

The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Session II

Future Initiatives of 2020 Vision Campaign

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Coordinator: Yasuyoshi Komizo

Chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

Explanation of the Present Situation and Future Development of the 2020 Vision Campaign:

Thore Vestby

Mayor of Frogn, Norway

Jasminka Bajlo

Mayor's Counselor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia

Aaron Tovish

Executive Advisor, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation;
International Director, International Campaign Secretariat, Mayors for
Peace 2020 Vision Campaign

Jacqueline Cabasso

Executive Advisor, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; Mayors for
Peace North American Coordinator, USA

Pol D'Huyvetter

Executive Advisor, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; Director,
International Campaign Secretariat, Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision
Campaign

Dominique Dehaene

Alderman of Ypres City Council, Belgium

Mark Hackett

Councillor of Manchester City Council, UK

Presentation of Views:

Kenji Kitahashi

Mayor of Kitakyushu, Japan

Hajime Mikami

Mayor of Kosai City, Japan

Professor Eugen Eichhorn

Beuth Hochschule für Technik Berlin, University of Applied Science
“Ten Years of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses”

Thomas Mathew

2020 Vision Campaigner, India

Coordinator: Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Japan

Good morning distinguished mayors and ladies and gentlemen. My name is Yasuyoshi Komizo, chairperson of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. I am serving as coordinator of Session II. Session II composes of two parts. The first part is focusing on the theme of future initiatives of 2020 Vision Campaign and talks about the history and present situation and future of this campaign by activists and association carrying forward this campaign. This is the first part. The members are on the stage already. After this first part, we will invite some of the mayors and people who are engaging on this campaign so it is kind of a case study. That is the idea. Targets set in the 2020 vision, which are very ambitious, but this actually reflects the sincere wishes of aging *hibakusha*, they have been working. And it is a long time already. I think I would like to give the chance for the people to speak. I just make it very short. I will just skip what I originally wanted to speak. I would like to ask the mayor of Frogn, Mr. Thore Vestby, to serve as the moderator. Mayor Vestby, please. The floor is yours for 55 minutes.

Mr. Thore Vestby, Mayor of Frogn, Norway

Thank you Mr. Chairman for this introduction. In this session, we will review the history of the 2020 Vision Campaign and look at its future. We hope in doing so to give you a good sense of the momentum that it is building and if you are not involved yet, to inspire you to join in. We will tell you a story, a lot of people up here, and I will introduce to you first Jasminka Bajlo, vice chair of the board of directors in the campaign association. That is you. And Aaron Tovish – probably know him now or all the people know – he is an international campaign director and executive advisor. Jacqi Cabasso and Pol D’Huyvetter. They are coordinators of North American and Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively. They will give you, obviously, a lot of information about what has been going on for 10 years now. So please, Jasminka, you start off?

Ms. Jasminka Bajlo, Mayor’s Counselor of Biograd na Moru, Croatia

Thank you Mayor Vestby and good continuing session to you all. I hope you find it interesting. I will start with as Chairman Komizo pointed out. This year we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the 2020 Vision Campaign. The history portion will be handled in two parts. The first eight years benefitted of the dedicated leadership of Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba and the Ypres Mayor Luc Dehaene. The recent years have witnessed the breakthroughs on several fronts under the new leadership of Mayor Matsui and Dehaene from Ypres. We tell the history through the activities of our top

leadership as a way of expressing our gratitude to the former leaders and welcoming the new ones. But of course these leaders have not worked alone. Many of you here today have worked and are working as part of the campaign leadership. We also thank you. The floor is yours.

Mr. Aaron Tovish, Executive Advisor, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; International Director, International Campaign Secretariat, Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign

Just over 10 years ago, I was among the NGO representatives making presentations to the government delegates to the non-proliferation treaty, or NPT preparatory committee. We were lined up at a table in much the same way as we are here. When I finish my rather technical presentation, it was Mayor Akiba's turn to speak as the last speaker. His announcement that he intended to mobilize the cities of the world for nuclear abolition was cheered not only by the NGOs but also the government delegates. Jacqi Cabasso and I, and other civil society leaders rose to Mayor Akiba's challenge to design a campaign plan which would be put to the executive conference of Mayors for Peace in Manchester later that year. It was in Manchester that the 2020 Vision of ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the year 2020 was first articulated. The vision and the plan were adopted.

Ms. Jacqueline Cabasso, Executive Advisor, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; Mayors for Peace North American Coordinator, USA

Aaron and I were at the 2nd Nagasaki Global Citizens Assembly to abolish nuclear weapons in late 2003 when the emergency campaign, as it was called then, was publicly launched and enthusiastically received. In launching this campaign, Mayors for Peace did humanity an important service by setting a firm and realistic deadline for the global elimination of nuclear weapons. The deadline, set to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was intended to convey the urgency of the need to abolish nuclear weapons, not the eventual or ultimate way the goal of nuclear abolition is usually described by national governments.

Mr. Tovish

The first objective of the campaign was to return to the NPT preparatory committee the following year with an impressive mayoral delegation. Mayor Akiba led the group, which included among others the mayor of Sarajevo, and the vice mayors of London and Tel Aviv. In the NGO presentation, five mayors spoke, including Mayor Akiba who spoke last. He showed the delegates partially melted eyeglasses found among the ashes

of Hiroshima. He said the last thing seen through these distorted lenses was the blinding flash of the atomic bomb. This represents the distorted fearful world we have lived in ever since. Now we have another clear vision, the 2020 Vision of a nuclear weapon free world.

Mr. Pol D'Huyvetter, Executive Advisor, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; Director, International Campaign Secretariat, Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign

Inspired by the events with Mayor Akiba in Geneva at the NPT PrepCom in 2003, the organization I worked for in Belgium, Friends of the Earth, joined forces with the six Mayors for Peace members in Belgium to organize the Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration. With Ypres hosting and Mayor Dehaene inviting, over 50 Belgian mayors took part in the event with the *hibakusha* we heard yesterday Mr. Keijiro Matsushima. The potential for greater accomplishments in Belgium was evident.

Ms. Cabasso

In 2004, the US Conference of Mayors, led by Akron Mayor Donald Plusquellic, unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the US government to support the commencement of negotiations and the 2020 Vision. At its winter meeting in 2005, Mayor Akiba was able to report to the American mayors that this resolution had been made the core of an international petition through which hundreds of mayors around the world were calling upon their national leaders to use the NPT Review Conference to advance the 2020 Vision. The Mayors for Peace presence at the 2005 NPT Review Conference was by far the largest of any of the NGOs. At our invitation, Yoko Ono took part in a special NGO event held in the Great Hall of the General Assembly, as did Mayor Akiba and Pol as a civil society representative.

Mr. D'Huyvetter

Another early objective of the campaign was to increase membership dramatically. In Belgium with leadership from Mayor Dehaene, a cross party approach was used. When Belgian mayors saw that this was not a partisan issue, they joined in droves. With this boost we were able to announce before the NPT Review Conference ended that globally, the 1,000th city had affiliated with Mayors for Peace. In less than two years, with the help of civil society, especially the Abolition 2000 Global Network to eliminate nuclear weapons, more cities had joined Mayors for Peace than in the previous 20 years. From 2004-2011, the small country of Belgium had more members than any other country in the world. The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, the first since the beginning

of the emergency campaign, readopted to the 2020 Vision Campaign. The delegates called for the establishment of a campaign secretariat in Europe. Mayor Dehaene indicated that Ypres would be willing to host it. Upon return to Ypres, the mayor immediately began making preparations to house the secretariat in the historic city hall.

