

The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
**Dialogue Session with Government
Officials and NGOs**

**Roles of Respective Governments and NGOs
for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons**

Message of Peace

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- Takayuki Koasano**
Leader of the International Exchange Group “CANVaS”
- Message of Peace:** **Oliver Stone**
Film Director, USA

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Ladies and gentlemen, we now open the dialogue session with government officials and NGOs. The session is coordinated by Ms. Keiko Nakamura, associate professor of Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University. She worked on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation activities as secretary general of Peace Depot until March 2012 and then transferred to Nagasaki University when the research center opened in April 2012. Now Ms. Keiko Nakamura please.

Coordinator: Ms. Keiko Nakamura, Associate Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University

Good morning. It is a great honor for me to serve as the coordinator. I am Nakamura from the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition of Nagasaki University. The theme for this dialogue session is Roles of Respective Governments and NGOs for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. We have two hours for this session so today there are many initiatives taken by national governments, international organizations, and NGOs. We have participants representing those organizations playing an important role for the abolition of nuclear weapons so we are going to discuss their roles.

Recently in the global society, since 2010 the first preparation committee of NPT Review Conference, a lot of discussion is ongoing, focusing on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. Based on what is happening in the global arena, we are going to talk about the key players and we have the pleasure of having the participation of the key players. Hiroshima, we have been looking forward to the abolition of nuclear weapons for so long and it is a wonderful opportunity that we could invite those who are playing very important roles and I feel a great honor for me to be here as a coordinator for such an important session.

I would like to introduce today's speakers: H.E. Mr. Bjorn Midthun, Charge d'Affaires ai of Norway; H.E. Mr. Claude Heller Rouassant, Ambassador Extraordinary of Mexico; Mr. Mitsuru Kitano, Director-General of Disarmament Nonproliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; H.E. Mr. Sanjay Panda of India; Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Tokyo Mission, Mr. Vincent Nicod; Co-Chair, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Mr. Akira Kawasaki; it is a great pleasure to have your presence and Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki from Hiroshima Prefecture is among the audience. Later he is going to talk about what Hiroshima Prefecture is doing as the governor of A-bombed Hiroshima.

Now without further ado, we would like to ask each representative to make their speech.
Mr. Bjørn Midthun, Charge d’Affaires ai of Norway, His Excellency.

In Oslo in March, under the theme of the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, there was the first meeting to be held. I believe this was a very critical discussion which took place in Oslo. In Norway, we would like to hear what kind of things are going on, with also the updates of the progress. Your Excellency, you have the floor please.

Mr. Bjørn Midthun, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Norway to Japan

Thank you very much. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, thank you very much for the invitation to speak on behalf of Norway at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace.

This conference serves as a great example of how cities and local communities can join forces for a greater cause: the total abolition of nuclear weapons. This commendable initiative by the Mayor of Hiroshima is now supported by I believe over 1 billion people from some 5,700 cities, and representing 157 countries of the world at the last count, including 90 cities from my own country in Norway. I am pleased to see my fellow countryman and board member, the Mayor of Frog, Mr. Thore Vestby here at the conference.

This conference is also an important annual reminder of the tragic events that took place in Japan those August days 68 years ago, and of the unprecedented human suffering the use of nuclear weapons brought upon the men, women, and children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Equally important, this conference is a reminder to us all of the fact that we continue to live in a world where thousands of nuclear weapons still exist. As long as they do, there will always be a risk of them being used again.

Madam Chair, here in Japan, the effects of a nuclear explosion was experienced twice and is still present in many people’s minds. But the attention and knowledge of the effects of nuclear weapons are arguably relatively low in many countries and particularly among young people. For Norway, it has therefore been important to put the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons firmly back on the agenda. In March this year, Norway therefore hosted a conference in Oslo on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. We were pleased that 128 states attended as well as UN agencies, the ICRC, and members from the civil society, including from Japan. The aim of the conference was to be an arena for a facts-based discussion on the humanitarian and

developmental consequences of a nuclear weapon detonation. In plain text, the conference focused on what actually happens on the ground after a nuclear explosion.

The main conclusion from the conference in Oslo is that no state or international body in any meaningful way could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapons detonation. No existing national or international emergency system would be able to provide adequate assistance to the victims.

In Oslo, we also discussed both the devastating immediate effects of the use and testing of nuclear weapons and their serious long term effects on development. The effects of a nuclear weapons detonation will not be constrained by national borders and will affect states and people in significant ways, regionally as well as globally. Nuclear detonations affect future generations' health, food security, and vital natural resources, and hamper socioeconomic development. While political circumstances have changed much in recent years, the destructive potential of nuclear weapons remains with us. We must continue to actively address this threat and to place the humanitarian impact at the core of our efforts. I would like to commend Mexico for hosting a follow-up conference in February 2014.

We believe that there is a new sense of urgency that will govern our work in this area. We have this spring been reminded in very sharp terms that the use of these weapons is considered to be a realistic option by a certain country. As long as the probability of a nuclear weapons detonation exists, the consequences of such an event means it must be of humanitarian concern. The overall number of nuclear weapons in the world has fallen steadily since the end of the Cold War. But tens of thousands of nuclear weapons remain the arsenal of states. Meanwhile, the number of states with access to these arms has unfortunately increased. Combined with continued documented nuclear weapons accidents and the ever-present risk of nuclear theft or diversion, this means that the dangers must be addressed.

In short, nuclear weapons represent a very serious and broad security problem. This is why the issue is on the international agenda. Present and former political leaders all over the world are advocating the importance of removing the risk that nuclear weapons represent, including the President of the United States of America. This increased attention gives new hope.

We do hope the humanitarian engagement will in turn contribute to real progress on nuclear disarmament. Norway, like Japan, firmly subscribes to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and we continue to work towards the realization of that goal.

Madam Chair, ever since it was established in 1982, Mayors for Peace has raised awareness of the importance of abolishing nuclear weapons among political leaders as well as the general public. The personal commitment of national leaders and key stakeholders will no doubt be crucial for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. But we also need the insistence and impatience of the general public. This is why conferences like this one are important.

For too long, the nuclear weapons issue has been reduced to a question of state security. It is, of course. But with their unique ability to disrupt all life on Earth, it is as much a question of world security. And with their colossal and indiscriminate effects, nuclear weapons are also a question of humanitarian security.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, the goal is clear. No more Hiroshimas, and no more Nagasakis. Our challenge is how to get there. We must all contribute. My government will continue to work relentlessly towards this goal. And in return I hope that you will do our part and keep this issue at the forefront of the political agenda in all your respective countries. Thank you very much for your attention.

Ms. Nakamura

Humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament has been stressed by His Excellency. I work in Nagasaki which is also an A-bomb city like Hiroshima. Since 2010, inhuman nature of nuclear weapons has been discussed in various places. And then *hibakusha* and other people tell me, “Why now?” For as long as 68 years we have been talking about stressing the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and this is very straightforward and honest feeling on your part. I feel really sorry about this. Nuclear weapons have been discussed for many years, as elaborated by His Excellency Midthun, only from the viewpoints of military doctrines and national security of state, but in that sense, the essential message from Hiroshima and Nagasaki through *hibakusha* is the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons have only caught the attention of the world people just recently. For all the people, this is indeed a serious genuine issue and human security must be placed at the central point of what we do. Thank you very much Your Excellency.

Now as the follow-up to the Oslo conference, a conference in Mexico is going to be held as told by Ambassador Midthun and Mexico is going to be a very important state in that sense. I am very happy to have His Excellency Claude Heller, the Mexican Ambassador to Japan. Your Excellency, please.

H.E. Mr. Claude Heller Rouassant, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mexico to Japan

Thank you very much. It is an honor to address the 8th Conference of Mayors for Peace who expresses the will of many cities and millions of citizens all around the world, and contributes to the cause of nuclear disarmament and the abolition of the nuclear weapons. The maintenance of the international peace cannot be the monopoly of Nuclear Weapons States. It is a common responsibility of all governments, political bodies and civil society.

Mexico has maintained as one of its main foreign policy priorities the build-up of a world free of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, as the only way to preserve life on earth and to promote peace and sustainable development in accordance with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter.

Since the creation of the United Nations, Mexico's diplomacy has been engaged and associated with all the initiatives in favor of nuclear disarmament and the significant negotiations of the still fragile body of multilateral treaties and conventions in this crucial field, mainly the NPT and CTBT. The creation of the first human nuclear weapons free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, under the Tlatelolco Treaty in 1967 was a clear example of a concrete response to the dangers of a nuclear confrontation so real during the missile crisis in Cuba in 1962.

Beyond relevant recent bilateral agreements and positive steps among the two main Nuclear Weapons States, the world is at risk on the precipice of a new and dangerous nuclear era. The expectations generated by the speech of President Obama in Prague in 2009, laying out the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons, has not yet been fulfilled. Today more than 20,000 nuclear weapons exist in the world capable to be activated in a short period time.

The reduction of nuclear forces and the review of military doctrines have not been an obstacle to the modernization of existing arsenals. There is no rational justification of

the existence of the nuclear weapons which, more than guarantee the security of the world, represents a threat for our survival.

