

The 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Session IV

The Path toward the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

August 5 (Mon), 2013 14:30-15:30

International Conference Center Hiroshima (Himawari)

Chairperson: **Kazumi Matsui**
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor of Hiroshima

Reports on the Outcomes of Sessions II and III and the Dialogue Sessions by the Respective Coordinators:

Yasuyoshi Komizo
Chairperson, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

Thore Vestby
Mayor of Frogn, Norway

Kazumi Mizumoto
Vice President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima
City University

Keiko Nakamura
Associate Professor, Research Center for Nuclear
Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University

Adoption of the Hiroshima Appeal

MC

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for waiting. Now we would like to commence Session IV of the conference. The session chairperson is Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima City. Now I would like to hand it over to Mayor Matsui.

Chairperson: Mr. Kazumi Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace; Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan

Thank you. Now we would like to commence Session IV. I will be serving as the chair. I am Kazumi Matsui, mayor of Hiroshima City. Good afternoon everyone. In this general conference, first we had Session II and Session III and dialogue sessions. In this session, I would like to ask the coordinators of each session to report on the outcome of each of the sessions and then finally we would like to proceed to the adoption of the Hiroshima Appeal. First of all, I would like to hand it over to Session II coordinator, Chairperson Komizo of Hiroshima Peace and Culture Foundation.

Report on the Outcomes of Session II

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

Since there are many Japanese participants, I would like to present in Japanese. At Session II we spoke about the 2020 Vision Campaign, our future initiatives under the 2020 Vision Campaign and we had discussions. There are two major parts. The first part of the discussion was shared by France's Mayor Vestby who was the chairperson and he explained about the 2020 Vision, secretariat activities, and other people who have been promoting the 2020 Vision Campaign. He presented their activities. The second part of this session was in addition to the former presentation, there were individual presentations made about individual activities and examples of their actions so there were two sessions. Two-thirds of the session time consisted of these presentations. In the first part, because this year marks the 10th anniversary of the 2020 Vision Campaign, which started back in 2003, so we reviewed over the past 10 years 2020 Vision Campaign history and at the same time we introduced to the audience the future activities we were planning under the 2020 Vision Campaign. As for the 2020 Vision Campaign as we look back on it, there was NPT review meeting so we had preparation activities towards it. As appropriately and timely as possible, as the representatives of cities, we try to take appropriate measures in light of the situation of each time and progress of the NPT conference sessions each time.

The first trigger of this initiative was the 2003 meeting in Geneva. Mayor Akiba of that time proposed the urgent initiative and the following year in Manchester I believe in the Executive Committee of the Mayors for Peace, the 2020 Vision Campaign's vision was discussed and in the latter half of the year at the meeting held in Nagasaki, the 2020 Vision Campaign was officially commenced. That is how the 2020 Vision Campaign officially started in 2003. The presentation was in great detail so I am just going to report on some of the major key points. The first point, as I already said, in accordance with the NPT review meeting and preparatory committees to NPT review meeting, we try to be timely responding to those progresses by implementing activities in a timely fashion. In terms of structure building of the campaign, in 2005 the first name of the campaign was the emergency campaign but we changed the name to the 2020 Vision Campaign which was in 2005.

At that time, the city of Ypres of Belgium started proactive initiatives and in 2006, the 2020 Vision Campaign secretariat office was established in Ypres, Belgium, along with of course support from Hiroshima Secretariat. So the proactive initiatives started in 2006. In 2007, the then Ypres mayor started fundraising from various sources to fund various movements and activities of the campaign. Significant funds were raised through that fundraising activity. At the beginning, Mayors for Peace was not such a large organization and took a long time to grow into an organization of a thousand cities. But after the start of the 2020 Campaign, our organization quickly expanded to over 5,700. The background of it was the 2020 Vision which was the clear roadmap to abolish nuclear weapons by 2020. Because we started initiatives and activities with concrete goals that attracted support and understanding of various parties, and then our membership expanded quickly.

Another point is different member cities. In Europe and Japan we expanded membership rapidly and various cities did their own and unique activities in France, Germany, the UK. Different cities have creative and unique activities to enhance the initiatives, and together with other movements in the private sector such as Abolition 2000 and ICAN, which is another organization; and also IPPNW and others under ICAN. Our activities collaborated closely with other initiatives and organizations to grow into the current stage and campaign that we have today. In the presentation, another topic that was presented were our future initiatives and future challenges. Now we have a great foundation and how are we going to ensure effective initiatives will be carried on into the future?