Mr. Tovish

Back in Geneva I was religiously attending the conference on disarmament every Thursday morning despite the fact that it had been going nowhere for nine years. After the failure of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, I proposed to a group of diplomats from several countries that a UN General Assembly, mandated subcommittee, or working group should be established to get the whole diplomatic community back to work in Geneva. They brought this idea to New York where it encountered vociferous opposition from the nuclear weapon states. The group withdrew the proposal but underscored their right to revive it if the situation in Geneva did not improve.

Ms. Cabasso

Civil society had spearheaded an international effort in the first half of the 1990s to get the International Court of Justice to issue an advisory opinion on the legality of threat or use of nuclear weapons. In 1996, the court, the judicial branch of the UN, and the highest court in the world on questions of international law issued an authoritative interpretation of article six of the NPT when it unanimously found that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all of its aspects under strict and effective international control. Ten years on, there was a clear good faith deficit and Mayors Akiba and Dehaene led a delegation of mayors from around the world to the Peace Palace in The Hague to underscore this problem and to proclaim cities are not targets.

Mr. Tovish

After public meetings in the city halls of The Hague and Brussels, the delegates went to Ypres for the official opening of the campaign secretariat. A few months later I turned the direction of the office over to Paul. Under Belgian law, being a subcommittee of the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference wasn't enough to conduct business in Belgium and particularly to raise funds from abroad. We needed to get properly established.

Mr. D'Huyvetter

Meanwhile, the Belgian recruiting success was rolled out in other European countries. By early 2007, we reached the goal of 2020 Mayors for Peace in support of the 2020 Vision. Our claim to speak on behalf of cities worldwide was becoming irrefutable.

Mr. Tovish

As the five yearly NPT Review Process started up again, it looked like the conference on disarmament might actually be headed back to work. Mayor Akiba used his address to the NPT Preparatory Committee meeting in Vienna to urge heads of government to step in and make sure this moment was not lost. Again, the reception was very positive but the appeal was to no avail. The CD remained deadlocked. Civil society however was not sleeping. While in Vienna, Mayors for Peace joined with the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and other NGOs in launching the International Campaign against Nuclear Weapons.

Mr. D'Huyvetter

In early 2007, Mayor Dehaene launched the fundraising pilot project soliciting donations from all Belgian member cities of Mayors for Peace and getting a very positive response. Later this year, Mayor Leonardo Domenici hosted the executive conference in the historic Palazzo Vecchio of Florence. It was agreed there to establish the 2020 Vision Campaign Association in Belgium. Our work has been governed by its statutes ever since. This more than doubled the intensiveness of our decision making by holding two board meetings and a general meeting every year. The executive conference empowered the association to solicit funds from the membership as a whole using the model developed in Belgium. The 2020 Vision Campaign Association now steadily raises from cities worldwide over 100,000 euros a year. Hiroshima and Nagasaki continue to contribute generously to the campaign in the form of the executive advisors, salaries, and travel costs.

Mr. Tovish

Mayors for Peace unveiled at Hiroshima Nagasaki Procol at the Geneva meeting of the NPT Preparatory Committee. It was meant to provide a tool for civil society and governments to together confront the Bush administration's relentlessly anti-multilateral policies designed for adoption either by the 2020 Review Conference or failing that as an amendment to the NPT, the protocol attracted a lot of attention.

Mr. D'Huyvetter

Mayor Dehaene hosted the first general meeting of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association on the 19th Anniversary of the WWI armistice. On this day there was a massive turnout for the last post ceremony The Mayors for Peace allegation led by Mayor Akiba was honored to be selected to place memorials at Menin Gate. Mayor Dehaene invited all the mayors to return to Ypres for the 100th anniversary of the first gas attack in upcoming April 2015.

Ms. Cabasso

Plans we had developed to confront the anticipated anti-multilateralism of a potential new republic and administration in the US had to be reevaluated when the Democrats took the White House and President Obama reembraced multilateralism in his Prague speech. While some of us were skeptical, hope generated by the Prague speech took the wind out of the sails of the Hiroshima Nagasaki protocol. The last NPT Preparatory Committee meeting went smoothly and governments expressed optimism about the prospects for the 2010 NPT Review.

Mr. D'Huyvetter

The Seventh General Conference met in Nagasaki and was hosted by the new Mayor Taue. A key decision was taken to end the restriction of Japanese membership to just Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Thanks to the 2020 Vision Campaign, membership drives all over the world, membership was fast approaching 3,000 cities so there was no danger that even a flood of Japanese cities could alter the international character of the organization, and what a flood followed. Japan displaced Belgium as number one in membership by 2011. A further executive conference decision was that I would be assigned to develop Mayors for Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean. The continent which has demonstrated historic leadership to free the world of nuclear weapons.

Ms. Cabasso

I was the chief organizer of the large International Civil Society conference in March that preceded the 2010 NPT Review Conference in New York. The conference for a nuclear free, peaceful, just, and sustainable world was addressed by Mayor Akiba and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. A Mayors for Peace workshop was standing room only. On the eve of the NPT Review Conference, Mayors Akiba, Taue, and Dehaene led a large mayoral contingent in a march to the UN following directly behind a delegation of *hibakusha* and Nagasaki survivors. Several mayors spoke at the rally in Times Square, New York. The Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign was also the beneficiary of a

fund raising event held in the home of John Catsimatidis, a current candidate for mayor of New York City. We were honored by the presence and words of Yoko Ono and Michael Douglas. It was the dream of a lifetime come true for me to meet and escort Yoko Ono at that event.

Mr. Tovish

While certainly a success in comparison with the fiasco of 2005, the 2010 NPT Review Conference narrowly missed being truly historic. The committee responsible for the disarmament pillar of the NPT had been working on a draft of action points that included empowering the UN Secretary General to convene an intergovernmental road map conference to work out the best way to establish a nuclear weapon free world. At the 11th hour, all of the nuclear weapon states demanded that that point be removed. Holding hostage the headway made on many other action points, they got their way.

Ms. Cabasso

Mayors for Peace and its civil society allies were determined not to get caught like that again, even if it meant having to go outside the NPT and UN framework. In July, Mayor Akiba convened a conference in Hiroshima which called for the convening of a special high level conference on nuclear abolition.

Mr. D'Huyvetter

With a timely visit by Mayor Akiba to Buenos Aires in Argentina, I was able to promote major membership growth in Latin America. We also were able to establish agreements of cooperation with FLACMA, the Regional Mayor Association for Latin America and the Caribbean and with several national associations. Through lobbying, governments were being made aware that their mayors wanted a more proactive approach to eliminating the nuclear threat.

Mr. Tovish

No history of this early period would be complete without mentioning the ever-strengthening relationship between Mayors for Peace and the United Nations. Secretary General Kofi Annan addressed the 2005 first Mayors Conference at the United Nations. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon addressed the second in 2010, and later that year endorsed the 2020 Vision as the perfect vision in connection with the first address by a UN Secretary General here in Hiroshima at the commemoration.

Ms. Cabasso

Another high point was the inauguration of a permanent Mayors for Peace exhibit at United Nations headquarters in New York. The exhibit displays stacks of Mayors for Peace Cities are not Targets petitions, representing over 1 million signatures. It is the first ever civil society initiative to be the subject of a permanent UN exhibit. It was my honor to speak at the opening on behalf of Mayor Akiba who could not be there. Addressing a packed audience of diplomats, civil society organizations, media, and visiting *hibakusha*, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon described the exhibit opening as a landmark occasion adding, “These 1 million signatures demanding an end to the nuclear threat are the voice of the world’s people. This movement brings together mayors and mothers, likeminded citizens and peace groups. They all understand that nuclear weapons make us less safe, not more.”

