaine, Mayor, Aubagne, France: I am the Mayor of Aubagne from France, the City of Aubagne from France. I am the President of AFCDRP, a French organization of Mayors for Peace.

I believe that the issue we are dealing with today in this session is extremely important. When we think about especially peaceful resolutions of conflicts, as a lesson to the discussion so far, for a peaceful resolution of conflicts, in Europe we try to bring this about through the work of memory and remembrance. The work of memory and remembrance of course has a lot to do with education. Some speakers have emphasized the importance of educational activities and campaigns. For instance, concentration camps, the work of memory and remembrance is emphasized in the school setting, as was mentioned by a previous speaker.

Recently, the French government has done a very important job of furthering this work of memorizing and the work of not forgetting. We have this duty of not letting experience fade away. This duty of remembering the past, of course, has an important bearing upon the nuclear weapons abolition. What happened in August 1945, by revisiting what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki we can execute our duty of remembrance and not forgetting.

And also, the NPT Review Conference ended up in failure in New York, as we know. Many of us went to New York on that occasion to support the cause pushed forward by the mayors of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, but again, in New York the United Nations was found to be under the total control of the United States. They let the United States control the whole discussion and debate, and on the final day the United States imposed their opinions and agenda on the rest of the world.

Therefore, I would like to applaud the proposal and suggestion, that is to nominate Hidankyo as a Nobel Peace Prize winner. We should not wait for any approval from the American government. We don't need to do that. Education and the memory of A-bomb survivors and to recognize what they all have gone through, if we recognize their dedication and their experience in this 60th anniversary of the A-bombing and if we recognize their dedication and their suffering, I think we need to pass a resolution at this General Conference to appeal to the rest of the world the need and the legitimacy of nominating hibakusha as a Nobel Peace Prize winner. And to have such a concrete action will let us remember what we are going to achieve in this General Conference. And this evening we are going to have a Drafting Committee Meeting to write up an Appeal out of the General Conference.

I believe that it is very important that with strong resolve we appeal and propose to the Drafting Committee that we insert a sentence that says that this General Conference would like to recommend and nominate hibakusha to the Nobel Peace Prize and I believe that that will allow the rest of the world to understand and share the experience. And I think we will be able to make a step further forward into the future for the nuclear weapons abolition.

On behalf of my French friends of AFCDRP, which has 60 local authority members in France, I would like to put forward this proposal.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Hidankyo should be nominated as a Nobel Laureate. That point should be included in the Appeal in the document of this conference. That should be put forward on the table to the Drafting Committee. That was the proposal raised.

Fortunately, the Chairperson of the plenary session, Prof. Mogami, is now attending this session. This message I am sure was taken by Prof. Mogami and I'm sure to the Drafting Committee which will be held this evening, we will give the thoughts to this proposal.

Unfortunately, I myself am not able to attend this Drafting Committee this evening because of my personal commitment, therefore I will deliver the proposal to Prof. Mogami because Prof. Mogami is with us. Is this acceptable, Prof. Mogami? Will you take this to the Drafting Committee? Prof. Mogami said in Japanese, it was taken note of, he said.

Any other intervention from the floor? To be frank with you it looks like there are a lot of interventions from people who are sitting in the front row, but no voices are heard from the people sitting in the back. I feel very lonely and I feel very unfortunate. Are there any interventions from the people sitting at the back?

Toshiki Mogami, Chairperson of Plenary Session I and II, Professor, International Christian University, Japan: To the French delegates, I have received a lot of wonderful comments from the French delegates and I'm obliged to make a comment, so allow me to make a few comments.

First of all, I forgot your name, sir. The A-bombing. The fact that we were A-bombed, what is the perception of the Japanese? Is there any moral responsibility we are feeling? And are we determined to make a claim or to make a demand? Your proposal is well taken. Unfortunately, few Japanese have taken this as a serious moral issue. This is the general response. There are various reasons for this. For one thing, after the war the perpetrators of the A-bombing became the biggest alliance with Japan, therefore accusing the perpetrator means accusing the United States, so we were no longer allowed to do that because of the alliance between the two countries.

And this was included in the nationwide censorship because of the US-Japan alliance. The fact that we were A-bombed was not able to be demanded for compensation. And we Japanese have discarded our rights to do so.

Unlike Auschwitz, the Nagasaki and Hiroshima issue did not become universal. What do I mean by, did not become universal? In other words, this kind of incident should not occur on anybody, in any place. What was seen in Auschwitz should not occur, not only on Jews, but also the Palestinians and also the other people in the world. So this is what I call universal. Now what about the incident in Hiroshima and Nagasaki? This should not happen in other places in the world, including the United States and France. But this kind of logic was not seen. In other words, Japanese discarded or Japanese were deprived of the right to do so.