There were four main items that were presented for the future. The first one was 2015 NPT Review Conference and we have work to do towards that. Some development after 2010, the International Committee of the Red Cross referred to and highlighted the inhumanity of nuclear weapons. In the previous session we discussed this. It will be momentum in our efforts to ban nuclear weapons by highlighting the inhumanity of the nuclear weapons to outlaw them. So we create trends toward outlawing nuclear weapons to ban them. In this trend in Oslo, in May this year there was a conference held in which humanitarian impact of the nuclear weapons was discussed and that was the topic of the meeting. And the Non-allied Countries Movement together with our campaign, what happened was in the first half of this year in the United Nations there was an unofficial working group held towards accelerating the elimination of nuclear weapons. Another resolution was made in the United Nations.

In September 26 of this year, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, on the first day of the general assembly, there will be a nuclear disarmament high level meeting will be held. So we in Mayors for Peace have written letters to the highest level of the government, calling upon them to pay highest level participation to this assembly. One of the main pillars of our activities is to call upon national governments and the UN to act. So we are trying to enhance and support our activities by action alerts. In addition, there are some more concrete activities that are planned.

First, the “I was her age” Campaign. The *hibakusha* who are offering testimonies when they were struck by the bomb, they were in their teens. So they themselves and their mothers would try to make people imagine the image of a mother and daughter struck by atomic weapons. The Peace Boat has been doing an around the world trip with *hibakusha* testimony so we collaborate with this. Around the timing of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, we use this campaign to have *hibakusha* have exchange and contact with the youth generation and from a humanitarian point of view they can convey the reality of the nuclear weapons and try to create a movement towards abolition. This is not directly related to nuclear weapons themselves. At 2015 is the hundred year anniversary of the first use of weapons of mass destruction in the city of Ypres, which is the campaign head of the 2020 Vision Campaign. So on this occasion we decided to have a meeting.

Of course we aim for the abolition of nuclear weapons but also we have to learn from the example of use of other weapons of mass destruction to support the movement towards the abolition of nuclear weapons. Another initiative is the World Peace

Calendar. Again in order to foster our movement on a global basis, different cities can put their events and commemoration days related to wars and peace into the calendar to create a movement towards abolition throughout the year. That is another item under the 2020 Vision Campaign.

I shouldn't spend too much time so Japanese presenters and European presenters and presenters from India and one scholar was invited from Germany to explain the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course and how that course was implemented in Germany. That was another presentation made in a session. In Session II, we discussed the 2020 Vision Campaign. Based on the 2020 Vision Campaign we discussed how we can enhance and enlarge our measures and discussed our history and future plans. Thank you.

Mr. Matsui

Thank you very much. And next on Session III, we are going to ask the Mayor of Frogn, Norway, Mr. Thore Vestby for the report.

Report on the Outcomes of Session III

Coordinator: Mr. Thore Vestby, Mayor of Frogn, Norway

Thank you very much. The session is not over yet because it was a long session. In my outline, it says .4 Summary by the Coordinator, we dropped that. I guess we are at the moment to do that summary. It was scheduled for 2.5 hours. I think we passed 3. And you are still alive? Thank you. It was a challenge at the time. But it tells me that there are so many in the audience, so many people, so many mayors, so many ambassadors that have so much to say about their activities. I felt that everybody accepted in a way that this is important, that we spent more time than was scheduled for. This is also what it is all about. We are coming together; we share views; we tell about our experiences; we inspire each other; we are picking up activities to bring back home; when speakers are asked, they use so many minutes, some are using more, we are as mayors very familiar with that so that is how it is when you are really onto something. You can speak for hours.

There were 15 speakers. Two were invited and it was very interesting I think for the audience to hear what they are doing in France, how they are doing it, how active they are, how long they have been in this organization. And we also had from Hannover, Germany, presented a film. I think it inspired a lot of ideas; came through to speakers.