Ms. Bajlo

Mayor Akiba decided in early 2011 not to seek election to a fourth term. He was succeeded in April by Mayor Kazumi Matsui. The 2020 Vision Campaign decided to make a final push for 5,000 members as a way of welcoming in the new mayor in time for his first peace declaration on August 6, 2011. That day, Mayor Matsui was able to claim the network represented nearly a billion people. But the announcement of the 5,000 milestone had to wait until the International Day of Peace, 21 September. Mayor Dehaene retired at the end of 2012 after three terms in office. He was succeeded in January 2013 by Mayor Jan Durnez. By then, all three of the international avenues for progress that will be presented next had been scheduled on the 2013 calendar. In his farewell preface to the 2013 process report, Mayor Dehaene said, “Retirement from the board is made easier for me by the knowledge that our efforts are at last beginning to bear fruit. Since the Ypres campaign secretariat was established, we have worked hard to try to transform Mayors for Peace into an impressive voice for nuclear abolition.” In last year’s report, we celebrated the growth of Mayors for Peace membership to over 5,000 cities, representing around 1 billion people. Since new governments can make such a claim, they take note of what we have to say. And now, some are taking action.

Mr. Vestby

Mayors for Peace has, since its founding by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1982, been a humanitarian organization. First and foremost, cities join out of human solidarity with the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, especially survivors of 1945. This is captured very well in the main theme of our general conference. Out of deep concern for the safety of his or her citizens, no mayor can be complacent about the threat that nuclear weapons post to cities. Through more activities like the ones in the

proposed action plan, we will reinforce the worldwide drive to ban and abolish these weapons of utter terror. Cities preventing nuclear war is not just the immediate mass destruction in cities. We now know that the firestorm that incinerated Hiroshima on 6 August released 10 times more energy than the initial flash and blast of the atomic detonation. That energy mainly in a form of intensive heat lifted the smoke and soot of the firestorm high up in the atmosphere, much higher than the initial mushroom cloud. Modern nuclear weapons exploded over modern metropolises with greater quantities of smoke and soot.

In May 2011, the 2020 Vision Campaign with supporters from the Swiss government held a seminar in Geneva so the diplomats there could be fully informed of the global consequences of nuclear war. The two top experts in the fields spelled out the environmental and humanitarian impact of both the limited nuclear war and one in which all US and Russian weapons kept on alert are fired. The limited scenario ends after a decade in which the world's population suffers a loss of around a billion souls. In the US-Russia exchange scenario, it is unlike even a billion people could survive. Civilization surely wouldn't. No one can escape these consequences. Whether armed with nuclear weapons or unarmed. But more to the point, no one has the right to impose such risk upon humanity.

After presiding over this first executive conference in Granollers in 2011, Mayor Matsui joined by Mayor Taue traveled to Geneva for a meeting with the president of the International Red Cross. They initiated what has become an increasing close coordination between these two great organizations. Later in 2011, the Red Cross adopted a resolution condemning any use of nuclear weapons and dedicating itself to work for their early abolition. I cooperate regularly with the Norwegian Red Cross. First with Mayor Dehaene and a group of mayors, and then as a group of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, I have twice visited the nuclear weapon testing grounds of the former Soviets, in what is now Kazakhstan. We saw with our own eyes the humanitarian disaster wrought on people of the region and at the meeting with President Nazarbayev, the dedication that this national tragedy has instilled in their leaders to press for the establishment of not just a nuclear weapon free central Asia but a nuclear weapon free world. Keep in mind they are just tests. No cities flattened or burned. I suppose for that we can be grateful. As a Norwegian, I am very proud that my government stepped forward by bringing the humanitarian environment message to the attention of all governments. In March of this year, the foreign minister has been but either hosted a conference attended by representatives of 127 governments and many

civil society organizations, including of course Mayors for Peace. His concluding remarks were as straightforward as they were simple. The consequences of nuclear weapons war are far too great for societies to meaningfully mitigate. We are taking risks for which we cannot afford the consequences.

Other topics, as the topic was not fully exhausted by the Oslo conference, Mexico has offered to hold the follow-up conference. I was in Mexico recently with Pol to encourage our colleagues in Mexico to support their government's stance and to learn from the foreign ministry how we can help to globally promote the February 2014 meeting. You saw, I hope, the action alert for Oslo including guidance in a letter from Mayor Matsui. Please be on the lookout for a new action alert for Mexico. I would also encourage you to work with a civil society in your city and country, particularly ICAN or an Abolition 2000 affiliated organization. They are producing valuable information and lively activities to educate the public and keep pressure on governments. As the historical sketch indicated, it is the combination of city hall and citizens, which makes the great achievements possible.

Mr. Tovish

That was the road to Oslo. I will talk about the road to Geneva. As mentioned in the historical sketch, an effort to put the diplomats to work in Geneva fell short of the mark in 2005, but these diplomats have since lived up to their promise to revive the effort. It took some prodding. In 2011, I began talking about the possibility in Vienna and Geneva with diplomats and civil society representatives. An effort to bring up the matter at the UN General Assembly got under way at the last minute. A resolution was tabled at the first committee but not brought to a vote. The concern was that without sufficient lead time, the vote might be insufficiently impressive. A year later, proper time was devoted to preparing for a vote and the results were more than adequate. It is common with groundbreaking initiatives that a new resolution doesn't necessarily get the same voting pattern where you get geopolitical blocks all voting one way or another. In this case, all of the major geopolitical groups were sort of split down the middle. But fortunately, a majority are in support of this resolution.

A Mayors for Peace action alert was issued in support of the resolution and the resolution was adopted for the convening of what is now called an open ended working group. That group began its work this May and we issued a second action alert calling on people to promote attendance at the meeting. Unlike most other governmental disarmament forums, this working group is very open to the input of non-governmental

representatives. I for example spoke on each of the first two days of the conference and our representatives in Geneva, Mr. Esteban Ramirez, has since intervened on two other occasions. Our consistent message is for government delegations to find common ground to take forward negotiations on the establishment of a nuclear weapon free world, and that message is being well received. Mayor Matsui and Mayor Dehaene have stepped in with letters to, respectively, the Geneva ambassadors and the heads of government of over 150 countries. They have encouraged engagement in and boldness within the working group. The group will meet for the last two weeks of August, starting on the 19th. If you have not yet made use of the action alert on this topic, there is still time to do so.

Mr. D'Huyvetter

And after we heard about the road to Oslo and Mexico and the road to Geneva, I will talk about the road to New York. As mentioned in the historical sketch in July 2010, the Mayors for Peace conference came out strongly in favor of the convening of a special disarmament conference. Later that year, I attended a regional conference in Montevideo on Latin America's role and international security at especially the UN Secretary General five point plan for nuclear disarmament. During a smoke break, I had a chance to chat at length with Uruguay's Ambassador to the United Nations. Ambassador Jose Luis Cancela. It wasn't long before he was in dialogue with all of our executive advisors and we assisted him in hosting a luncheon session in how to organize a special disarmament conference. About a dozen independent minded countries attended. This was in January 2011 in New York.

A further meeting was held at the United Nations. Over 2 dozen countries were involved as well as the UN Secretary General's High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ambassador Sergio Duarte. But some of the Western participants pushed for getting the nuclear weapon states involved. Our private advice was that this would be premature, and indeed Ambassador Cancela's effort to bring them into the process sapped the momentum of the initiative. But the seeds had been sown and soon found new fertile ground. Under Indonesia's leadership, the nonaligned movement took up the issue in their Bali meeting. Cuba brought up the results in the context of the founding meeting of the Community of Latin American Caribbean States (CELAC) in Caracas which issued a special community at the head of governments' level on the total elimination of nuclear weapons. From there it went back the NAM Summit in Tehran for endorsement by even more heads of government. This gave Indonesia, which coordinates disarmament policy for the NAM, the authority it needed to move ahead with the UN

resolution, calling for a special session of the General Assembly devoted entirely to nuclear disarmament. And not surprisingly, the 2020 Vision Campaign issued an action alert supporting the resolution to the effect, noting in particular the resolution's call for participation at the highest level, a World Summit, the first ever on nuclear disarmament.