The maintenance of doctrines of nuclear deterrence goes against the essence itself of the NPT and it is at the end also an invitation for nuclear proliferation by non-possessors of nuclear weapons. As Mohamed Elbaradei has stated, in the era of globalization, “the threat will persist as long the international community continues to address only the symptoms of each new proliferation challenge...So long as nuclear weapons remain a security strategy for a limited few possessor countries, the proliferation risk will be with us”.

In 2013, in a turbulent world, the lack of balance between the three pillars of the NPT –nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy- are not only at the center of bitter controversies and recriminations among States, but remain at the sources of threats to international peace in the Korean Peninsula, the Middle East and the North East Asia.

The Conference of Disarmament, the “sole multilateral forum for negotiation” has not complied with its role for more than 17 years being the hostage of its rules of procedure, which require the consensus of its members for any decision. This situation cannot last more and the impasse has to be overcome.

During decades, the accent in the disarmament deliberations was put on the political and security perspectives, the technical aspects of the arms world race, the doctrines of deterrence and the implementation of existing international agreements, and the need of new multilateral instruments such as the negotiation of Fissile Material Cut Off Treaty (FMCT) and of a future nuclear weapons ban convention.

The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, if well mentioned in various UN resolutions and multilateral instruments, have been in a certain way neglected and not being properly considered in the agenda.

In recent years, the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has increasingly been recognized as a fundamental and global concern that must be at the core of all deliberations on nuclear disarmament and no proliferation. This issue was clearly established in the global agenda in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, and in the resolution adopted in 2011 by the Council of Delegates of the

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement taking into account the implications for the international humanitarian law.

That is why the time has come again to highlight the humanitarian dimension of this matter. The use and testing of nuclear weapons have largely demonstrated the harm caused by the immense, uncontrollable destructive capability and indiscriminate nature of these weapons beyond national borders.

The immediate death and destruction caused by a nuclear detonation, will be followed by the disruption of the socioeconomic development, the destruction of the environment and future generations will be robbed of their health, food water and other vital resources. Recent studies on specific regional scenarios suggest the irreversible impact in all fields of human life.

It is clear that the use of nuclear weapons would be an open contravention of the Human Rights and the principles of the International Humanitarian Law, and consequently, would constitute a crime against humanity.

Today, no one, even the most fervent partisans of the existence of the nuclear weapons, can deny the incalculable human suffering associated with their use and their irreversible consequences for mankind. This is a point that we have to emphasize.

The March 2013 Conference held in Oslo organized by the Norwegian government presented a platform to engage in a fact-based discussion on the impact of a nuclear weapon detonation whether by accident, miscalculation or design. The broad participation at the conference reflected the existing concern that no State or international body could address the immediate emergency caused by a nuclear detonation or provide adequate assistance to the victims.

For all these reasons, the government of Mexico is honored to host next year a follow-up Conference to further broaden and deepen the understanding of this matter and the resolve of the international community to address the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

What happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 68 years ago should not repeat again anywhere in the world under any circumstances. The lesson learned is that there is not a way out. The abolition of the nuclear weapons is the unique guarantee that nuclear

weapons will never be used again. The roadmap is clear: we share the responsibility to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, to prevent their vertical and horizontal proliferation and to achieve nuclear disarmament through the NPT and its universalization.

By raising awareness about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, civil society has a crucial role to play side by side with governments. I hope that the Mexico Conference will represent a further step in this good direction. Thank you very much.

Ms. Nakamura

It was a very powerful talk about the importance of highlighting the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. As long as there are some nations that want to possess nuclear weapons and there are countries who feel value in nuclear weapons, as long as there are those countries, we cannot stop proliferation. We are creating value in nuclear weapons by highlighting the value of nuclear weapons and we have to cut off this vicious circle. In other words, now, by highlighting the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, we have to change the thinking that nuclear weapons have political and military value. And we have to strengthen a new awareness that nuclear weapons have no value in political and military and humanitarian ways. That is new way of thinking we have to have.

Next we would like to hand it over to director general of Disarmament Nonproliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mitsuru Kitano. As you know, within NPDI, Japan together with Mexico next year, we are going to host a ministerial meeting here in Hiroshima so from that point of view, Japan must take a strong initiative on this front. And there are many expectations of Japan's initiative so including that point, we would like to ask Mr. Kitano to explain Japan's initiatives.

Mr. Mitsuru Kitano, Director-General, Disarmament Nonproliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Thank you very much for your introduction. I am Kitano from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thank you very much for inviting me to the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace and giving me the opportunity to have dialogue with you.

As Professor Nakamura just explained, I am going to explain Japan's initiatives, especially highlighting how we are treating humanity of nuclear weapons and what proliferation and disarmament initiatives we plan to conduct in Japan. Today I have prepared my PowerPoint presentations. We heard the latest situation of disarmament

and nonproliferation activities in the world and I have to apologize. I only have my PowerPoint in the Japanese language only so I must apologize to the participants who do not read Japanese. It is only written in Japanese so please listen to my explanation although you cannot read my slides.

This is the first slide. This is the current situation of the world in terms of disarmament and nonproliferation. I think these are just well-known facts and common sense among the participants of this meeting but we would just like to review some of the main points. The blue column, nations that are in blue, the United States, Russia, the UK, France, and China, these five nations are nuclear weapons states within the framework of NPT. Especially Russia and the United States possess more than 90% of the nuclear arsenal that exist in the world. US and Russia with the START Treaty, they commit to reduce the nuclear arsenal to 1,500 and recently in Berlin, the statement by Mr. Obama is a proposal to further reduce the nuclear arsenal.

These are the five nuclear weapons states. The US, Russia, they are trying to reduce the number of nuclear arsenal. And France and the UK are moving in the same direction. But China, there are suspicions that China is actually trying to increase the number of their nuclear arsenal. India, Pakistan, Israel are nations that are highlighted in yellow. These three countries are non-members to NPT. So outside the framework of NPT, but they actually possess nuclear weapons or are suspected that they possess nuclear weapons. North Korea, Iran, and Syria, these nations in red, they all currently have issues and are capturing attention in terms of suspicion in developing nuclear weapons. I am not going to elaborate the details of each country but they have risks of proliferation that are discussed.

I have named some specific nations. Up until now, the countries that have possessed nuclear weapons in the past or there are other countries who had suspicions in terms of possession of nuclear weapons. For example, South Africa, they used to have nuclear weapons but they abolished it. Libya, they had plans to possess nuclear weapons but they abandoned it. And former Soviet Union countries, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, these three countries by the breakdown of the former Soviet Union, they used to have nuclear weapons but they decided not to possess nuclear weapons anymore. And Iraq and some other countries have problems with the suspicion of nuclear development as you are probably well aware.

So what I would like to say about these countries is that there have been some effectiveness in terms of nonproliferation efforts but at the same time, there are still risks in terms of proliferation. That is the current situation of the international society that we live in at the moment. So based on this understanding, we have to promote our initiatives aiming at nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament. Next slide please.

So what is the stance of Japan? Needless to say, Japan has the Hiroshima and Nagasaki experience. It is a sad and devastating experience. During the war we experienced the atomic bombing. Based on this experience, we have the responsibility to promote nuclear disarmament. At the same time, the situation surrounding Japan – if you look at it as you remember the map – surrounding Japan in the East Asia, the security environment is very severe at the moment. North Korea's suspicion of nuclear weapons development and other issues. So what we have to do as a country, there are two things that Japan needs to be aware of.

First, last week Foreign Minister Kishida came to Hiroshima and had a roundtable discussion and he mentioned that first we have to have the correct awareness of the humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons and we have to expand this awareness to the broader world. Also, international society is faced with increasing nuclear risks and that is awareness that we have to have clearly. Based on these two points of awareness, what are we trying to do or what are we already doing? Next slide please.

First in terms of correct awareness of humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, away from what is written on the slide, there was a newspaper article in July that I would like to read out. In the United States, Mr. Colin Powell, he responded to an Asahi Shimbun newspaper interview. He said, "Nuclear weapons militarily has no value." He said it is because it is a cruel weapon and if you are a proper leader, you would not want to use it. And if you don't use it, it has no value, in principles. So he experienced this when he was a state minister, when Pakistan and India had tensions in 2002. He said to the leaders of Pakistan, he requested Pakistani leaders to think about and remember the photos of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He spoke to the Pakistani leaders on the phone. He said to the Pakistani leaders, "You know that you are not going to use nuclear weapons." And then said to the Pakistani leaders, "After 1945 August, do you really want to become the first country who uses these nations again? Do you want to become such a leader?" and the Pakistani leader said "No." and India said, "No." So this message of Colin Powell and how his statement had impacted India and Pakistan, we don't know

the details, but he himself declared that because of his explanation and talk, the tension was resolved.