All the others, I am quite sure that most of them have tried their very best to be as short as they could and I am quite sure that everybody could have brought up and gone deeper into what they were saying. But I would like to mention a couple of subjects that were, to me at least, quite new. I wrote them down. First I would like to mention, I think it was Mayor Ayabe, he mentioned that we should look upon nuclear plants as nuclear land mines. That was at least quite new to me. Maybe you should take that into consideration. If we shall take it into our goals, that is another discussion. A long discussion. But it is quite an interesting point.

We also had an independent statement from a guy from Australia addressing the opening of Uranium mines. It is also an interesting issue but it is probably not directly into our organization.

I would like to end with bringing some comments about the last three Kurdish speakers. The session got in a way really emotional in the end. They were addressing their mission, described through the tragedy in Halabja, and we learned also that there has been structured genocide for 182 thousand people in 4,000 villages. That was a very strong speech so we ended there. These are emotional things when you get down to it. You saw it in the movie earlier today also. That is what we are dealing with. Overall, the session was very long, maybe too long. But we did it and we are happy with it now. Thank you.

Mr. Matsui

Thank you very much. As Mayor Vestby touched upon Mayor Ayabe, I think it was Mayor Mikami of Kosai City. Now let us hear the report from the dialogue session with citizens and A-bomb survivor groups. The coordinator was Professor Kazumi Mizumoto, vice president of Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University, please.

Report on the Outcomes of the Dialogue Session with Citizens and A-bomb Survivor Groups

Coordinator: Professor Kazumi Mizumoto, Vice President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University

Allow me to report to you the discussion. On the dialogue session with citizens and bomb survivor groups, there were reports by four groups. I would like to give you the salient points. From the *hibakusha* groups there were two presentations. The first presenter is Mr. Sunao Tsuboi, Co-chairperson of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-bomb Sufferers Organization. One kilometer from the epicenter, he was hit. He was

covered by fire and he escaped at huge risk and he is 88 years old but is suffering from the after effects because of the radiation from the A-bomb. But he is making his best efforts to appeal the abolition of the A-bombing. Indeed, we listened to the real voices of the feelings of *hibakusha*.

The second speaker was Mr. Kazuo Ookoshi, secretary general of Hiroshima Prefectural Conference of A-bomb Sufferers Organization. There were three activities. First to appeal the reality of the A-bombing as well as the succession of the experiences. As many as 40 thousand people are recruited in the meeting for the testimony of the *hibakusha* and for the abolition of the A-bombing. Just like Mayors for Peace, appealed for the CTBT and are asking for the petition for signatures is also included. The third activity is to appeal for the protection of the *hibakusha*. The Japanese government has underestimated the damage and the suffering of the *hibakusha* that was reported. Also, *hibakusha* of the accident at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant and *hibakusha* of Hiroshima are coordinating. Also, as the citizens of Hiroshima who still lead the way in life in Hiroshima, Mr. Nobuhide Okamura, president of the Hiroshima Consumers' Co-operative Union, made a presentation. There are 14 co-operatives underneath the union. One-third and 900 thousand people were members of the cooperative union. Peace and betterment of life is their theme. Through those activities, they are also promoting the abolition of nuclear weapons, they listen to the testimony of the *hibakusha*, and have tours to the places of the A-bombing, and focusing on peace, they are engaged in various events and activities.

The last presenter on behalf of the young generation was Ms. Yui Tamitani, Emi Inazumi, and Noriko Murakami of Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School. Ms. Tamitani in April this year went to Monterey International Graduate School in California to have a discussion with colleagues for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In the dialogue session yesterday, she has also made a similar presentation on peace education in Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School. Specifically speaking, three students made the speech very fluently in English. The first point is the introduction in History of Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School. And also for six years, they are engaged in peace education. There were suggestions by the high school students engaged as of today by using smartphones and websites, they are working around the streets and they are sending the information on Hiroshima archives in Hiroshima Peace Boat, as well as engaged in the guided tour as the guide to Hiroshima Museum. Hiroshima International Cooperation Society is the study association whereby they are

engaged in the various peace activities. That is their extracurricular activities. Those were the presentations by four groups.