The presidents' and chairmen's letters which Aaron has referred to also of course urge highest level participation in the World Summit. When you contact your head of government, he or she will have heard from Mayor Matsui. So please use that letter as a point of reference for your own communications. Presidents may be used to hearing from other presidents, even of non-governmental organizations. But on this issue – they rarely hear from a local mayor – surprise them. You have a stake in this issue and together we can and will have a positive impact.

Ms. Cabasso

So after 10 years of campaigning, we have arrived at these 3 political destinations in Oslo, Geneva, and soon New York, all in the same year, making 2013 something of a perfect storm on the nuclear abolition front. The challenge ahead of us is to ensure that the situation continues to develop in 2014 and beyond. It is not clear where the humanitarian issue will be taken after Mexico. There is no commitment at this point to extend the Open-ended Working Group's mandate in 2014. And will heads of government follow through on the commitments they make at the high level meeting?

Mr. Tovish

The essential ingredient for sustained progress is a good faith commitment to pursue negotiations. That is to get them started and then drive them to a conclusion as the International Court of Justice underscored. It does not bode well when the nuclear weapon states were nowhere to be found in Oslo or in Geneva. Indeed they labeled these exercises distractions. When it comes to good faith, they should not be so quick to cast dispersions. They would do better to engage in multilateral discussions whenever the opportunity arises. There is the World Summit yet to come. No country voted against it in the General Assembly but four abstentions came from the nuclear weapon states. We are not alone in hoping this will not lead to low level representation from the United States, Russia, Britain, and France. Already, thanks to Jacqi's efforts with our US members, the US Conference of Mayors has called on President Obama to take part in the summit. As Pol said, "There is time for you to check whether your heads of government will be going and to urge that course of action on them." Through action

alerts, representation, and delegations, the 2020 Vision Campaign will do its utmost to ensure momentum is sustained on all three of these avenues. As the action plan describes, we will continue to monitor and lobby these key avenues for progress as well and we cannot afford to ignore it, the NPT Review Process.

One group mentioned in the action plan, but not mentioned so far, is the non-proliferation and disarmament initiative. This foreign minister level group was already active prior to the 2010 NPT Review Conference and can rightly claim some credit for the disarmament action points agreed upon there. Mayor Akiba was invited to consult with them in Moscow in 2009 and encouraged them to come to Hiroshima. Mayor Matsui announced in his peace declaration last August that they will in fact hold a session in Hiroshima next year, probably in April. Since the 2010 Review Conference, the NPDI ministers have been focused on ensuring follow-through on the action plan. Of course follow through must never be taken for granted and good faith demands it. But the 2015 Review Conference will also need to look forward, and by 2014, NPDI will need to focus on the future as well. We offer the 2020 Vision as a reference point in their considerations. Other good reference points are the UN Secretary General's five point plan, the neglected roadmap proposal from 2010, and whatever recommendations may emerge from the open ended working group. All of the NPDI countries are participating in the open ended working group. Given the Hiroshima venue, expectations will be that they will advance an overarching approach to the establishment of a nuclear weapon free world.

Ms. Cabasso

The atomic bomb survivors, the *hibakusha*, have worked tirelessly to warn the world that it is either us or the bomb, one has to go. They have contributed enough to reinforce the moral deterrent to nuclear weapon use. Their goal of a nuclear weapons free world is still on the horizon. Inevitably they are reaching the ends of their lives. Here I would like to pause to remember Senji Yamaguchi, a pioneering leader of the *hibakusha* movement who recently passed. Most of the survivors today were mere children in 1945. Could it be that in the changing demographics of the *hibakusha* there is a new opportunity for getting their peace message out more widely than ever before? The victimization of children in wars begun by adults is widely condemned. Add on to that the psychological horror for a child, seeing his or her entire world blasted to bits and consumed in an inferno, taking with it family, school mates, and teachers makes it simply intolerable. Every parent wants to protect his or her child from such a living hell. We would like to present you with the idea for an image that we feel captures the

essence of this truth. Please keep in mind that this is only a preliminary graphic. On the right is silhouette of an elderly female survivor. To the left is a mother standing behind her daughter who is now the age of the *hibakusha* was in 1945. The *hibakusha* is saying to the mother very simply, “I was her age.”

One can imagine the thoughts in the mother’s mind and that is when thinking then oneself. This must never happen to my child, it should not happen to any child. So how can we make the fullest, most dignified use of this powerful emotive tool. Our proposal is of course open for modification and will no doubt evolve. Peace Boat has circled the world about 80 times on several of those cruises. In recent years, they have had *hibakusha* on board. At ports of call around the world, events have been arranged where the *hibakusha* have given witness to their suffering and aspirations. In some of those ports, city hall and the mayor have become involved. For the “I was her age” world tour, we aimed to have the mayor and city government in or near ports take responsibility for hosting the *hibakusha* and organizing special events that bring them into contact with the parents and children in their city. The key event will be a procession of *hibakusha* with parents and children of the age they were in 1945. Each city will stage the procession so it gets the maximum media coverage in their city and country.

We are in discussions now with the Peace Boat about the best timing for the world tour. A couple of cities have already expressed interest in principle in hosting the *hibakusha*. If you think your city could do a proper job of it, please be sure to let us know. Please note to be a port of call, your city does not literally have to be a port. If there is a port nearby and you can arrange comfortable transport to your city, that is good enough. In short, a large portion of Mayors for Peace member cities are potential hosts. How about you?

The film, we have also begun discussions with film producers about making a movie about the world tour. If the film can be completed well before August 2015, it should not be hard to promote it for screenings and broadcasts on the 70th anniversaries of the bombings. This would give it the potential to reach many millions of people. For the cities directly involved in the world tour, this film would give them outstanding international exposure as a peace city. Please consider this a perfectly legitimate incentive for getting involved in the “I was her age” project right away.

Mr. Dominique Dehaene, Alderman of Ypres City Council, Belgium

Good morning. Please allow me to introduce myself. First, my name is Sir Dominique Dehaene. I am the head of delegation for Ypres this year. As my father Luc Dehaene as Mayor of Ypres, I stepped up as deputy mayor. It is an honor for me to be representing Ypres of our new mayor, Jan Durnez, at the upcoming board of directors meeting. And in this way, taking up the continued efforts of our city to the next generation. In 2015, the world will remember the first use of gas as a weapon of mass destruction in modern warfare on April 22, 1915, in Ypres Salient. From then on, war would never be the same again.

Since WWI, war has no longer been a confrontation between or amongst armies. Since then, just being present on a certain spot where such weapons were used in the past or are still being used was enough to be killed, be one soldier, mother, child. Since then, war and used weapons did not make any distinction between soldiers and civilians. The use of weapons of mass destruction continued after Ypres. Nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Gas was used in Halabja 25 years ago, and even today there are incidences of the use of poisonous gas in the Syrian conflict. And yes, once more we can add the name of a city Aleppo, which I understand was the hometown of Jacqi's grandfather so everything is connected. It must be clear that when weapons of mass destruction are or were used, cities are the targets to cause mass casualties, one must attack where or near where people are massed. I think that we all, as mayors or representatives of cities, must then together in April 2015 speak up loudly and clearly. A century of weapons of mass destruction is far too long. It is time for an eternity without the use of them. It is up to us to make clear for the nations that will come together some days after the commemoration for the NPT Review Conference that we are not ready to wait for a centennial commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for a world without nuclear weapons.