It is important that people know what it means to use nuclear weapons. The practical impact of the use of nuclear weapons. That is important awareness that all people have to have. Japan has the experience of the use of nuclear weapons and we have the responsibility to convey the reality of nuclear weapons use in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the world and it is a very valuable exercise to do. As you can see in this slide, we in the government have many initiatives to descend in coordination with other groups. For example, special communicator for a world without nuclear weapons. Through their messages, we will convey the reality of nuclear weapons use to the world. And then multilingual translation of *hibakusha* testimonies. We try to convey *hibakusha* messages in different languages. Also photo exhibitions and A-bomb exhibitions overseas. These are the efforts we have been promoting to convey the reality of nuclear weapons use. I think these are very important activities. Next slide please.

Another important awareness that we have to have is the awareness of the diversifying nuclear risks that do exist. There are three proposals that we have. Again, at the Hiroshima Roundtable our Foreign Minister Kishida mentioned these three points. These three points, the first one is the reduction of the number of nuclear weapons. Second is the reduction of the role of nuclear weapons. And the third is the reduction of the motivation of the development and possession of nuclear weapons. The third point has just been expressed by the coordinator of this session, Professor Nakamura. So to achieve these three points, we through various diplomatic means are promoting these three points.

In terms of NPT, in 2015 there will be an NPT Review Meeting and as Professor Nakamura explained, disarmament NPT initiative and NPDI is a group of 10 nations that support nonproliferation and disarmament. Within this group, we are trying to come up with practical and workable proposals which we have been doing up until now as well. Next year in April we will host an NPDI ministerial meeting in Hiroshima. As I said, this is part of our effort to convey the reality of the use of nuclear weapons and this will be a good opportunity to achieve that objective. So working with various parties, we try to make the most of this opportunity. And as it has just been introduced by the previous speaker, the CTBT, FMCT, these are of course important initiatives and Japan is proposing nuclear disarmament resolutions every year.

Finally, as I said, Japan has to have two things to be aware of. First is the awareness of the humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons and the second is the awareness that the international community is actually faced with various nuclear risks. Based on the clear awareness of these two points, we must enhance and progress forward with our NPT and disarmament objectives and activities. Thank you very much.

Ms. Nakamura

Thank you very much Director Kitano. It was a very comprehensive explanation of initiatives that Japan is implementing at the moment. You mentioned NPDI ministerial meeting in Hiroshima, the timing is going to be – well the humanitarian impact meeting in Mexico is held and the NPDI meeting in Hiroshima will be just after that so it will be a good progress and great timing for enhancing the awareness of the humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons. So the Mexico meeting will produce some results and capitalizing on that to further progress towards a world without nuclear weapons, we would like to make this meeting to produce concrete and workable results to that end. That is our expectation. Next is from Mr. Sanjay Panda of India.

Mr. Sanjay Panda, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of India to Japan

Delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am honored and privileged to be invited to this August gathering to share with you the approach of India to realize one of our common dreams to see a world without nuclear weapons. At the outset, I would like to confess, when I was coming to participate in this conference and share India’s views, there were some of my colleagues in the diplomatic community who did tell me you must be very bold to be going there as India is a nuclear power. How are you going to be discussing India’s approach? This is my primary message that I wanted to convey, that our goal of a world without nuclear weapons is something which India always stood for and we do not have much differences with not only Japan but any other country for that matter.

Madam Chair, India has been consistent in its support for global, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. The Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapons Free and Non-Violent World Order of 1988 offers a comprehensive plan to take this process forward. India is convinced that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and

security doctrines. Progressive steps are needed for the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons paving the way for their complete elimination.

For over three decades, the UNG has voted in favor of a resolution, sponsored by India, calling on the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate a Convention on the Prohibition of Use of Nuclear Weapons. As a nuclear weapon state, India has a doctrine of Credible Minimum Nuclear Deterrence underlined by a No-first Use posture. We have also supported a Global No-first Use Treaty. Colin Powell notwithstanding, the No-first Use Treaty was always something that India espoused for. India remains the only nuclear weapons state to be ready to engage in negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention in order to create a nuclear weapons free world in a time-bound framework. We supported the proposal for such a convention, prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling, and use of nuclear weapons and providing for their complete elimination within a specified timeframe.

Steps for the progressive de-legitimization of nuclear weapons are essential to the goal of their complete elimination. India reaffirmed its support for the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament, of a universal, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that meets India's security interests. India remains committed to a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. We are prepared to support a global no-first use treaty (NFU) and would like to move from prohibition to complete elimination of nuclear weapons. India has consistently supported the commencement of FMCT negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. India participated in the Oslo Conference on the humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons in March 2013. We support the High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament to be held in New York on 26 September 2013.

Madam Chair, India shares and supports global non-proliferation objectives of the international community. We have an impeccable non-proliferation record and have in place a stringent export control system in line with the highest international standards and seek to make our contribution as a member of the multilateral export control regimes. India expressed deep concern about nuclear tests conducted by DPRK in February this year and about the role of clandestine proliferation activities.

India is actively involved in the global efforts for combating nuclear terrorism and enhancing nuclear security. We have joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and participate in all its activities. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

participated in the first and second Nuclear Security Summits in 2010 and 2012 and we hosted a Sherpa meeting involving more than 50 countries in New Delhi prior to the second Nuclear Security Summit. We hosted a “1540 Workshop on Building New Synergies on Nuclear Security” in New Delhi in 2012. We appreciate the role of Mayors for Peace in raising public awareness and support for global nuclear disarmament. Japan occupies a special place in the nuclear disarmament debate. During Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh’s visit to Tokyo in May this year, the Joint Statement stated, I quote, “The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Abe stressed the importance of bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at an early date. Prime Minister Singh reiterated India’s commitment to its unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. The two Prime Ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to work together for immediate commencement and an early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral, and internationally and effectively verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). They also supported the strengthening of international cooperation to address the challenges of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. The two Prime Ministers recognized the importance of an effective national export control system conforming to the highest international standards. Prime Minister Abe recognized India’s sound non-proliferation record. Both sides expressed their commitment to continue to work to prepare the ground for India to become a full member in the international export control regimes: the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, and the Wassenaar Arrangement.”

Madam Chair, India and Japan are partners in realizing the objective of a nuclear weapons free world. This is an element of the global and strategic partnership. We hope that this conference will contribute to international efforts in bringing about a nuclear weapons free world. Thank you.

Ms. Nakamura

Thank you very much Ambassador Panda of India. It was a comprehensive explanation of India’s initiatives towards a world without nuclear weapons. Next speaker is Mr. Vincent Nicod, head of ICRC Tokyo Mission. We have heard about the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and with that basis, the current direction is towards outlawing nuclear weapons, the background currently created by ICRC. Including the historical background, I think that he is going to talk about what is happening and what is going to happen. Mr. Nicod, please.

Mr. Vincent Nicod, Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
Tokyo Mission

Thank you very much Ms. Chair and thank you very much for the organizers of the conference to have invited us here today. I have prepared a PowerPoint – I am sorry, the PowerPoint is in English but I hope that the translation will be good enough to convey the message.

What is interesting here is that the first ICRC delegate to visit Hiroshima a couple of weeks after the disaster provides somewhat the first independent mutual impartial testimony from an international organization on the effect of the weapon. However, the Japan Red Cross Society intervened just after the disaster and treated more than 30 thousand people wounded by the effect of the bomb and provides a terrible testimony on the effect of the impact on the bomb on the health of the population. What followed was an official report by another ICRC delegate, the head of delegation, Dr. Marcel Junod, whose monument is by the way very close to the entrance of the museum in the garden here, who launched a report to Geneva which reacted immediately with an appeal to all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at the end of '45, after the austerities stopped in the world, calling already for a reflection on a new conduct of austerities and use of new equipment and military material.

That culminated in 1948 in an international conference of the Red Cross in Stockholm where there was a solemn appeal by the movement to the states to start passing legislation on the use of weapons who do discriminate in their target, who do not select between legitimate military targets and protected civilian population for instance. This appeal was renewed later on but that was done in the context of the revision of the Geneva conventions and the addition in 1949 of the 4th Geneva Convention specifically protecting the civilian population. That number 4 convention clearly reflects the need for an instrument to protect the civilian population, the innocent part of the population from the effect of the conflict. Then later on we can see that the evolution of international humanitarian law adjusts to other types of conflicts.

We had the context of the decolonization of many parts of Asia and Africa with different natures of conflict and violence, and meanwhile nuclear weapons were more or less abandoned by the Red Cross if I may say. Actually, there were other fora to deal with that. There were bilateral negotiations in Geneva or somewhere else through the UN or through bilateral mechanisms but nothing really happened and all throughout this year, despite ICRC interests and effort, we realize that not much was achieved and nothing is

really moving to the right direction. Therefore in 2010, based on the principle of humanity, that means not based on any political or military consideration or military doctrine or security issues, but looking through the angle of humanitarian impact of the bomb, the ICRC launched a new approach and a new appeal to states to start negotiating a legally binding treaty. The idea came through the declaration of our former president, Kellenberger, to call for this proliferation to stop and to control access to materials and technology, etc. The whole idea is again put on the humanitarian impact of the use of the weapon.