And after that on behalf of the Mayors for Peace, there was one more presentation. Specifically speaking, the documentary film “That Day” was the basis for activities to appeal the atrocity of A-bombs. Mr. Richard Mirocco made the presentation. The purpose of the film is to give the reality of the A-bombing as well as the folly of Iran and DPRK, who are engaged in nuclear testing, and to all the people in the world, they are approving to the abolition of nuclear weapons. In our dialogue session with citizens with A-bomb survivors, with the young generations, and filmmakers, there were a lot of commonalities to focus on the inhumanity of the nuclear weapons as well as the atrocity and horror of the nuclear weapons. This is the common sense of the feeling. This is the report on behalf of the dialogue session with the citizens. Thank you very much.

Mr. Matsui

Last but not least, I would like to invite Ms. Keiko Nakamura, Associate Professor with the Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University.

Report on the Outcomes of the Dialogue Session with Government Officials and NGOs, etc.

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

On the last session we had, it was all with respect to governance and NGOs for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Please allow me to go through a quick summary of the discussion we had. Just a few hours ago, our session ended. Perhaps many of you still have a vivid recollection of what we discussed. With that in mind, I will not go through a lengthy summary of each presentation. Rather, in my opinion, I would like to make some comments of which I thought were rather important out of the discussion.

First, speakers. We had speakers from four governments; from Norway, Mr. Midthun; Dr. Claude Heller from Mexico; and from Japan, director-general of Disarmament Non-Proliferation and Science Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kitano; and Mr. Sanjay Panda from India; and from NGO ICRC Tokyo mission, Mr. Nico; and from international NGO ICAN, co-chair Mr. Kawasaki. These two gentlemen represented the NGOs. Also we had Mr. Hidehiko Yuzaki, Hiroshima Prefecture governor who discussed the importance of Hiroshima as a center for peace around the

world and its missions for dialogue as a matter of fact. Due to the time factor, we are not able to really execute a kind of dialogue as the theme of this session describes. That is perhaps due to my poor chairmanship, but the honorable mayor of Kazakhstan came to the podium and gave his talk. Also from Soka Gakkai and from CANVAS which has good interaction with the youth in Kazakhstan, gave us their talk with respect to their experiences.

The theme throughout the session, needless to say, is the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. And the 2010 NPT Review Conference was held, and since then throughout the discussion of international nuclear disarmament discussion, this inhumane nature began to draw central attention of the discussion around the world. As you know, last year in the NPT, PrepCom and the UN General Assembly in the fall, and in this year's Geneva PrepCom for NPT Review Conference, the joint statements were issued with 64 countries' signatures. Really, one of the central issues of international discussion is the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. Really one of the central issues of international discussion is the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and one of the speakers regarded the situation as a tipping point of the whole framework of the discussion. Yes indeed that is a tipping point, the nuclear weapon states. How should they reduce nuclear weapon arsenals?

The so-called theory of national security has been the central theme of nuclear disarmament discussions, but with an inhumane nature, we are able to place humans and people at the center of the discussion and that is gaining momentum as the central theme of our discussion today. This time here in Hiroshima, I described key players as I made opening remarks in a very timely manner. Key players gathered on the stage as speakers and that was hard to get an opportunity, I believe. From Norway in March, as was described already, also hosted a conference where they led the movement towards a joint statement release. Mexico is going to hold a follow-up discussion meeting in February next year after the Oslo conference and NPDI process, the meeting to be held in Hiroshima on next year on the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. That is in relation to the position of Japanese government. Under said circumstances, the common thread running through all those talks is the very strong sense of risk and danger concerning the risk of nuclear weapons used and we are really living side by side with such an extremely dangerous risk. How can we address the situation?

Under said circumstances, one of the very important tipping points which were brought about was the focus upon the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and I think that

understanding was shared by all the speakers. Then what are the ways forward? The reality of *hibakusha's* experience was mentioned and also the nuclear testing done in Semipalatinsk. And the consequences of nuclear testing, and the scientific aspect. That was one of the main points in the Oslo conference. From such a scientific background we can enhance the international understanding of nuclear weapons and also one of the activities carried out by Peace Boat NGO is to listen to the real voices of *hibakusha* and others who were exposed to radiation effects. Also, especially young people as was discussed by a gentleman from Soka Gakkai Peace Committee, the ignorance of the young people, especially of the reality of the *hibakusha* is an important hurdle in peace education and as has been tackled by Mayors for Peace needs to be promoted in consult with NGOs and states and other players to enhance peace education and awareness.