We will not allow cities to be possible targets for whatever use for WMD for another 30 years. The time to start a full abolition of nuclear weapons is now. The city of Ypres is ready to organize after the ceremonial remembrance on April 22, an international conference in which we would like to cover what has happened during the last century according to the use of weapons of mass destruction and war scarred cities generally. In the last 100 years, conventional bombardment of cities has taken a huge toll and caused widespread destruction to the cities that the mayor and citizens have worked so hard to build and make prosper. But at least as important will be the challenge for the future. What has to happen to avoid that weapons of mass destruction ever will be used again and what might be the consequences of the use of it. What has to be done to make the

international community understand that abolition is the only way to prevent the world from a possible nuclear winter or nuclear famine. As long as cities are considered fair game in warfare, they will be turned into battlegrounds and be targeted for WMD use. We have to ensure that the legal protection afforded to civilians by international humanitarian law and rules are applied systematically to cities. Mayors must become a voice stronger than the generals, rejecting outright the notion that populated areas are a legitimate target for the use of explosive or incendiary force. Upholding an advancing discrepancy bill will not be easy. But if we can succeed, we will have changed the face of war. Perhaps driving home that point that war is probably the stupidest way imaginable for settling disputes.

Ms. Bajlo

Let me also stress how important civil society engagement with Mayors for Peace and the 2020 Vision Campaign has been in achieving impressive results. This was most evident in membership drives. To some extent, NGO enthusiasm for Mayors for Peace was the new kid of the block phenomenon and truth be told, 10 years on, we are no longer new or kids. But that does not mean that a new exciting project could not rekindle widespread civil society interest in Mayors for Peace. But unlike membership affiliation, the project should not be a one shot thing for cities. It should be a commitment to regular activity. To be impressive, the project should capitalize on the global span of Mayors for Peace. Our vast network of cities is a tremendous asset. We are one among only a few international organizations in this field with the potential to do something truly global.

In tune with our acknowledged need to move from quantity to quality, the project should not aim to engage all 5,700 plus cities, an impossibility anyway. Rather, it should aim to interact intensively with several hundred cities in the coming years. With these considerations in mind, the 2020 Vision Campaign proposes to launch a cities World Peace Calendar. The initial aim should be to be able to announce on April 22, 2015, in Ypres, that there will be a peace event and at least one city somewhere in the world on each of the next 365 days. If this achievement sparked even wider interest, consideration could then be given to including more than one city a day in different parts of the world. Most people possess the skills needed to propose to their city that it adopt a day and have an event. Indeed, there are peace or disarmament events at least once a year in most cities.

The challenge is to involve city hall and embed the event in the World Peace Calendar, adding a global dimension to this event. The cities are not target themes already implicitly commemorated in many cities that have felt the scourge of war. We could get a good start at filling the calendar by gathering information about such cities and events as already mentioned by Dominique. But there should also be a broad outreach so that no city or activist feels excluded. This city's global peace calendar should not be done by Mayors for Peace alone that with just, independent, and local activists, we should gain the endorsement and involvement of the IPB, the Abolition 2000 Network, ICAN, Masterpiece, and where possible, the Red Cross. These groups should help to ensure that a cities' peace day theme was closely related to nuclear disarmament. We should encourage our cities to have in fact two annual events. Their calendar day and the international day of peace 21 September or a Hiroshima-Nagasaki day. The World Peace Calendar website will be your platform to announce and then report to your peace events as well as providing a link to your city's website. You will be able to get flags, emblems, and other Mayors for Peace paraphernalia from the 2020 Vision Campaign to augment your day's event.

Mr. Vestby

We the members of the 2020 Vision Campaign Association are proud of the breadth and ambition of the four main campaigning areas of the 2020 Vision Campaign and can promise you to get hard at work on each of them. In my remarks closing this presentation, I would like to stress that the diversity of these four campaigning elements should not lead to want to view them in isolation from each other or from the overall development of the Mayors for Peace organizationally. It is for that reason that they have been subsumed within the action plan we just accepted. Several of the linkages have already been modified. We will highlight but two more.

The foremost contribution of the 2020 Vision Campaign has made and through these elements will continue to make the Mayors for Peace is a real sense of dynamism. No one is motivated to join an organization simply to be lit. It must have purpose and direction. It is no surprise membership took off after the launching of the 2020 Vision Campaign 10 years ago, that it continue to grow of about a city a day. Global profile is also important. Prior to the 2020 Vision Campaign, Mayors for Peace are virtually unknown in the nuclear disarmament field. I certainly had no idea it existed and I would venture to say that very few of you did either. The executive committee was a third of the size it is today. The campaign innovation of including associate members has proven to be a great way of finding and testing cities to see if they are worthy of joining the

executive conference. I am glad that Frog my own town was found and proud that we have passed the test. So please tell us, how can you get involved to ensure success?

You have heard about the action alerts. Use them. And give us feedback on how we can make them even more user-friendly. And if you cannot afford it, take part in our delegation to lobby diplomatic gathering. If you are not too far from a port, host the *hibakusha*, and organize the “I was her age” ceremony involving the parent and children of your schools. If your city has felt discourse of war, help us compile a world history of cities being targets and join us in Ypres to say “a century of weapons of mass destruction, enough.” And cities are not targets. Any day, every city can take responsibility for a day in the World Peace Calendar. So what is your date? But don’t forget, August 6 and 9 are the international days of peace. I encourage you to use the following discussion period to think out loud about how your city can become more engaged, effective in advancing the 2020 vision. I would now like to invite to the podium Counselor Mark Hackett of Manchester. He has prepared some impertinent remarks. Counselor?

Mr. Mark Hackett, Councillor of Manchester City Council, UK

Konnichiwa. Hello. I am Councillor Mark Hackett and I am Manchester City Council’s Mayors for Peace representative as well as being the current chair of the UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities. I have been a councillor for over 25 years and one of the reasons I became a councillor was due to my personal commitment to nuclear weapon disarmament. One of the first responsibilities that I had was becoming a member of the then Manchester City Council nuclear free zone subcommittee.

I have remained actively involved in this movement, particularly as Lord Mayor of Manchester when I hosted meetings of Mayors for Peace 2002 Vision Campaign and a civic visit by Mayor Taue of Nagasaki in 2010. As you have already heard, I am proud to say that the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign was officially launched in Manchester during the Mayors for Peace executive conference in Manchester Town Hall in 2003. Manchester City Council is the world’s first declared nuclear weapons free zone and the home of the UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities has been deeply committed to this initiative. I believe the 2020 Vision Campaign has served Mayors for Peace well. In Manchester’s view, the 2020 Vision Campaign has given Mayors for Peace a sense of real purpose. We should be very thankful for the deep commitment of the city of Ypres and the strong political leadership provided by its mayor to the 2020 Vision Campaign.

As we have heard earlier, the campaign has helped to bring in some talented new offices and political leaders to develop Mayors for Peace into being one of the leading international NGOs at the United Nations Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Conference. By being a campaign with a specific target date in a manner similar to the abolition 2000 network, the 2020 Vision Campaign has given Mayors for Peace something to build with and work for. By having a separate secretariat in Ypres, it has also taken some of the pressure off Hiroshima. This has allowed Hiroshima to provide strong political leadership of Mayors for Peace and let it develop a particularly strong local Japanese membership base. The campaign has also brought political leadership into Mayors for Peace through new leadership cities like Halabja, Biograd na Moru, Mexico City, Cochin, Glasgow, and Frogn. I believe it is well respected within the United Nations with a large number of relevant NGOs where it has developed close relationships. That should be celebrated. I therefore think as we now approach the 2015 NPT Review Conference, and then onto the 2020 Review Conference, it is an appropriate time to take stock of the 2020 Vision Campaign and discuss what direction to take next. One of the greatest achievements of the 2020 Vision Campaign has been a positive impact on building up membership from around 600 members in 2003 to over 5,600 members today. As I am sure you will all agree, this is a great achievement.