This translated into the first resolution of the Council of Delegates 2011. That means all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the world are now bound by a resolution by which they are supposed to implement and to help implement. That means all the Red Cross movement is now mobilized to try and achieve significant progress in putting pressure on their government, on their authorities, on all sources of power to have the situation change. Sorry it is not a Red Cross conference in Oslo, I apologize to my colleague there, but during that conference in Oslo, the ICRC in the opening statement repeated the need for the states to seriously engage in negotiation based again on the impact, the humanitarian impact of the bomb, which makes it an inhuman way of war, way of waging conflict.

Last May we had a continuation to a certain extent of the Oslo conference here in Hiroshima where our president had a statement read. This conference organized by the Japan Red Cross Society led to the drafting of a plan of action for the movement of the Red Cross, which will be hopefully finalized, approved, and discussed, but finalized in Sydney in the next Council of Delegates in November this year. This plan of action, plans for the formal establishment of a global network of all National Red Cross Societies or Red Crescent Societies on nuclear weapons and we are going to improve the dialogue and exchange of campaigns, of strategies, of good ideas, to benefit, to exchange by looking at good ideas and sharing them, and maybe trying to correct weak points and so on, sharing experiences, production of material translation in different languages, ensuring the training of the staff, that means we must have disseminators within the Red Cross movement able to speak with authority on the effect of the bomb, on the measures to be taken by states to ensure negotiations starting in earnest and to motivate all the Red Cross Societies in the world to work towards their authorities, their governments, and so on.

This global network will look into four main dimensions. First of all on the impact on the health of potential victims of nuclear weapons. As seen in Hiroshima by the Japan Red Cross Society when they came to work, not only the direct effect of the bomb in the image of the bombing of the city was felt but long term effects, sometimes through different generations further up transmitting health problems and so on. So concentrating on the study of the impact on health.

The second one is the impact on the environment. Among others, the use of nuclear weapons could make a lot of land unfit for cultivation for instance. That could deprive local populations from food production. That could, in addition to that, have a terrible impact on industrial access to mines or whatever. It is clear that humanitarian assistance of significant assistance is not possible by anybody today in case of the use of nuclear weapons. There is no mechanism able to cope with the potential effect of the use of a bomb. If we look at Hiroshima again, about 80% of the hospitals were destroyed, about 85-90% of medical personnel were victims themselves of the bomb, killed or wounded. Therefore there was no proper mechanism and that is why the Japan Red Cross had to bring teams from outside, but that was not enough.

Then the last aspect is to look into the adjustment of international humanitarian law to cope with the technical development of weaponry and methodologies and conduct of activities to make sure that such a weapon would be illegal toward IHL. This global network would approach different publics and audiences. The first one is the broad public, the broad audience, to disseminate all those aspects linked to the potential use of the bomb. The second target public audience that we have to aim at is the national decision makers, government officials, but also the parliamentarians, those who exert an influence on the executive in a country, to put pressure on states to negotiate and come to an agreement. Then help is requested from those people in charge, the health community, the health specialists, who can speak, who can explain the effect of the potential use of a bomb on the population. The scientific community and of course those in charge of the emergency response like civil protection or Red Cross, NGOs, UN agencies, all those in charge of bringing assistance to a certain context.

And then I would like to conclude, I will stop here, on the fact that for us it is a renewed – it is not a new subject unfortunately – but it is a renewed effort that we have to bring to the reflection which is now conducted within states, within NGOs, communities, within UN agencies on the need to act. And on the ICRC end, the Red Cross movement in general, we feel that it is a historic moment that we are maybe at the tipping point

from where our influence can really make a difference and mobilize populations, governments, media, and all the circles of influence who can apply pressure on government. Thank you very much.

Ms. Nakamura

Thank you very much Mr. Nicod. The last speaker on the panel is Mr. Akira Kawasaki, co-chair of the Peace Boat, ICAN. ICAN is to appeal the inhumanity of the nuclear weapons. Starting from the civil society to the various governments, they are playing a very important role and outlying the nuclear weapons is another movement. They are acting as a bridge amongst all different civil societies. Also Mr. Kawasaki is the co-chair of the Peace Boat to give support for the *hibakusha* to appeal to the world the inhumanity of the nuclear weapons. I believe those are the areas he is going to highlight today. Mr. Kawasaki please.

Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Co-Chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

Thank you very much. First of all, I would like you to take a look at a short video clip. Would you please prepare that, secretariat? This is the video we have also aired in the beginning of the Oslo meeting.

Video Clips

“Hope spread to people in other regions that a new era of peace was possible. But busy as we were, moving on with our lives and connecting with the world, from paging to texting to tweeting, we began to forget that the biggest threat of the Cold War, the nuclear weapons that had threatened our very existence had not vanished and their legacy is still causing victims today.”

“Since their invention in 1945, nuclear weapons have twice been detonated over cities. In a few minutes, bright flashes enveloped the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, marking the beginning of the nuclear era. The citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki experienced the devastating effects of a weapon so terrible and sweeping in its destructive power that it could not be targeted to avoid killing massive numbers of civilians. A weapon unable to distinguish between a building and an infant. Survivors faced the trauma of radiation exposure. They faced injuries for which doctors have no cure. They faced a lifetime of stigma and prejudice, and the knowledge that the next generation would also suffer the effects of a nuclear fallout.”

“I looked around and I saw the procession of ghostly figures. I say ghostly figures because they simply did not look like human beings. Their bodies were burned, blackened, and swollen, and skin and flesh were hanging from bones. Hair was standing up towards the sky and some people were carrying their eyeballs in their hands.”

“In Kazakhstan, nuclear weapons continued to be detonated until 1989. The blast left a dark legacy of cancer and birth defects.”

“My mother died of stomach cancer. She was severely disabled. We realized the reason much later because my mother had two children before me who did not live up to one year, dying one after the other.”

“If a nuclear detonation occurred in a city today, international and national relief agencies would be helpless. The International Committee of the Red Cross has said that no appropriate response could be put in place by any state or humanitarian organization.”

“Neither the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement worldwide, nor any international agency, has currently the capacity to provide adequate assistance to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons. In all logistics, training, and material is available around the world for weapons that are currently in use, conventional weapons, explosives, and bullets, but the effects of nuclear weapons, particular the radiation effects, this capacity hardly exists.”

Mr. Kawasaki

Thank you very much, please stop the video clip. I would like you to take a look at the series of pictures while I am talking. As you have seen just now, this is the ICAN presentation we made at the time of the Oslo meeting on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. This is the video clip we have used. When the nuclear detonation took place, what is the inhumanitarian effect we have to suffer? I believe this is the heightening of the awareness amongst the people as well as pointed out by the panelists already this morning.

In ICAN, we are focusing on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. With this as the axis, it is the high time to un-law the nuclear weapons and try to come up with the nuclear weapon convention. This is the focus of the campaign of ICAN. With 70 countries, with 300 partnerships, we are expanding such campaigns starting from 2007. Under ICAN,

we have already started such a campaign in 1995. There is the Abolition 2000 Network, we have the liaison and cooperation with them to ask for the nuclear weapons convention. I belong to the Japanese Peace Boat and under such a campaign, we are making a very important role. In this Norway meeting in March and in February next year there will be the second session to be held on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons in Mexico.

For the people of Hiroshima and many people of Japan, why are we focusing on the inhumanity? We knew nuclear weapons are inhumane and that is what we have been appealing in Japan. You might think this is what you have been doing, but as Mr. Nicod said, focusing on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, we are able to focus on the international humanitarian law. Then we will be able to start the negotiation to establish a nuclear weapons convention, including the Norway government and the other governments. They are focusing now strongly on the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. But unfortunately, specific convention negotiations were not declared so far yet.

Amongst the civil societies, we are going to put our hands together by using the network of Mayors for Peace appealing to the civil government authorities. We would like to shift the inhumanity discussion onto the negotiation table of the nuclear weapons convention. In ICAN, starting from 6 July, we are starting the nuclear abolition week. This is one week for the abolition of the nuclear weapons on a global scale to try to ask for the establishment of the nuclear weapons convention. You are watching those pictures. Those are the activities we are engaged in.

Because we are holding this meeting in the very place of Hiroshima, what I would like to focus here is as follows. The states who do not have nuclear weapons in hand should check the initiatives because so far the initiative was put on the table by the nuclear weapon nations not to proliferate nuclear weapons. But non-nuclear weapon countries should appeal saying that not to cling onto nuclear weapons is the natural course in the matters. Those are the appeals we need to focus on. Unfortunately, including Japan, we are under the nuclear umbrella although we are a non-nuclear nation, we are dependent on nuclear weapons.

It looks like this is the dragging effect for our activities, unfortunately. Japan and the other nations under the nuclear umbrella, when it comes to this statement to the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, they did not pick up the signatory to this statement because this is the dialogue and Mr. Kitano of MOFA is with us. I would like to ask the

specific question to Mr. Kitano. If there is time, I would like him to answer this question. You took the example of the Asahi Newspaper by Colin Powell. Colin Powell said, you said, “If you are a serious leader, no way can you make a selection of the use of the atrocious horrible nuclear weapon.” You have cited such an example. But the same Japanese government, at anytime, anywhere, no use of nuclear weapons, that kind of statement cannot be committed by the Japanese government and you refused to sign on the statement of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. If you are going to place yourself in the shoes of Colin Powell, it is not a serious person’s decision, I have to say. So amongst the non-nuclear weapons, there are still several states who are still dependent on the nuclear umbrella. We should make the change.