As such, a commonly shared recognition, we were able to find, fortunately, among all those speakers, but on the other hand, inhumane nature of nuclear weapons. The consequences of a nuclear weapon. Why are we discussing those aspects today? And beyond that, what are we able to find and move forward? In this aspect, I think we saw some differences in the positions and attitudes among the speakers. To speak of the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons is of course reflecting the voices of the *hibakusha*. But beyond that, never allow the use of such a weapon. In order for that to happen, the total illegalization of nuclear weapon studies and the Nuclear Weapons Convention is necessary. The inhumane nature of nuclear weapons can become meaningful.

As we lead from this discussion to the total ban on nuclear weapons as illegal weapons, that is one opinion. But on the other hand, in relation to the security environment, direct discussion leading to the illegalization and ban on nuclear weapons may seem rather too premature according to some discussion and speakers. Also, the challenge being faced by Japan was pointed out. A Japanese government representative was given a question concerning that Japan didn't sign that joint statement. It seems that Japan is trying to separate the discussion on inhumane nature from the total ban on nuclear weapons as an illegal weapon. We are not at that stage yet, according to some discussion, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki and from other sites exposed to radiation. Consequently, voices of criticism and disappointment has been voiced and expressed towards such an attitude and position of the Japanese government.

To place the inhumane nature at the central theme of discussion is forming a core of international discussion. I think this is really the truth in fact. However, beyond that, as we look to the meeting in Mexico next year, and also 2015 NPT Review Conference,

where can we go from the discussion of inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and from there, what is the direction or step in our discussion we can go forward. And opinions still seem to be divided in this regard. At this very important juncture, voices of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which is the theme of this general conference, and also solidarity with NGOs and other players around the world are gathering importance greater than ever before. And as coordinator or moderator of this session, I should keep a more neutral position in my summation, but as was mentioned by a Japanese presentation, the objective of recognition of the persons of many kinds of weapons, the point was made that we need to reduce the need for having weapons, including nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons have no value or no utility. That is a very important point. For that reason we cannot rely upon the nuclear umbrella of another country. Japan as the first A-bombed country needs to have such a position and Japan can lead the world into the discussion towards nuclear weapons abolition. And I think that important challenge facing Japan seems to once again surfaced in that discussion. Thank you very much.

Mr. Matsui

Now we have been able to hear the summary of the three days conference and the individual sessions. If any of you have any questions or impressions or wish to speak out here, please raise your hand. Anyone who would like to offer comments? The person at the back. Please state you city and your affiliation.

Mr. Adrian Glamorgan, Representative of the City of Fremantle, Australia

I am Adrian Glamorgan from the city of Fremantle, Western Australia. I have a question or clarification as a newcomer here, I admire the work that has been done for a long time. I am less clear about where issues such as the stockpiling of plutonium by particular countries which can only be used then for nuclear weapons. How Mayors for Peace can make a contribution to that? *Arigato.*

Mr. Matsui

So your question is directed to all coordinators? Who would you like to have this question answered by?

Mr. Glamorgan

I think I would be guided by the chair as to who you think would be the best person to answer it but particularly those people who have influence over governments or

companies that stockpile plutonium, it would be of interest, but how the action plan actually fades into that.

Mr. Glamorgan

Okay, so in terms of the plutonium stockpiling and if you do not address this problem, does Mayors for Peace function effectively without dealing with this problem?

Mr. Komizo

Whether it is military or civilian nuclear activities, the accumulation of plutonium, how to balance it and how to prevent plutonium to be used for military purposes. It is a very, very important issue. As of now for the Mayors for Peace, our activities are actually concentrating on two fronts. One is the campaign to promote Nuclear Weapons Convention. That is one. Number two, for longer term goals, even if it is a very difficult thing but even if we eliminate nuclear weapons, if we leave in the situation where we keep distrust and threat that would invite human beings to come up with some nasty, dirty, explosive devices. So it is very important to cultivate the human relationship, like in Europe. They have been fighting all the time but once they develop a sense of community and build a system upon it, they are not going to war against each other anymore. So I think our long-term goal is to cultivate a sense of community as one human being on a global scale.