Similarly, raising a budget of voluntary contributions from Mayors for Peace members of around 100,000 euros has been instrumentally moving Mayors for Peace from being a small local government group into one which is a large and diverse organization. But there are two obvious issues that need to be considered for the future. Firstly, it is unlikely that we will have a nuclear weapons free world by 2020. And secondly, we have to decide with the agreed changes to the structure and financial underpinning of Mayors for Peace that we have agreed earlier. Do we need a separate Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Secretariat in Ypres or another city?

In terms of the first issue, the desire of some states to continue to possess nuclear weapons remains as strong as ever. The 2013 NPT PrepCom, which some of us took part in, was very disappointing. We saw the development of a close coalition of the five original and nuclear weapon states dictating the agenda and at times becoming quite belligerent. This compares with a very well-coordinated group of non-nuclear weapon states working more closely together but frustrated and perplexed as to how to unblock the lob-jam in nuclear weapon talks. Added to this are the difficult challenges like the nuclearization of North Korea and Iran and the increasingly dangerous conflicts across the Middle East and surrounding countries. Although, the recent move towards

restarting peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians can only give us some fresh hopes.

By having a 2020 Vision Campaign, the Mayors for Peace has had a vehicle for challenging national government at the United Nations. It has also given that political leadership of Mayors for Peace are clear and concise strategy to campaign on, but it needs to be acknowledged now that the name of the campaign at the very least will have to change to take account of the likelihood of the central theme of the campaign. It is therefore timely to start considering in the next couple of years a conclusion of the 2020 Vision Campaign and what takes its place. Just as a note and if that is alright will finish in one minute.

It is my view, it is important to keep some form of 2020 Vision Campaign secretariat going. A consideration of the potential of incorporating new initiatives as well. Manchester and the NFLA believes that between 2013 and 2015, strategic moves need to be made to develop more effective national campaigns and continue to maintain the essential work of the 2020 Vision Campaign at the UN. I would like to acknowledge all the hard work that the offices from Ypres, Hiroshima, and the politicians have put in. I would encourage Ypres to make it absolutely clear what its views are. It will be no easy task in these difficult financial times. And in addition, the Mayors for Peace need to take on board the cause for members in Latin America, Africa, and Asia as to where the new issues around development and disarmament, climate change, food security, and the effects of different types of violence on their local communities should be addressed.

It is for Hiroshima and the executive board to think about the future developments of the 2020 Vision Campaign and what can be achieved under the new structure. Should Mayors for Peace just be primarily about one single issue or start bringing in new issues? How can it maintain the campaign on its core issues and not see it diluted if it gets into all these other areas? In my view, it will only be deep in the involvement of individual Mayors for Peace that it become a strong and democratic and dynamic organization. Given the dilemma, money has to be a major factor. Care is needed in Hiroshima and in Ypres in the executive board and in taking account of the view of individual Mayors for Peace members, as I said, the 2020 Vision has served Mayors for Peace very well. Its 2030 Vision has to be fully drafted between now and 2015 and to take forward us towards that eventual aim of a nuclear weapons free world. *Arigato gozaimasu.*

Mr. Vestby

Thank you Sir Mark Hackett. I will now hand it over to the chairman but I would like to explain to you that we are running out of time. We would also like to recognize Mission Campaigner Mr. Thomas Mathew from India but we are running out of time here so we are talking about action alerts. We have gotten a lot of alerts already here from these screens. So please Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Komizo

Thank you Mayor Vestby and campaigners of the 2020 Vision Campaign. They have touched upon the history and the current challenges and how they have coordinated with the ICAN and the UN and other groups. Also they have been giving tours, the actual developments, negative and positive. They are also focusing on future directions. Mr. Councillor of Manchester, Mr. Mark Hackett has made some proposals and some ideas. That will be discussed among the 2020 Vision and Mayor for Peace in the future. Certainly that would be good input.

I think I should now turn to the second part of this presentation and now we would like to invite some of the mayors and campaigners of the important activities. Before, I would just like to give you the idea. Number one, I will invite the mayor of Kitakyushu to present about their activities. Number two, the mayor of Kosai will present. Then I will invite Professor Eugen Eichhorn about Hiroshima-Nagasaki lecture study courses. Then if time allows, I will invite Mr. Thomas Mathew from India to speak. First I would like to invite Mayor Kenji Kitahashi of Kitakyushu. Please.

Mr. Kenji Kitahashi, Mayor of Kitakyushu, Japan

Ladies and gentlemen, I concur strongly with the 2020 Vision Campaign. On behalf of 1 million citizens of Kitakyushu City, I would like to say a few words. Mayor Matsui, Mayor Taue, and all the people around the globe who have been working so hard to create a nuclear free world, I am also grateful for this opportunity to be a part of these valuable discussions. We are located in the industrial sector. During war time, we had the biggest arms factory in the west of Japan. On August 9, 1945, a bomber flew to Japan carrying an atomic bomb which was originally bound for Kitakyushu and Kokura. Apparently, however, the pilot changed the destination due to poor visibility and headed for Nagasaki. Because of this historical fact, the citizens of Kitakyushu City are deeply saddened by the atomic bombings that turned Hiroshima and Nagasaki into ash and in an instant claimed so many lives and still causes many people to suffer physical problems.

Four years ago in this general conference, I got to attend as an observer. I was very much overwhelmed and impressed by the decision made in the general conference to try and establish the elimination of nuclear weapons. When I dropped by on the way to go back home to the part, there was the Kayoko cherry tree and the mothers' and daughters' cherry tree. I started to know the importance of those activities to disseminate the idea to all these people in our city. I started to have the dialogue with the citizens on this matter and for the first time in the assembly, all these 61 members of the city have made the resolution to become the nuclear free city in Kitakyushu. With this determination, we have invited Mayor Taue. We declare the nuclear free peace city.

On that day, we have declared and made the application to become a member of the Mayors for Peace. It was the observer status. Now we are promoted as a member of the Mayors for Peace. For many years, citizens of Kitakyushu has set the commemorative day on the 9th of August, we gathered in front of the bell presented by Nagasaki to make the peace memorial service to pay tribute to the deceased people and victims of the A-bombs. Through the various exhibitions and events, we tried to communicate the atrocity of the war and A-bomb. After the end of the war, the time has passed and there are a lot of young people who have never experienced the wars, especially to those young generations.

We need to communicate the atrocity of the war as well as the importance of the disarmament. We have 131 elementary schools and we have decided to plant *Kayokozakura*, cherry trees; Kayoko's cherry tree which was presented by Nagasaki. 15-year old Kayoko Hayashi died in Nagasaki at the time of the A-bomb. Kayoko Hayashi has planted that cherry tree and this year, in 131 elementary schools, we are going to complete the planting of such cherry trees in Kitakyushu City. And we are going to have the gathering of the elementary school children to learn why those cherry trees are planted. I attended those ceremonies many times. They are learning the importance of the activities to ask for the total elimination of the weapons.

I am the second generation of the A-bomb victims because my mother was hit in Hiroshima. On behalf of the cities, we are now discussing the importance of the early establishment of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. I believe this is a very significant moment. As the mayor and as a member of the assembly, I believe this is a very important occasion. One voice of one person is very small, but if we are able to expand the network and coordinate together amongst the cities, I am sure we are going to motivate the other people. Under the 2020 Vision Campaign, Kitakyushu City is

committed to join you in these activities from the bottom of my heart. That is my commitment. Thank you very much.

Mr. Komizo

Thank you very much. Next is a presentation by Mayor Hajime Mikami of Kosai City.