We do not have to depend on nuclear weapons. We are able to establish our safety and security without clinging onto the nuclear weapons. That is the importance of the activities. NPTI, including Japan and Mexico, 10 states are making the negotiation, many of which are under the umbrella of nuclear weapons. And in Hiroshima Foreign Minister’s meeting next year, I hope they are going to make the gear shift. This is the Peace Boat activity. This is the perspective we are setting the lights on. We are bringing the *hibakusha* on the boat so that we are able to create a nuclear free world in the future. Thank you very much.

Ms. Nakamura

Thank you very much Co-Chair Mr. Kawasaki. Thank you indeed the panel members. As was just said, this is the dialogue assembly. Although there is a time limitation, but as much as possible I would like to give an opportunity to the floor to have the dialogue with the panelists because this is the critical moment. We all are aware of that. We hope that this is going to be a very important opportunity for them to join in the discussion. So I would like to ask Mr. Yuzaki, governor of Hiroshima, to talk about what is happening Hiroshima to delve into the deep part of the discussion. Governor Yuzaki, please.

Presentation on the efforts made by Hiroshima Prefectural Government

Mr. Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Hidehiko Yuzaki, governor of Hiroshima Prefecture. It is a great honor to be given this opportunity to speak to you today. I am delighted to be with you here in this important meeting. I am very happy

that I am given this opportunity to discuss the abolition of nuclear weapons here in Hiroshima. This is truly a worthwhile mission.

Today I would like to talk about Hiroshima's commitment to peace. Hiroshima was the first city to experience the destruction caused by an A-bomb and it successfully rose up from the ashes. With this background, I will explain what Hiroshima Prefecture considers its mission in the role in the world and to how we are intended to act. As already discussed, nuclear weapons cause mass destruction and murder instantly and indiscriminately. Furthermore, the aftereffects of radiation continue to torment innocent people of such a large number for many years. Nuclear weapons are extremely inhumane weapons and therefore must not be used for any reason. On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima became the first city in the history of mankind to experience the effects of an A-bomb. The city was destroyed in an instant and countless precious lives were lost. When the bomb detonated, intense heat, radiation, and radioactive substances spread in all directions and it created an ultra-high pressure blast. The combined energies through mutual interaction caused immense damage. The exact number of people who were killed by the bomb is not known even today because all records about them were also destroyed at the same time in an instant. But it is estimated that as many as 140 thousand people died by the end of December 1945 by when acute radiation injuries had subsided. This number represents about 40% of Hiroshima Cities' population at the time.

There were many places in Japan which suffered huge damage due to air raids but the death number represents at most a few percentage and the 40% death of Hiroshima's population shows how big the A-bomb was in this destruction. My father was committed to finding about the damage caused by the A-bomb. When the war ended, he conducted a survey on the social damage attributed to the bomb based on interviews with many *hibakusha*, or A-bomb survivors, as he was a sociology professor of Hiroshima University. He was also involved in estimating the number of deaths caused by the bomb I just mentioned earlier. He was really heavily involved in the surveys and studies about the damage by the A-bomb. He often stated that the destruction by nuclear weapons brings about a massive power of annihilation as you saw in the photos. Furthermore, it really annihilates the whole history of the targeted areas and memories of the families who lived there. So it is not causing only death and physical destruction of buildings.

Today we are here at the Peace Memorial Park that was built close to ground zero. This area used to be a thriving downtown district and attracted many people. But everything

was utterly destroyed and flattened by a single A-bomb detonation. In other words, destruction by nuclear weapons involve the total destruction of people's lives, obliterating all society and life, and even the memories and traces of their whole presence. This is the destructive power of an A-bomb. I firmly hope that leaders of respective countries and people all over the world learn about the disastrous aftermath of A-bombs as well as *hibakusha* and citizens' desire for peace and wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Now, about Hiroshima Prefecture's commitment to peace, I have three points to make here. First, Hiroshima was destroyed indeed. But it was also reconstructed after the destruction. Secondly, Hiroshima has an important mission and role to play in the abolition of nuclear weapons and post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. Thirdly, we would like to have activities to make Hiroshima the center of world peace. In point one, Hiroshima was destroyed but also reconstructed. I believe that Hiroshima encourages people to have strong determination to the abolition of nuclear weapons by showing visitors the destruction that such weapons cause. I also believe that Hiroshima brings a sense of confidence in post conflict reconstruction by showing the people, the peace that has emerged from the destruction.

The second point, Hiroshima has an important mission and role to play in the abolition of nuclear weapons and post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. In the international committee, there were growing threats of nuclear terrorism by non-state actors. There were growing demands for the abolition of nuclear weapons and removal of obstacles to peace, including conflicts and poverty that breed terrorism. I believe that under such circumstances, Hiroshima that experienced both destruction and reconstruction can help the world move toward the abolition of nuclear weapons post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding through a comprehensive process. For example, Hiroshima has been actively working toward the abolition of nuclear weapons as well as post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding by attracting UN agencies, UNITAR, and JICA and helping them develop human resources.

The third point, activities to make Hiroshima the center of world peace. A peaceful world free from nuclear weapons is the wish of people all over the world. In the international community, many peace activities are undertaken and efforts are in progress. I believe it is time to gather resources for peace and information and turn them into a larger force to lead the world to peace. In this regard, Hiroshima is the ideal place

as the center of peace as it experienced the tragedy of the world's first A-bomb, having rebuilt itself, and being strongly associated with peace.

I drew up Hiroshima for a global peace plan in October 2011 to re-launch efforts based in Hiroshima toward a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons. In drawing up the plan, we invited leading experts from around the world. We asked Mr. Yasushi Akashi, former undersecretary general of the United Nations to serve as chairperson of the committee, and members from abroad including Mr. Gareth Evans, former Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and professors of universities in the United States. And the Hiroshima prefectural governments will need to draw on wisdom from around the world to establish highly effective policies from a global viewpoint. We are advocating a three-by-three approach for international peace community making. This looks at three challenges, nuclear abolition, reconstruction and peacebuilding, and envisioning a new security system. And on the other hand, three actions generating theories and promoting studies; second, implementing practical programs for peacebuilding; and thirdly, disseminating peace messages. So three challenges multiplied by three actions. This is what we call the three-by-three approach towards a peaceful international community.

As specific actions, Hiroshima Prefecture should carry out, including the following, five proposals and points: One, supporting the roadmap for the abolition of nuclear weapons; two, reducing the risks of nuclear terrorism; number three, developing human resources to build a peaceful international community; number four, creating ideas for nuclear disarmament, conflict resolution, and building peace; number and five, building a sustainable peace support mechanism. And to give this plan real flesh in fiscal 2012, I set up a plan promotion committee and guidelines for the advancement of Hiroshima for global peace. That shows the vision of activities. And based upon Hiroshima's dual symbolism I mentioned earlier that it was once destroyed but also it was reconstructed. In more detail, one is a symbol of determination to abolish nuclear weapons as the first region in history to suffer annihilation of A-bomb and the second symbolism is a symbol of faith in construction and hope for the future as a place that rose from the ashes of destruction by an A-bomb. The guidelines show how Hiroshima intends to contribute to global peace during upon the symbolic nature of Hiroshima.

I believe that a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons can be attained not only by eliminating nuclear weapons from the world but also by concurrent efforts to build a stable society. Obviously the abolition of nuclear weapons is important to create a peaceful world, but it is also important to build mutual trust and create a stable society. And efforts need to be made to eliminate conflicts and root causes of terrorism. We are

proposing that comprehensive efforts should be made in collaboration with the city of Hiroshima and other likeminded organizations toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding by taking full advantage of Hiroshima's dual symbolism.

For the abolition of nuclear weapons, we will continue to let the world know the horror of bombing and urge the abolition of nuclear weapons. And Hiroshima City will play the leading role in this regard. Mayors for Peace in this connection does play a very important role and important responsibility. For the nuclear nonproliferation aspect and nuclear disarmament, Hiroshima prefectural government urges the international community to promote NPT as well as multilateral efforts for nuclear disarmament and we will also promote the research of nuclear disarmament and nuclear security. As part of these efforts, we released a Hiroshima report in April 2013, this year. This contains results of surveys and research on the status of respective countries' commitment to nuclear disarmament. We hope that this report will help the international community make steady progress towards the abolition of nuclear weapons by building global momentum towards the abolition and launching new activities toward nuclear disarmament. We also organized a symposium in Hiroshima in June to look at the results of the research of nuclear security by universities and other groups. Also as Mr. Kitano mentioned earlier, we organized the Hiroshima Roundtable at the end of last month to look at the nuclear disarmament and nuclear control in East Asia and discussed the basic direction of the efforts.