We are working on the immediate goal, and then the long-term goal, and in between we are encouraging governments and the UN to come up with a major confidence building measure. For example, the various measures prevents, not use, nuclear bombs again. Those are the activities. At the same time, we are cooperating with various entities, like ICAN and IPPNW and I think plutonium issues are dealt with by other expert bodies because they are not experts on the plutonium issue. So although we recognize that this is a very important issue, this is not our main campaign agenda item. But we are going to expand our cooperation with wider civil society and also those various expert groups. That is something I would just like to describe the current situation. Thank you.

Mr. Matsui

Does that answer your question? Okay, thank you. Any other comments? If there are no further comments or questions, we would like to close the reporting session of the previous sessions.

Adoption of the Hiroshima Appeal

Mr. Matsui

Based on the discussions we have had, now we would like to proceed onto the adoption of the Hiroshima Appeal. In your handouts, have you received the Hiroshima Appeal? Please distribute the Hiroshima Appeal document. Please distribute the Hiroshima Appeal. There is a Japanese version and English version so please tell the nearby staff which version you would like to receive. Now ladies and gentlemen, do you all have Hiroshima Appeal document in front of you? Please raise your hand if you have still not received one. Does everyone have it now? Now I am going to read it out in Japanese. Then the interpreter will interpret it simultaneous into English. This English document is the fruit of robust discussions we have had. So we have been discussion to almost midnight yesterday so please keep that in mind as you listen to it. Now I will read it.

“The Hiroshima Appeal. We representatives of 5,712 cities from 157 countries and regions around the world have met at the 8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace held in Hiroshima and engaged in extensive discussions on the theme toward a world without nuclear weapons conveying the spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the world. In August 1945, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were reduced to ruins in both cases by a single atomic bomb and more than 210 thousand people from the two cities lost their precious lives. The suffering of the atomic bomb survivors, known as *hibakusha*, from the blast, heat, and radiation continues to this day, 68 years later.

Having lived through an experience too cruel to be put into words, the atomic bomb survivors have continued to appeal for nuclear abolition and to extend their desire for peace to the people of the world that their dedication stems from their deep humanitarian conviction that no one should ever again suffer as we have. Mayors for Peace, which feels a strong sense of responsibility to guarantee the safety and welfare of citizens everywhere, empathizes profoundly with the spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in striving for nuclear abolition and peace and is intensifying its activities to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020. Hiroshima and Nagasaki are names that are well-known throughout the world. However, though the states that possess nuclear weapons have turned a deaf ear to the earnest appeals of the *hibakusha* and during the Cold War, they engaged in a nuclear arms race that eventually increased their number to the current total of nine.

While there has been some reduction in the number of nuclear weapons, this has been too slow and inadequate. Today, almost a quarter of a century since the Cold War ended, an estimated 17,300 nuclear weapons continue to pose an intolerable threat to humanity and to the environment. With about 2,000 nuclear weapons on high alert, the threatened use of nuclear weapons, euphemistically called ‘deterrents,’ and the unspeakable horror it implies is still the mainstay of the international security regime. Furthermore, nuclear proliferation remains a current and dangerous threat and we cannot deny the possibility that a subnational terrorist group might obtain nuclear weapons. And yet, in a time of unprecedented global economic crisis, fantastically expensive programs to use new tests to modernize nuclear weapons systems are underway in all of the states that possess nuclear arms with no end in sight, misappropriating resources that are badly needed to fund basic human needs.

The need to achieve a world without nuclear weapons that will be sustainable over the long-term compels us to build a new society in which mutual distrust and threats are replaced by a shared sense of community rooted in awareness that we all belong to the same human family. In such a society, diversity will be treasured and disputes will be resolved through peaceful means. The road to this goal may be long and difficult but it is certainly achievable and we must proceed with determination. At the same time, while on this path, it is absolutely necessary to prevent the criminal act of another use of nuclear weapons which would result in unfathomable disaster to humanity and to the environment. To descend concrete policies, frameworks, and confidence building measures to promote international and regional peace and security must be put in place, in particular, in regions such as the Middle East, South Asia, and the Asia Pacific where nuclear tensions are on the rise.