Mr. Hajime Mikami, Mayor of Kosai, Japan

Thank you for your kind introduction. Kosai is the name of the city. Our city is known for Sakichi Toyoda and Kiichiro Toyoda, the founding family of Toyota Automobiles. It is famous in Japan but not so famous globally, and our town is not a big city. I repeatedly say that we have to eliminate nuclear power plants. Nuclear power plants must be abolished because they are too costly. The cost is too high. I propose that this conference should pass a resolution to regard nuclear power plants as nuclear weapons. The reason is simple, nuclear power plants are not weapons for attacking enemy countries, but nuclear power plants are atomic bombs that could be targeted by enemy countries in times of war or emergency. Nuclear power plants turn into atomic bombs, therefore nuclear power plants transform themselves into weapons that kill their own people.

Not only in wars among countries or states, remember 2001. On September 11, the terrorist attack took place in the States and the terrorists were looking for targets. Twelve years ago I was watching the TV that day. The first airplane had already hit the building and was on fire. Then the building next to the twin tower had the second plane crashing into it. It was reported that the four planes had been hijacked. The third one hit the Pentagon and the fourth one, people all over the world were worried as to the target of the fourth plane. The causes are not known but the fourth airplane crashed into the ground. I believe that the fourth plane was targeting a nuclear power plant because the biggest of all war crimes ever committed is the instantaneous killing of men and women of all ages. That is dropping of A-bombs dropped onto Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities. Terrorists targeting the US were aware of that. I believe that for terrorists, it would be quite natural to target nuclear power plants for their retaliation purposes.

When a small country fights against a large country, the established strategy is to attack the weak point, namely nuclear power plants. Indeed, journalists have reported that leaders of certain countries have stated as much. Nuclear power plants are like nuclear landmines, waiting to be attacked by other countries. Nuclear power plants serve as power supply systems only until they come under attack. In the event of war or if

targeted by terrorists, nuclear power plants would suddenly turn into nuclear weapons for killing the local people. I propose that the conference should pass a resolution regarding nuclear power plants as nuclear weapons.

Lastly, I should note that my great grandfather and uncle both served in the Japanese military. And our city is in the middle of Tokyo and Osaka, in the center of Japan, and I am Mikami, mayor of Kosai City.

Mr. Komizo

Mayor Mikami, sorry I mispronounced the name of your city.

Professor Eugen Eichhorn is going to tell us about the 10 year history of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. Please.

Professor Eugen Eichhorn, Beuth Hochschule für Technik Berlin, University of Applied Science

“Ten Years of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses”

First of all, I would like to address you as highly appreciated, distinguished guests working on a common issue of tremendous impact. Ladies and gentlemen, coworkers in peace for tens of years. It was a big surprise to me when receiving the invitation to this world-famous congress. So I feel tremendously honored to have this opportunity to say at least a few words – only a short time – on our course. Due to the short time, I was asked to concentrate on my motivation. I am a mathematician and worked at different types of professions, in soft engineering, and finally as a mathematician and as a professor.

The starting point is the *Heiwa Sengen* (Peace Declaration) of Mayor Akiba of 2001. In this year, we presented to the public on our university in Berlin a big exhibition of Hiroshima Nagasaki, a very, very impressive exhibition. When we finally decided to make some kind of documentation in order to (?) everything when the event was over, we decided to include the *Heiwa Sengen* of 2001. At that time it was Mayor Akiba in Hiroshima and Iccho Ito from Nagasaki. I was highly surprised in reading the *Heiwa Sengen* from Hiroshima that there were very concrete suggestions on what we, the people, addressed all over the world and what we can do concretely. Therein is offered the advice that all major universities of the world should present so-called Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. So I talked to our president, we should do this. At the first moment, I wondered why it was not my idea so working intensively for tens of years. This was the starting point. My motivation, at first class it is easy to say,

following what we presented in this exhibition, not to make it only a single event. In that respect to my life, there are other much deeper roots.

Let me raise one point, we should make a distinction between *war and peace in former times* and *war and peace in the nuclear age*. *War and peace in former times*, I was born in a small city close to Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in an air raid shelter at the end of 1944. At that time, my father, a soldier of the German Army, was already missed since a couple of months. Members of the same company fleeing from the Red Army saw him at a distance, heavily wounded on the battlefield. It was around his 30th birthday. This is my personal matter with war.

War and peace in the nuclear age and my commitment as a citizen of Berlin, living there since more than 40 years, 16 in enclosed part of West Berlin at the time, in some sense, a Cold War thermometer or the capital of Cold War at least in Europe though decisions were made in Moscow and in Washington.

There is insofar of some significance that the political leaders of West Berlin refused for several years to join Mayors for Peace, afraid of blaming the US. East Berlin joined immediately after its foundation. We met in the late 1980s, Mayor Motoshima from Nagasaki. Talking with us of West Berliners he used to speak of his friend Mayor Krack from East Berlin. Only a short time before opening the wall, the mayor of West Berlin [Walter Momper], head of a red-green government, became a member of Mayors for Peace.

I have to apologize for talking so long on my home city. It is not at all meant as a local version of ultra - patriotism but I think one must have some concrete impression of the city of Berlin after WWII. The erection of the Berlin Wall and shortly after the Cuban Crisis symbolized, until today, points of highest tension between the two superpowers at the time, both armed with tremendous arsenals of nuclear warheads. As you know, it is only due to God that higher life on our planet did not vanish for eternity compared to our life span. Others say the wisdom and leadership of JFK and Nikita Khrushchev were the decisive instances.

Let me now bring how Berlin and Germany is related to this affair. First, a crucial experiment on nuclear fission was made two days before Christmas in Germany in 1938. The second point is that they found nuclear fission and at first they discovered the tremendous energy released by such kind of an experiment. At first times, they could not explain the experiment. This experiment was repeated at that time in order to

understand nuclear physics. One found secondary neutrons and so on and this was the basis for sustainable chain reactions and Fermi worked in 1942.

Second, the next step is that many of the big scale scientists were brought up in Germany and were closely related to German science which worked in the Manhattan Project. Among the highly qualified scientists, especially chemists and physicists, a substantial part was German roots who had fled from Nazi terror and its disgusting, racist crusade; the head of the theoretical department of Los Alamos, Hans Bethe, Rudolf Peierls, or Otto Frisch, who gave very early and most correct estimates of the so-called critical mass of Uranium. As a group of leading scientists therein owed a big deal to the top personal of German scientists at that time. Most prominent, Julius Robert Oppenheimer who wrote his PhD thesis under Max Born in Göttingen. Other famous examples are Wigner and Szilard who had professorships in Berlin.

Let me recall that I am trying to give you my motivation why sticking so long time, now 10 years, to the initiative of Mayor Akiba and giving a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. What I told you now, the relationship to Germany is the work of a concerned citizen of Germany. But there are other motivations. I close up with two before showing you some slides. The *hibakusha* testimony is greatly committing us. *No one else should ever suffer as we did* - the legacy of the *hibakusha*. No word of hatred and revenge, though the grounds for unlimited hatred and vengeance would be more than understandable. Please repeat – one cannot repeat it enough – no word of hatred and revenge. The most moving *Heiwa Sengen*, Peace Declaration from Hiroshima and Nagasaki you can imagine. However, one must say, until today, they are not so many people on earth being taught this or having an intimate understanding of this legacy. The point for me is: we are trying to change this in front of our students.

Let me close with a fifth remark on motivation before showing a few sheets from a PowerPoint presentation. There is one universal motivation for all of us. It is independent of space and time, color and culture. Let's bring the issue to your family. This makes everything clear. Who sincerely wants to keep himself and his children and grandchildren under the threat of global, total annihilation? It is obviously a matter of consciousness and awareness.

I want to now start the PowerPoint presentation.

[Slide: picture of Beute Hochschule für Technik]

This is our university. There are many, many different courses, mainly engineers, informatics, construction, architecture, economy, and I was for a long time the dean of a

big department of physics – of mathematics, physics, and chemistry, and so on. So normally, not people involved with peace studies.