We will continue with such activities to strengthen the basis for the abolition of nuclear weapons. For post conflict reconstruction in peacebuilding, first, peace-minded people, human resources, and experts need to be trained for peacebuilding and post conflict reconstruction. Post conflict reconstruction requires not just knowledge but also a strong determination and confidence in peacebuilding and reconstruction after the conflict. We believe that Hiroshima is able to provide such a moral and spiritual momentum. Furthermore, graduate school for international development cooperation of Hiroshima University has important resources they can provide. Also we are engaged in developing experts who can look after the radiation disaster medical care. We would like to use such accomplishments and draw upon our resources to function as a center for training human resources for post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding.

Now about research, I have just emphasized the importance of reconstruction. When the whole society is destroyed, how was the process of reconstruction made possible in all functions of society such as education, health, medical care, and city planning, not much

study was done about how Hiroshima was able to rebuild itself in such important social functions. We are now trying to do more serious research on this question. So far, some research and findings have been provided regarding the damage caused by the A-bomb and the experience of the *hibakusha* but not much study done on the process of reconstruction after a disaster. Also we would like to make comparative studies regarding the post conflict reconstruction in different countries. A comparative study of this kind would provide important insight to us.

Furthermore, we believe that it is important to construct a support mechanism for peacebuilding and from the end of July to August 3, we organized the World Peace Concert. We invited internationally acclaimed musicians and through the common language of music, they disseminated the strong message of peace from Hiroshima. The profits from this World Peace Concert is going to be allocated to various peace activities. Our prefecture is going to push in the days ahead. 68 years ago, Hiroshima experienced the atrocity of an A-bomb which was a tragedy indeed. But at the same time, the Hiroshima we know today, and we have today is enjoying the benefits and fruits of peace, and peace has the capacity and allows us to build prosperity.

Two sides of one phenomena is what I think Hiroshima experienced. One is destroyed, that is one aspect. But on the other hand, toward the bright future, Hiroshima can serve as a place which can demonstrate to the world that we can rebuild and be peaceful and prosper once again. I hope that you will give us your support and endorsement to Hiroshima's efforts and join us in our efforts. Thank you very much.

Ms. Nakamura

Thank you very much Governor Yuzaki, please return to your seat. Now we would like to invite three speakers who are registered as speakers in this session. The first one is from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Mayor of Semey City, Mr. Aibek Karimov. We saw the video in Kazakhstan, there have been 450 times the nuclear explosion experiments testing and there is still damage left so Mayor Karimov is active in rehabilitation.

Mr. Aibek Karimov, Mayor of Semey, Kazakhstan

Distinguished participants and guests, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, on behalf of the people of Kazakhstan, the city of Semey, allow me to welcome all honorable participants of such an important international meeting and wish your noble mission fruitful results. Taking this unique opportunity, I would like to express special words of

gratitude to H.E. Mr. Kazumi Matsui, mayor of Hiroshima and president of Mayors for Peace, for his kind invitation to such a distinguished international forum.

Under the initiatives of the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this authoritative non-governmental organization facilitated more serious public attention to the issue of nuclear security as well as the development of public solidarity aimed at the achievement of a nuclear weapon free world through strengthening links between different cities around the world.

In our town, Kazakhstan has hosted a Mayors for Peace conference on March 17, 2012, during which the European Delegation headed by H.E. Mr. Luc Dehaene, then mayor of Belgian city of Ypres and chair of the board of the 2020 Vision Campaign. Members of the delegation participated in the international conference entitled New Generation for a Nuclear Weapon Free World, as well as in the opening ceremony of Mayors for Peace branch in Semey, the organization which is important for the Republic of Kazakhstan.

We are confident that these two events gave additional replenishment of new adherence to this important peace initiative. For example, only in my home, the East Kazakhstan region, heads of 10 towns became new members of the organization.

Today, Kazakhstan I learned was among the international countries as one of the recognized leaders of the international movement towards a nuclear weapon free world. By its own experience, Kazakhstan demonstrates international community, openness on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation issues, as well as continuously advocating for complete and irrevocable elimination of the terrible arsenals. It should be noted that a special role in this process belongs to H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The person who fundamentally and consistently defends in his own views and initiatives at various international forums including at the UN meetings.

The people of Kazakhstan still remember the tragedy that befallen on the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Even now, we still hear the ringing of bells for the innocent victims of the cruel atomic creations. The undying pain echoes in our own hearts that was cultured by nuclear weapons as well.

Speaking about some sad moments in the history of my own country, I would like to remind that during four decades of severe nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site, the enormous damage to the health of more than a million and a half people as

well as radioactive contamination of the past territories was costly. It is clear that the former Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site plays a special role in the history of nuclear testing.

Before 1949, my home city lived in harmony and was probably able to achieve more significant social and economic results in its own development. Unfortunately, a huge nuclear test site with an area of 18.5 thousand sq. km. was built near the city in the late 40s of the 20th century.

The Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site was one of the world's free largest nuclear test sites that served the development of new sophisticated nuclear weapons. At a distance of 120 km from Semey City, from 1949-1989, during four decades there were 458 nuclear explosions at the nuclear test site, including 148 in the air, 28 on the land surface, and 343 underground. The power which was created from a few kilotons to 1.5 megatons.

In 1955, the first H-bomb was tested at the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site. It is known that during a nuclear test in the atmosphere, no comprehensive measures to ensure the safety of the population from radiation fallouts were carried out. The evacuation to safety zones was organized only once in 1953.

Underground nuclear explosions were accompanied by destructive seismic phenomenon that negatively the resilience of buildings, engineering networks, as well as violated the structure of roads and destroyed hundreds of wells that provided water supply to inhabited villages and livestock farms. The tragic consequences of nuclear testing are still alive. The subsoil, soil, plants, water resources, and atmosphere are still contaminated with the radioactive fallout. The Polygon deprived the most precious part of the people, their health.

It is not clear how horrible the consequences of the nuclear tests would be if President Nursultan Nazarbayev did not make his decision to stop nuclear tests and shut down the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site by signing his historical decree on August 29, 2001. Since that time, Kazakhstan voluntarily renounced from nuclear weapon arsenals that were stockpiled on our territory during that period. Here the proactive efforts in this field allowed our country to acquire the status of a nonnuclear state.

Problems of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site, negative effects of decayed nuclear tests, and its impact on the people's health are object of constant attention from doctors, scientists, ecologists, economists, etc. The huge number of books, pamphlets, and scientific papers were already published. The great number of various recommendations including on medical and social rehabilitation of population were also developed.

The common assessment of the situation regarding the former nuclear test site is obvious, irreparable damage to the environment of the region, its economy, and health of its people was done. It is gratifying to know that immediately after the adoption of the resolution at the 53th session of the United Nations General Assembly on international assistance at the Semipalatinsk region. In September 1999, Tokyo International Donors Conference on problems of my home region was held. During that time, we became assured about the fact that international participants, especially the government and people of Japan fully understood our problems.

In 2000, the Government of Japan dispatched its expert to Kazakhstan to study the current situation in the region and prepare a basis for an ambitious project, Improvement of Healthcare services in the Semipalatinsk Region. During the implementation of this important project for us, we had received expensive medical equipment, conducted necessary medical surveys, and all important, our own experts were able to participate in useful training programs in Japan. An invaluable contribution was made by leading scientists from Hiroshima and Nagasaki Universities as well as mayors of both these cities. Today we had established close and warm relationships with Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, the issues of nuclear nonproliferation of course are of great importance for our future generations. I am confident in the recommendation of the present forum will be especially relevant today when the world is facing future proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In order to commemorate the sacrifice made by our people, we should take decisive actions against the threat of further spreading of nuclear weapons. It also obligates us to care more about the peaceful life of our children, the future generations of our beautiful but fragile planet. We ought to ensure the future safety for our people as well as life without production and testing of weapons of mass destruction. At the conclusion, I think that representative of progressive humankind will support the initiative of the present conference. Thank you for your attention.

Ms. Nakamura

Thank you very much. Now we would like to make a slight modification of the program and I would like to ask for your kind understanding. Currently, it has been two hours since the start of this session and we are supposed to finish but there are two more speakers who would like to make a speech on this occasion. However, the next program, Oliver Stone's directors program so for the time adjustment we would like to have Mr. Oliver Stone's message first and then would like to resume back to the rest of this session for a short period of time after Mr. Oliver Stone's session. So I would like to ask for the understanding of the speakers who were planning to make a speech here which will be postponed to a later stage. So the panelists, you can stay on the stage. Governor Yuzaki, unfortunately, will have to leave because of his other public duties. Governor Yuzaki, thank you very much for your participation up until now.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are very happy to have a special guest who is going to give us a message for peace. The American film director, Mr. Oliver Stone, please give him a big hand of applause as he enters the room. Mr. Oliver Stone.

Mr. Stone received Academy Awards for his work on the films "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July" which are deeply associated with his own experience as a Vietnam war soldier. Also he filmed "JFK" and "Wall Street" and many other best-selling films. Now I give you Mr. Stone, please.