Facing the continuing threat posed by nuclear weapons, we need to redouble our efforts to bring all states to the table to commence negotiations for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date. This is the main goal of the Mayors for Peace 29020 Vision Campaign to ban nuclear weapons. While we acknowledge the many complimentary efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, we, Mayors for Peace, place a priority at this stage on promoting Nuclear Weapons Conventions or other effective means of establishing a world free of nuclear weapons. In this context, we welcome several promising new developments that are highlighting the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and accelerating the momentum toward their becoming outlawed.

The final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference referred for the first time to the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and the Nuclear Weapons Convention. In March this year, Norway hosted a groundbreaking conference in Oslo on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons with 127 governments in attendance. A follow-on conference hosted by Mexico is scheduled for February 2014. In May, a new United Nations Working Group opened to all member states began meeting in Geneva to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. And the first ever United Nations High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament will take place on September 26 in New York. Mayors for Peace calls on all states, including those that possess nuclear weapons, to participate constructively and in good faith in the new UN Working Group. The United Nations High Level Nuclear Disarmament Meeting and the Mexico Conference on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons as well as in preparations for the 2015 Nuclear Non-proliferation Review Conference. Along with this immediate campaign, we will also expand our activities to advance the long-term goal of cultivating the sense of global community as one human family. That will ultimately be the basis for lasting world peace.

In order for Mayors for Peace to carry out this ambitious agenda, further expansion of our membership and the development of proactive and independent activities at the regional level are necessary. Further, we need to convince people around the world to actively support the heartfelt desire of the atomic bomb survivors for peace to raise global awareness as widely as possible but the harsh reality of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, especially among future generations. We must strengthen our relationships with the United Nations, parliamentarians, associations of local authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross, international peace organizations, other organizations working for peace, human rights and protection of the environment, and prominent figures in culture, the arts, and sports. Our collaborative activities can help to mobilize widespread international public opinion for peace by expanding the number of our member cities and deepening the involvement of existing members and through increased networking with diverse organizations who will overcome the barriers of mutual distrust based on nationality, race, or religion and create a security system rooted in a sense of global community as members of the same human family.

In light of the 25th anniversary of the gas attacks on Halabja and the upcoming commemorations of the centennial anniversary in 2015 of the first use of a weapon of mass destruction on Ypres, Mayors for Peace will use these

tragic examples of the use of other weapons of mass destruction to further our goal of a nuclear weapons free world. Mayors for Peace has been a humanitarian organization since its founding in 1982 by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Cities joined first and foremost out of human solidarity with the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, especially the survivors of 1945. Membership has grown to 5,712 member cities in 157 countries and regions, and we now represent more than 1 billion people. We shall further enhance our capacity to serve member cities and support their activities, and call upon others to join our efforts to further nuclear abolition and peace.

Finally, whatever the source of radiation may be, we must do everything we can to prevent any more *hibakusha* anywhere. Mayors for Peace calls on the United Nations and all governments to take the following measures:

- 1) To Make sure that policy makers and officials from governments and international agencies responsible for nuclear disarmament visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order to deepen their understanding of the indescribable human tragedy of the atomic bombings and disseminate the earnest wish of the atomic bomb survivors for the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- 2) To establish policies and frameworks for confidence building measures among nations to make sure that nuclear weapons will never be used again.
- 3) To aim for the early implementation of a nuclear weapons convention or other effective means of establishing a nuclear weapons free world and to start concrete negotiations towards its conclusion.
- 4) To actively work on replacing the current security system of nuclear deterrents, which attempts to maintain peace through the threatened use of nuclear weapons with one rooted in the shared sense of community as fellow members of one human family, taking into account experiences gained by regional communities such as the EU, ASEAN, and SELAC.

Addressing the above points at its 8th General Conference, Mayors for Peace adopted a dynamic action plan for the period from 2013 to 2017. We hereby pledge to make every endeavor to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

August 5, 2013
8th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Hiroshima.”

Thank you very much. Now with the clapping by the audience, we assume that you all agree to adopt this appeal. As for this appeal, all member nations, we will send it to all member cities, all the governments, NGOs, and the United Nations, and to other related international organizations. Now this brings us to the end of Session IV. Thank you very much for your cooperation with a smooth administration of this session. Thank you.