[Slide: Picture of the meeting with Mayor Matsui]

This is our Mayor Matsui. This is our meeting in this March when I was seated with our volunteers.

[Slide: Contents of the course (Lecture 1 to Lecture 3)]

I tried to give you a concrete idea of this Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. The main title is Alphabetization and Re-Alphabetization in the Nuclear Age. We start with the Manhattan Project and the second lecture was by chance Mayor Akiba was awarded the Otto Hahn Peace Prize in Berlin, so on this occasion I included a lecture from him, the better angle of our nature. Then starts the Hiroshima-Nagasaki complex. The first lecture is dedicated to the technical, physical approach from a distance.

[Slide: Picture with former Mayor Akiba]

This was Mayor Akiba in Berlin. This is April.

[Slide: Contents of the course (Lecture 4 and Lecture 5)]

Now I talk. Not all the talks are given by me but this part is mainly my talk because for 25 years I am coming here to this place, Hiroshima and Nagasaki 2 and 3: Human Dimension. The *genbaku bungaku* part first and then *hibakusha* report of Mr. Akihiro Takahashi, unfortunately passed away in the Fukushima year (2011) in November. I had a chance one month before his death to visit him in the hospital.

The second part is in some sense it continues.

The second *hibakusha* report is from Professor Hideto Sotobayashi. Sotobayashi was a famous scholar living in Berlin and a well-known prestigious institute, the Max Planck Institute for Physical Chemistry.

[Slide: Contents of the course (Lecture 6, Lecture 7 and Lecture 8)]

The next part of lecture six and seven is cold war. Please let me recall the main issue is to make some kind of basic knowledge that I call alphabetization and re-alphabetization in nuclear age, because my deep conviction is many, many basic knowledge is completely lost. You can ask your friends what they really know about these issues. First is nuclear strategies and international treaties on arms control, Counter City/Counter Force, Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD), and Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), and so on, NPT, etc. Lecture seven is Nuclear Strategies. It is coming close to

us now. The main point is the nuclear weapons convention. This is presented by Xanthe Hall, for some of you well-known.

[Slide: Contents of the course (Lecture 9, Lecture 10 and Lecture 11)]

There is several resistance of many, many citizens movements and therein included is – we call it – “Atoms for Peace”. I did not yet give you a word on Fukushima so I am grateful for the mayor who talked before me, but at present I will concentrate on this course. It started with President Eisenhower and then the NPT, Towards a Nuclear Weapons Convention, very actual. “Atoms for Peace 2,” Risks of Nuclear Power: the Accident of Chernobyl and Fukushima. “Atoms for Peace 3,” Effects on the Health Condition of Children, and you, close to Nuclear Power Plants.

[Slide: Contents of the course (Lectures 12 to 15)]

To sum it up, the last lectures are dedicated to people who had the tremendous courage living in a situation with no hope. They have big powers around them and they were dependent of them when ordinary people have no idea what to do. So these are four examples we make at presence of people or finally involved themselves in a desperate situation and finding a way out in some sense.

I start with Mahatma Gandhi – world famous – and I learned from this by doing it many times. He said all his experience is coming from a resistance concept Satyagraha, it’s come from his experience in South Africa. His stay was some 20 years in South Africa so there he made the experiments. There was only a minority of 100 thousand Indian people in South Africa and his experiments transported to India. Then you all know, it is very familiar to you. Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Thich Nhat Hanh, the Buddhist – there are not so many in Germany who knew Thich Nhat Hanh. It is a tremendous example to me how to overcome hatred. It may be closely related to the *hibakusha* testimony. This is our course.

[Slide: Pictures of Xanthe Hall, Otfried Nassauer, and Sebastian Pflugbeil]

Please go ahead and I will show only a few. Xanthe Hall is more or less to some people well-known, but Otfried Nassauer is a famous journalist in Germany, and Sebastian Pflugbeil is almost the best we have on the issue of Chernobyl and the aftermath.

[Slide: Excerpt of the last Test for Graduation 14th of July 2013]

This is only in part. They have to write an examination after it to get it recognized as part of their courses in term credits(?). One part is on nuclear fission and the other is Hiroshima-Nagasaki but there are many other questions as well.

[Slide: Excerpt of the last Test for Graduation 14th of July 2013]

This is from the last examination. One part they can choose among two times.

[Slide: Picture of the students of the last course]

The students of the last course.

[Slide: Prof. Hideto Sotobayashi with a necklace of paper cranes]

This is Sotobayashi-san. He died one month after Takahashi-san. He is a famous scholar, and only after his 70s year, he confessed to the public that he is *hibakusha*, because his family forced him to keep silence his whole life in fear of being discriminated.

[Slide: Picture of volunteers of the German-Japanese Peace Forum Berlin and ijgd in front of Hiroshima City Hall]

Please, next. This is in Hiroshima. This is a positive example of dual use. We run a volunteer program in Germany, sending people to Japan in social institutes, and we have a 10-day seminar over here. Some part of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course from my lectures included in this seminar. This almost visiting to the mayor of Hiroshima.

[Slide: Pictures of volunteers of the German-Japanese Peace Forum Berlin and ijgd at Peace Memorial Park]

Next. This is in front of the Cenotaph where we stayed yesterday together. We read *genbaku bungaku* examples in three languages, the closest language to it is Japan, Germany, and the US. I am deeply convinced that the US, Japan, and Germany have a close relationship and a commitment with respect to the nuclear issue, and maybe we can make something out of it.

The last one, it is all. Thank you very much for your patience.

Mr. Komizo

Thank you very much professor. Thank you. And then the last speaker is Mr. Thomas Mathew of India for 2020 Vision Campaigner.

Mr. Thomas Mathew, 2020 Vision Campaigner, India

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am Thomas Mathew from India presiding as a campaigner for Vision 2020. I have the privilege to attract Kochi City, one of the many cities of India as the new member of the Mayors for Peace. From here we learn the destructive power of atomic weapons since August 6, 1945, and the importance of harmony of each one of us regardless of our nationality, color, or religion to save humanity from another nuclear world war. We are proud of the scientific developments though it damaged our ecosystems and normal human life. We are the generation who might witness there were thousands of nuclear bombs which can destroy the entire living world on Earth more than 10 times.

Though such a small focus on mass destructive weapons than feed the 1 billion people who are living under extreme poverty. Many people say that we are the most civilized cultural generation. But in reality, we are the one generation who are turning the world with the most sophisticated weapons, nuclear bombs, missiles, submarines, and even cyber war. We did not learn from Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, Fukushima, and gain for wealth, political power, and energy surplus for more often in life at the cost of the future generations to come. From Hiroshima to Nagasaki we learned how destructive nuclear warheads are. By nuclear bomb tests and nuclear power station existence, we found how destructive it was even during peaceful times. We are more informed than our parents and forefathers but we are a less concerned society than them. We need a more active role from world leaders such as political leaders and social leaders to spread the idea of a world without nuclear bombs. More and more people are concerned about nuclear energy and finding alternative energies than nuclear power. *Hibakusha* have are the most respected one to say “no” to nuclear bombs, that war has always held back common people with much enthusiasm. I had the privilege to invite eight *hibakusha* from both Hiroshima and Nagasaki to India as a part of my organization’s campaign since 1990. We have been conducting Hiroshima-Nagasaki photo exhibitions in India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan the last many years. Did you get the common people, especially young people, about the importance of a world without nuclear warheads, is very important. Mayors for Peace is a source of this noble solution, abolition of all nuclear weapons from this Earth by 2020. We need to be more connected for this mission, no matter if we are from east or west, or north or south. Our mission is only peace. Thank you.

Mr. Komizo

That concludes our presentation on Session II. Please, I would like to thank all the presenters. Maybe a big applause. Thank you very much. Thank you very much for the audience for your listening until the end. This concludes Session II. Thank you.