We are very much appreciative of the kind words raised by the Japanese delegates. What was lacking was pointed out by the French delegates. After the war, many Japanese tend to forget whatever is inconvenient to them in order to build up our nation.

Who are the ones whom we forgot? People in Hiroshima, people in Nagasaki. And also people in Okinawa. Those are the people whom the Japanese forgot, their miserable environment, their miserable situation. For Japanese to forget what their experiences are, they try to protect their interest in Japan. Therefore, the experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not become as universal as Auschwitz. Many people, all the people talk and know about Auschwitz, but other than Hiroshima and Nagasaki people, few people talk about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, even in Japan. It was very difficult to universalize this incident.

On the other hand, with a very small number of people, friends of France, you are telling us this is the experience which should become universalized, this is the encouragement and we are very much appreciative. I believe this is the admonishment we received from French delegates, from French friends.

With those limitations and restrictions, there are some people who tried their best to universalize this incident. Hidankyo was one, as the Mayor of Aubagne said, nominating Hidankyo to become a Nobel Laureate. This was the encouragement and the further efforts for universalization. And we are very much appreciative for your credit.

To summarize my comments to the French colleagues, because this point was very important for us there are so many things we have to reflect upon in Japan. And to your encouragement I am very much appreciative and grateful. Thank you.

Chairperson: Prof. Mogami, thank you very much. Yes. I see the hand out. Once again, I would like to check the floor.

Brouhon: This discussion is becoming very interesting to me. The comment was made on the Japanese people's attitude vis-à-vis Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to the Holocaust. Belgium friends had to leave here, but he has prepared Mary Norton's documents. Mary Norton has written a lot of things about Japan. Mary Norton is known to many people. According to her book, she said no Japanese talk about Hiroshima, but Hiroshima is seen in many places in the world. Artistic masterpieces, artistic statement, Hiroshima is seen in many corners of the world, Mary Norton said. I believe this argument is very interesting, I said, but still I have to admit this is a

complex issue. Japanese culture and Japanese attributes, I have been studying what they are in the past 30 years.

There is something which is existing although it is not heard. I have started the psychiatric analysis of the human beings, how the human behavior is linked with the human psychology. What's not heard, what's not said, how the incident can have an influence on human behavior. This is the question I continue to seek. Once the A-bomb was used, but never after Nagasaki, but still the threat of nuclear weapons still exists and is very grave.

We have to again deliberate on the threat of nuclear weapons. The reason why there was no use of nuclear weapons after that is, German scholars said about the risk of society, the fact that there was no incident after something means something to us. In other words, although Hiroshima is not talked of a lot in Western society, unlike the Auschwitz case, but in Japan, although it is not voiced out, although it is not talked from mouth to mouth, people know Hiroshima. Once you hear the words Hiroshima and Nagasaki, everybody knows what that is. As one of the tasks of historians, Hiroshima is one instantaneous incident. The Napoleonic wars continued for several months and Napoleon was subjected to many studies. What about Hiroshima? Few publications were made on Hiroshima.

So the ways we try to understand things are so different. This subtle sensitive memory issue is very important, but more efforts should be exerted with the courage and bravery of all the local authorities. We continue to seek remembrance and memories of Hiroshima.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a very important comment and intervention. I saw a hand again. A gentleman.

Hervé Brahmly, President, Seine St. Denis, France: My name is Hervé Brahmly. I am Prefectural Council President of Seine St. Denis. Now the work of remembrance, about conflict as a whole, is part of my work and activities. Please allow me to say a few words about other armed conflicts which took place in Europe and also conflicts which have taken place in many other parts of the world.

Now the work to “remember.” The work of remembrance and memory needs to be done in a continuous manner. City council members have a very important duty to execute. They have to be the vectors of orientation of such a memory and remembrance. We are in an advantageous position, perhaps the best position, to do this work because of the following reason. Like catalysts of energy, we can be engaged in many works. We can work as a catalyst to solicit energy and activities on the part of the citizens. This might be a discussion to be done in the other session, but putting together organizations and the energy of citizens, we can form a public forum of space or public space through which we disseminate the message of peace to the rest of the world. Then to disseminate the message for peace itself is extremely essential.

As I came to Hiroshima, I came with young people, actually members of the youth organizations, and young people in our city and province came to Hiroshima with me. And we hope that they will become the Peace Messengers. Especially when they

come to Hiroshima and meet with young people from other cities, I hope that they will have a very good encounter and meetings with young people from other cities around the world. I had a chance to attend a meeting nearby this conference hall. And young people from France and Japan and other countries were assembling in a very big room and they were having a very active discussion with each other.