Message of Peace

Mr. Oliver Stone, Film Director, USA

Welcome and thank you for having me here. I have lived my life in the shadow of the atom bomb. I was born one year after the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were eviscerated by my government. My father served under General Eisenhower on his staff in Paris where he met my mother. I grew up in New York City in the 1940s and '50s and there was no more exciting city in the world at the time. But a sense of danger and unease always lurked. In the event of nuclear war, New York was in the Soviet crosshairs. We all knew it. New York, we would either be target number one or target number two.

We had no illusions about survival. We went through the charade of civil defense drills at school as if these flimsy little desks would protect against the fury of atomic or hydrogen bombs. We ducked and covered even though no one in his or her right mind

could possibly believe the drills would do an iota of good. And throughout my childhood, I listened to President Eisenhower extol the virtues of the peaceful atom that would produce too cheap to meter, and watched documentaries like Walt Disney's "Our Friend the Atom" about the wonders of nuclear power. I learned that the atom was our protector, not our destroyer; as Disney said, "Our friend."

The week I was born, President Truman fired Henry Wallace from his Cabinet. Wallace had been Roosevelt's Vice President from 1941-1945 and Roosevelt later appointed Wallace Secretary of Commerce after his term of Vice President ended. I mention this because unknown to me at the time, Wallace was our last best hope for avoiding the nuclear arms race. He was a man of vision. We highlight his heroic attempt to safeguard the world from the threat of nuclear annihilation in our documentary film series and book, "The Untold History of the United States."

Wallace had largely been purged from historical memory in the United States until our project brought him back to life. He stayed in the Cabinet after Roosevelt died and Truman became President and watched with frustration as Truman betrayed Roosevelt's vision for the post war world and an alliance with the Soviet Union. From inside the Cabinet, Wallace fought gallantly to prevent the Cold War and stop the nuclear arms race before it got started. He worked closely in this effort with the atomic scientists who understood what was really unfolding. As Robert Oppenheimer had warned American military and political leaders in May of 1945, within 3 years, the US would likely have weapons between 10 and 100 megatons in destructive capability; up to 7,000 times the destructive force of the weapon the US dropped on Hiroshima – 7,000 times.

In 1954, Physicist Edward Teller actually proposed building a nuclear weapon 700 thousand times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb and the US Congress held closed door hearings on it. Harry Truman was onboard the USS Augusta when he learned that the city of Hiroshima had been destroyed. He jumped up and exclaimed, "This is the greatest thing in history." Wallace, who really should have become President instead of Truman, was appalled, as were many others. Among the reasons that Truman fired him a year later was Wallace's leadership of the effort to abolish all nuclear weapons.

The night Truman fired him, September 20, 1946, Wallace told a national radio audience, "Winning the peace is more important than high office. It is more important than any consideration of party politics. I wish to make it clear again that I am against all types of imperialism and aggression, whether they are of Russian, British, or

American origins. How we resolve this debate over foreign policy will determine whether we live in one world, but whether we live at all.”

I was five days old when Henry Wallace made that speech. With Wallace out of government, the hopes for averting the Cold War and nuclear arms race disappeared. Americans learned the wrong lessons from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The atomic bombings taught US policy makers that might made right. US leaders credited Fat Man and Little Boy with forcing Japanese surrender, thereby justifying them as legitimate weapons of war.

I wonder how the world would view nuclear weapons if Nazi Germany had used them first instead of the US. I think they would have been looked at with the horror they deserved. They would have been abolished or regulated long ago. But the United States concocted the fiction that the bomb was benevolent because it allowed the US to avoid an evasion, which would have killed supposedly a hundred or more thousand American soldiers. But as we explain in “Untold History of the United States,” the bomb did not force Japanese surrender. The Soviet invasion of Manchuria did; and Japan. And US policy makers fully understood that the Soviet invasion would convince Japanese leaders that both their diplomatic and military strategies were bankrupt and it was time to throw in the towel.

Many people now look back nostalgically on the 1950s, but the more I study, the more I realize what a dangerous time it was. Most Americans have a benign image of President Eisenhower as a war hero who was a likable grandfatherly figure as President, that he was a comforting presence, a wise and intelligent man. If young Americans know much about him today, it was that he warned the world about the dangerous of the military industrial complex in his farewell address. They think of him as an antimilitarist. The truth was quite the opposite.

The US had a little more than 1 thousand nuclear weapons when he took office in January '53. By the time he left eight years later, it had almost 23 thousand. When his budgeting cycle was finished, a couple of years beyond that, the US had some 30 thousand nuclear weapons. Under Eisenhower, nuclear weapons went from being a last resort to a primary option in the event of war. We went from having one finger on the button to having dozens through delegation and sub-delegation of war-making authority.

The Pentagon estimated that the US war plan alone would result in some 615 million deaths worldwide. So this was the world of my youth. It was a scary world for the Japanese as well. In 1954, the Lucky Dragon incident occurred and the public response was so strong that Tokyo housewives began circulating petitions to ban hydrogen bombs. The movement caught on across this country and by the next year, an astounding 32 million people, or one-third, of Japan's population had signed anti-H-bomb petitions.

In 1955, when I was nine, the great Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa wrote and directed a very powerful movie called "Ikoumono no Kiroku," "I live in Fear," in which Toshiro Mifune convinced that nuclear war is imminent, attempts to move his family to Brazil. This movie like the Godzilla films provided a sober reflection of how frightened Japanese citizens were. That was also the year the stirring manifesto circulated by Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein, drafted by the future Nobel Peace Prize winner Joseph Rotblat. It pleaded with passion and urgency, "We are speaking on this occasion not as members of this or that nation, continent, or creed, but as human beings, members of the species man, whose continued existence is in doubt." They expressed concern. One particularly relevant to the world's mayors that most people still thought in terms of the obliteration of cities. "Demolition of cities in an H-bomb war," they warned, "is one of the minor disasters that would have to be faced. If everybody in London, New York, and Moscow were exterminated, the world might in the course of a few centuries recover from the blow." But now, "the best authorities are unanimous in saying that a war with H-bombs might possibly put an end to the human race."

I watched that nightmarish scenario played out in great Hollywood films like "On the Beach" and "Doctor Strangelove." But I would like to end by discussing a scene from one of my favorite Japanese movies "Rhapsody in August," also by the great Akira Kurosawa. In this 1995 film, Kurosawa expresses the dilemma of the *hibakusha* who have waged a valiant struggle against forgetting. The movie recounts the four young people's encounter with Nagasaki as they go to visit their elderly grandmother, a *hibakusha* whose husband was killed in the bombing.

One poignant scene depicts sightseers casually strolling around the Nagasaki Peace Park, eating ice cream, and photographing the monuments. In a voiceover, the narrator observes, but nowadays for most people, Nagasaki happened once upon a time. As the years pass, people are apt to forget even the most dreadful things. That captures the problem that we all face. That is why we spent five years making untold history. That is

why the nuclear arms race is at the center of our story. That is why I am in Japan today. It has been 68 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It is time to end the hyper-militarization of this planet. We should begin by closing the US bases on Okinawa where people are struggling heroically to end decades of military occupation. I will be visiting Okinawa next week to support their efforts. We must also abolish nuclear weapons and this continuing mentality of militarization, evident in all governments, come to life once again in the Far East, and do so not only in our lifetime but in the lifetime of the aging *hibakusha* who have sent a message of love, not revenge, peace not war, as they dedicate their lives to making sure that Hiroshima and Nagasaki never happen again and that no one else suffers the way they have. Thank you.

MC

Thank you very much Mr. Stone for a great message for peace. Please give him a big hand of applause. We heard the message of peace by Mr. Oliver Stone. Now we would like to go back to the Dialogue Session. Ms. Nakamura, please.

Ms. Nakamura

We changed the schedule so that we could welcome a special guest and it was a rare opportunity for me because I stayed on stage together with Mr. Oliver Stone while he was talking. I was saying that there are two more speakers who have registered in advance and the first is Mr. Nobuyuki Asai, chair of the Youth Peace Conference of Soka Gakkai.

Mr. Nobuyuki Asai, Chair of Soka Gakkai Peace Conference

I am Asai from Soka Gakkai. From December last year to February 2013, we conducted a survey of awareness about nuclear weapons among the young people in nine countries. This is the result. I think you have the handouts. Please refer to them. The young people including those living in the nuclear weapon states think that nuclear weapons are inhumane and support our convention to completely ban nuclear weapons and this was encouraging. The next was about the knowledge about the nuclear weapon states. Many respondents could name the US and Russia, but fewer than 20% named other countries. After 20% respondents, in eight countries other than Japan named Japan not a nuclear weapon state.

In the UK, a nuclear weapon state, more than 30% of young people did not know that their country has nuclear weapons. We believe that if more people learn about nuclear

weapon states, the target countries of the campaign to seek abolition will become more evident and the campaign will be more effective. The survey shows that in all countries, the younger the respondents, the less they knew about nuclear weapon states and so the less motivated they are to oppose nuclear weapons. The more respondents knew about nuclear weapons, the more divided they are in their attitude towards nuclear weapons for or against. Those who are well-informed about the impact of radiation are more likely to oppose nuclear weapons.