So what we have to do, I believe, is as follows and that is to use the technology and tools of communication or information sharing. I say this because A-bomb survivors or those who were put in Nazi concentration camps can share their experience and testimonies with the rest of the world.

So we should ask engineers or mechanics to produce very good film or videotape as educational materials which can be used to enlighten young people around the world. And this is where we need to execute our duty. And that's exactly what I would like to do upon my return to Seine St. Denis. We would like to put a public place where we install personal computers and we of course can use various media, for instance videotape for computers. We would like to use such technologies and let young people use such information technology.

Already there are very good educational materials, such as cartoons and comic books, and of course they can be used as good educational materials effectively. By so doing, we might be able to make step forward from just remembering what happened but to awareness-raising. And such educational materials will be a very effective tool to shift from remembering to concrete action. Then there are still people who have survived the Nazi Holocaust and concentration camps, and I hope that young people will have little encounters and an opportunity to meet with those survivors. And I also believe that a lot of people can come to our city from the rest of the world.

Actually, we have residents from about 100 different countries living in our city. And those are people from different cultural backgrounds. Of course they can also use such information and engineering technology to disseminate new experience and information. As a Councilor, I suggest that each local authority use information and new technology to disseminate information and awareness about peace and disarmament needs, especially to young people.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for an intervention. Not just Japanese young people, but toward young people around the world, sharing experience of the A-bomb survivors is emphasized as a very important task to be done and continued.

When it comes to Japanese young people, except for those who live in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, those Japanese young people do not have many opportunities to know about hibakusha survivors unless they come and visit Hiroshima or Nagasaki as their school trips. So it is extremely important task for us to consider what other ways we can use to disseminate the experience among Japanese young people.

Now is there anyone who requests the floor now?

Koichi Otani, Coordinator of Zuumod, Japan: About Mongolia, allow me to make an additional explanation because the presentation was made in Mongolian. I am a coordinator. My name is Otani. The document is translated into Japanese. We

are very sorry we are not able to prepare the English version for the presentation. From Zuunmod of Mongolia, we have the Mayor attending here. Three cities are the members of this organization. Since 1993, two cities have joined as members. And for this year, Zuunmod, one city, has become a participant in this conference, in this 6th Mayors for Peace General Conference.

And also, in the series of the conferences of Mayors for Peace, this is the very first time for a Mongolian delegate to take the floor. Usually, they use the Mongolian language, and for the local authority of Mayors it is very difficult to speak in either English or French. That's why he has delivered in Mongolian.

An A-bomb in August 1945, Mongolia was the government which had given the quick assistance to orphans. Because the country is a socialist nation there was no international relationship with Japan, and when there was the A-bombing convention in 1957 in August, Mongolian attended that meeting to communicate the A-bomb message.

The size of the Mongolia is four times larger than that of Japan and the population is 2.5 million, and we have as many as 25 million heads of animals, such as cows and sheep. If there is any relation to weapons, not only human beings but also the animals are not able to live.

From Russia in the northern part and China in the southern part, it is surrounded. If there is the use of a nuclear weapon there is the threat of irradiation. And we have appealed for the nuclear-free zone in Central Asia to the United Nations. It is very important to secure the security in Northeast Asia in this Central Asia, so having the delegates from Mongolia is quite important for this conference. Thank you very much for listening.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Mongolia is situated in a very important position and a nuclear weapons-free zone is very important to be created in this region. Is there any other person who would like to take the floor at this juncture? If not, allow me to make some wrap-up for a few minutes.

This concurrent session was titled as Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts, and I thought that the discussion might concentrate on peaceful resolutions of conflicts among the participants. Therefore, the latter part, A-bomb Survivors' Message, I wasn't quite sure how much interest we would be able to draw from the participants.

But to give you the conclusion, most of the statements were focused on the A-bomb activities and messages surrounding Hidankyo. And also, there was the proposal to make the recommendation to nominate Hidankyo for the Nobel Laureate, because by doing so, A-bombing facts can be shared as the memory common to all human beings. And this can be accepted and received as the legacy of all humankind.

And those are some of the important points. I did not give thoughts during the past. As one of the scholars who is engaged in peace studies, I will continue to be engaged in the peace movement.

About the proposal on the recommendation of Hidankyo to become the Nobel Laureate, I will be announcing this publicly in Japan so that we will be able to do so in the future.

I don't know whether my summation was sufficient. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this conference. Thank you very much. The meeting is adjourned.