These results suggest the ongoing education about peace being important and in particular, education about the impact of radiation is vital in seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons. We believe that it is essential to publicize the history of *hibakusha* in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the gravity of the damage, and the continuing impact of radiation in human bodies more than 60 years after the bombing. Thank you very much.

Ms. Nakamura

Thank you very much. Listening to what has been said, as for the survey, I believe Mr. Asai is going to tell you how you are able to make access to the results of the survey data. Now one more person to make the registration to speak to you, we would like to welcome Mr. Takayuki Kusano from CANVAS, please.

Mr. Takayuki Koasano, Leader of the International Exchange Group “CANVaS”

Ladies and gentlemen, I am the leader of CANVaS, a group promoting international exchange programs. I am involved in activities to facilitate friendly interaction with young people in Kazakhstan where nuclear tests were repeatedly conducted during the days of the Soviet Union. In doing so, I am to encourage young people of both Japan and Kazakhstan. I believe there are a lot of young people, including three young people from Kazakhstan, sitting on the sitting floor.

I became involved in peacemaking efforts while at university in 2001 when I met members of the Hiroshima Semipalatinsk project, a Hiroshima-based NGO that supports nuclear test victims in Kazakhstan, I was interested in their activities and joined their study towards Kazakhstan where I learned the Soviet Union carried out more than 450 nuclear tests in Kazakhstan. As a result, as many as 1.5 million people are estimated to have been exposed to radiation. I was also shocked to learn that many people near the testing sites are still suffering from health problems even now.

This experience made me decide to continue peacemaking activities and interact with people in Kazakhstan so I established CANVAS in 2003. Since 2007, CANVAS has organized five tours to Kazakhstan, enforced friendship with young people in the country, mainly in Semey City which is located near the former nuclear testing site. The year 2009 marked the 60th anniversary year since citizens became victims of radiation from nuclear testing in Kazakhstan. That year we held a conference in Almaty, an international city of Kazakhstan to enable young people of Japan and Kazakhstan to think about peace by learning from each other about the A-bombings and nuclear testing since then.

We have been working with young people from both Semey and Almaty to increase public awareness of peace nuclear issues. Last year for example we held a conference in Semey to discuss the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Amid the growing threat of nuclear weapons and emerging doubts about the safety of nuclear power plants, these activities have helped young people of both countries to build friendship and solidarity in making the most of those friendship ties. We also organize online meetings for these young people while co-creating the website that provides information.

Let me discuss the roles of NGO. Today, people around the world are exposed to nuclear threats. I believe that peacemaking efforts by young people who will lead society in the future through international exchange activities such as ours will eventually develop into widespread actions, demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons around the world. I believe in the immense potential of non-governmental activities because they help build solidarity among citizens outside of political frameworks and without consideration of national interests. Considering imminent nuclear threats, I think that groups involved in peacemaking activities around the world should work together to help raise public awareness of nuclear and peace issues so that the nuclear threats will be recognized and addressed from a global perspective. To achieve this, a network is needed that allows various NGOs to publish and share information.

I think the Mayors for Peace is ideally placed to operate such a network. The network will give national governments around the world systematic access to information about peacemaking activities undertaken by NGO bodies and their visions of peace. Such information will help launch international peacemaking projects through collaboration between governments and the private sector. I sincerely hope that the national

governments will actively work together in developing a network NGO centered on the Mayors for Peace. Thank you very much for listening.

Ms. Nakamura

Thank you very much Mr. Koasano. We have already used up all the allocated time. We apologize. But since this is the very important dialogue, if there is a burning question from the floor, we would like to entertain one question from the audience. If you have any, please raise your hand. Yes, please.

Please be short and concise, then I will give one more chance to one more person to ask questions; two questions all together.

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

I will put aside my own question and I would ask Mr. Kitano to please answer Mr. Kawasaki's question.

Ms. Nakamura

Mr. Kitano, you have the floor to respond.

Mr. Kitano

I was asking for taking the floor. Yes, I appreciate that point of the question, thank you very much. As I have just presented earlier, on behalf of the Japanese government, I believe the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons is critically important. Because of that we are taking the various measures. As Mr. Ambassador of Norway said, we have sent the delegates to the Oslo meeting and we are quite positive in attending those various meetings. To us, humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons is very important as I have said earlier. I believe it is necessary to appeal to the states, including the nuclear weapon states and also the states which have intentions.

What is important here is the humanitarian impact of the nuclear weapons. This concept has to be cherished and fostered. By that I mean is that the international community, we would like to have the involvement of as many countries and states as possible. Of course that includes the nuclear weapon nations. We have to try to aim at the abolition of nuclear weapons. We have to have the involvement of nuclear weapon states. Therefore, when we deal with the humanitarian impact of the nuclear weapons, there has to be the activities to get the involvement of as many countries as possible. When it

comes to the abolition of the nuclear weapons, there are different approaches by the different states. There are some moves to establish the convention of the treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. President Obama is quite positive amongst all the people of the United States. In the Prague speech there was also the reference made for deterrents by nuclear weapons. Colin Powell is quite positive but it is very difficult to make it to zero. That is why we are promoting nuclear disarmament and I believe there are different approaches for the abolition of nuclear weapons. We have to be open for the various approaches of the abolition of nuclear weapons so that we will be able to have the involvement of many people from the world. To this effect, we have to appeal now.

I have received the question from Mr. Kawasaki. Why did we not join on behalf of Japan for the joint statement? When it comes to the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, it is not only the joint statement issue alone, but when I read the content of the joint statement, I concur. As far as the concepts are concerned, but partially there are some differences in our opinion and this did not match with what was written in the joint statement. Unfortunately we did not sign on that joint statement because of some partial differences. But whenever there is an opportunity for the discussion, we are willing to participate in any type of the meetings. Thank you very much.

Ms. Nakamura

One more person. I think I see one more hand out, please. Please be brief.

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

I am Pol D'Huyvetter. I have been based in Latin America to develop Mayors for Peace and it is a question for our colleague from the International Red Cross. When you presented the target groups of the global campaign, I didn't see the local governments and I would commend you to add local governments as a target group. I know in Latin America we really need the information for example about global climate change to get to the mayors and global governments so they feel concerned. What has happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 is very important, and the exhibitions, I know there is going to be cooperation on exhibitions with the International Red Cross and that is good but I think we need to go beyond that and look to the actual threat also for local governments in Latin America or Africa – I mean the nuclear weapon free zones. So I hope we could discuss this as a target group.

Mr. Vincent Nicod, Head of the ICRC Tokyo Mission

Thank you very much for the question. We are creating a global network of all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from all around the world. And I think they will be the relay who will go further up. As far as ISIS is concerned, we dialogue with states and with governments. We cannot afford, we are too small, to go to the local level so we are going to use the relays through the National Red Cross and Red Crescent to do that, but we take note of your suggestion. Actually, our presence here leading to Mayors for Peace is the first signal of our interest to that and are going to pursue it but through partners and relays, not directly always. Thank you.

Ms. Nakamura

Lastly, amongst the panelists, I wonder whether you have any burning points you would like to make a point amongst the panelists. Please be free to make the final comment. I thought I was going to give one minute to one person but if I try to do that, everybody speaks rather longer so maybe those who volunteer to make burning comments, please be free to do so. Mr. Kawasaki, please.

Mr. Kawasaki

In summarizing this session, I think this is the gathering of the mayors and also the citizens. Therefore, in that sense, the action to be taken in the near future, I do have a proposal. In each city, in each town, when you go back, please hold meetings, please have gatherings amongst the people working in the city office and also the citizens and inhumanity of the nuclear weapons. But if nuclear weapons were to be utilized as of today, what is going to happen? Those kinds of discussions should take place. And another thing you should never forget is what is the number of nuclear weapons present and what is the risk and threats imposed over us? We need to know the movement of the abolition of nuclear weapons on a global scale. You can have the meetings, you can have the exhibitions, I think there is a lot of ample room and elbow room for you to do so. Not specifying a particular country, I hope you will be able to do that in each respective country.

Ms. Nakamura

Any panelists? Any other comments? Now then, if not, as a coordinator let me wrap up. We are going to have the 68th anniversary tomorrow after the A-bombing. As of today, still, nuclear weapons do give the threat for its use. We are exposed to the world where there is always a threat of nuclear weapons. That has to be recognized. And the inhumanity of nuclear weapons has to be loudly voiced out. We just do not stick to what

we had experienced in the past. What is the selection in the future? What is the selection as of today? This is the realistic issue and challenge we are faced with. The heads of the local authorities and cities, and also representatives of the central government, NGOs and citizens, each individual does have the huge, colossal responsibility for the future generations. It is high time for you to make the selection. It is the critical moment. Why? We have to voice out the inhumanity of the nuclear weapons. What is the direction we are heading for? I think we had a very thorough discussion today in this session. I think this was a very good opportunity. I apologize as the chairman and coordinator that we have exceeded the time allocated to us today. I am very sorry but thank you very much for having joined with us. Now to the panelists, I would like to thank you all who have given us the wonderful presentation and comments. Please give a big hand to the panelists. Now ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for your attention. The meeting for this session is adjourned. Thank you very much.