The 9th General Conference of Mayors for Peace

Session I

August 8 (Tue), 2017  13:30-15:30
Nakabe Hall, Nagasaki University Bunkyo Campus

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

Agenda Explanation:
   Yasuyoshi Komizo
   Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, Japan
Thank you very much for waiting. We are going to start Session I. According to the Covenant, Mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui, is going to serve as Chairperson.

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

Good afternoon. I would like to ask for your kind support for the smooth conduct of the meeting. Let us start Session I. We have three agenda items, and all of them were approved by the Executive Conference yesterday. Now the three agenda are here for discussion and adoption.

Agenda Item 1 is only for the member cities, but non-members are also invited to be here so that you can understand what we are doing. You are here as observers. Now let me move on to agenda Item 1 “Election of Executive Officials.” There is an explanation form the secretariat.

Secretariat: Mr. Yasuyoshi Komizo, Secretary General of Mayors for Peace, Japan

Thank you very much. Agenda Item 1 is “Election of Executive Officials.” I think you can find these in your handout. Concerning the election of the Executive Officials, please look at page 1. On page 1, you can see the proposal. This is the list of candidates for the Executive Officials for President, Vice Presidents and Executives. According to the Article 4 of the Covenant, the President and the Vice President shall be elected by mutual vote. According to the long years of practice, concerning incumbent President and Vice Presidents, in principle, are requested to remain in those positions if they agree. So the current President and Vice Presidents were asked if they are going to remain or not, and most of them said that they wish to continue in their positions.

The one with yellow highlight is the mayor of Des Moines, a new candidate for Vice President. To give you the explanation, the Vice President city, mayor of Akron, USA is now succeeded by another mayor, and although the previous mayor and the city served as Vice President for a long time, the newly elected mayor declined reappointment. On the other hand, the mayor of Des Moines has been quite active. Also the mayor of Des
Moines clearly expressed his intension to accept the position. On July 7, a negotiation was held at the UN Headquarters, and in its first meeting in March, there were no representatives from the US government, but representing more than 200 mayors of Mayors for Peace in the US, Mayor Cownie attended the UN negotiation. And you saw his video message this morning. So, the mayor of Des Moines is now recommended as a candidate for Vice President, representing the US. This is the intension of the President, and the Executive Conference already approved this proposal. Now the agenda is here for the general conference to deliberate and decide about the adoption.

Among the existing Vice President cities, concerning Brussels in Belgium, there has been changes in the administration, and the current intention of the city is not clear. So it’s not decided whether Brussels is going to continue as Vice President. If Brussels is going to express the intension to accept the reappointment, then Mayors for Peace is going to ask the new mayor to remain as Vice President. If the suggestion is declined, then it will be followed that way.

As for the Executives, you can see the names of the candidates, starting with Governor of Bangkok. According to the Article 4 of the Covenant, the Executive members shall be appointed by the President. So, this item is an item for reporting, not for the resolution. And, we would like to introduce the newly elected Executive City, mayor of Grigny of France. Mayor of Grigny is now serving as the President of French Chapter. Therefore, it’s quite natural for us to recommend this city as Executive. Other members of the Executive Conference seconded this proposal, and the President is very happy to invite this city as a new member of Executive. This is an item for reporting. That’s all from the Secretariat.

**Chairperson**
You just heard the explanation from the secretariat. Are there any questions or comments about this agenda item? No questions? Then, we would like to vote. Those who are for adopting the proposal as is presented, please give us your applause. Thank you very much. So, Vice President Cities and Executive Cities, we would like to ask you to offer your efforts until the next general conference to be held in 2020.
Now we are going to invite the mayor of Grigny, Mr. Philippe Rio. We are going to invite him onto the stage as a new member of the Executive Officials. Thank you very much.

Now, we would like to proceed to Agenda Item 2 “Membership Fees: Seeking increase in revenue and utilization to regional activities.” Explanation from the secretariat, please.

**Secretariat**

Please look at page 3 of the handout. Before talking about the proposal itself, please go to the next page. On page 4, you can find the reference material showing you the current revenues and expenditures of the membership fees. Just one comment about this reference material. We now have more than 7,400 member cities, but as you can see, fees have been provided by 1,116 cities. So, I would like to ask lead cities to make efforts to contact other member cities in your country or region to support the activities of Mayors for Peace by making contribution as membership fees. This is quite important.

Now the Agenda Item 2 itself. In order to make efforts for the abolition of nuclear weapons, we need financial resources. Four years ago at the previous general conference, we decided the annual membership fee should be 2,000 JPY, which is less than 20 EUR, per year. The amount may not be large, so I do hope that many more members would pay the membership fee. So membership fee collection is quite important to support the activities. I would like to ask the lead cities to increase their efforts to contact other member cities for this purpose.

In the next agenda, we are going to discuss the Action Plan. The nuclear prohibition treaty has been adopted. Prohibition is declared in the treaty, but in order to make more countries to join, additional articles will be required. The nuclear-weapon states and those under the nuclear umbrella are required to accept the objectives of the treaty so that the treaty will become effective which can really reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons. So, we need to focus our efforts on those activities. In order to do those activities, in addition to the existing activities, we now propose to have another sets of
activities called “realization of safe and resilient cities,” including environment, poverty and refugees. There are specific issues to each region, so Mayors for Peace, centering on lead cities, is determined to take actions for those issues. This will expand our own activities, and it will also expand those who would like to take proactive actions for our causes. To make it happen, we would like to propose to add a new category of activities, “realization of safe and resilient cities,” but those activities require financial resources. In order to initiate those new types of activities, if lead cities and the cities in the same region agree, then an option will be given to them to increase the membership fee from 2,000 JPY to 6,000 JPY. The difference is 4,000 JPY, and that difference will be utilized for the new sets of activities.

The collection of the membership fee remains voluntary, and those who are not making payments of membership fee does not mean that they will no longer be members of Mayors for Peace, but now we propose a new scheme, in order to strengthen the financial basis.

Of course, we need to seek other ways to bring in financial resources from outside, but at this point, we have the two proposals. The first is to improve the collection rate, mainly through the efforts by lead cities. The second is a membership fee increase to secure budget for activities targeting “realization of safe and resilient cities.” The proposal is to increase the fee from 2,000 JPY to 6,000 JPY. If there is a reason to do so and if it’s accepted by that particular region. This is our proposal.

Chairperson
Thank you very much. Membership fee revenue increase and utilization to regional activities. Are there any questions to this explanation? Any questions from member cities? No questions? If you are for this proposal, please give us your applause. Thank you very much for your support. We have decided on the membership fee revenue increase and utilization to regional activities. We hope that all the member cities will strive toward achieving those financial resource expansions.

We would like to move on to Agenda Item 3 “Mayors for Peace Action Plan (2017-2020).” Secretariat, please.
Secretariat

Thank you very much. Regarding this matter, we have revised the draft action plan we’ve just given to you today. It is from page 5 to page 12. On page 5, you can see a schematic drawing. From page 6 onward, you can read the details of the proposed action plan. Due to the time limitation, I am not able to take you through the whole details of this draft document, so I would like to use this scheme shown on Page 5.

In the previous agenda item I touched upon this draft action plan to some extent. So far our primary activity has been activities related to the realization of a world without nuclear weapons, and that had been laid down in the previous action plans. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted, but there is a serious divide between the nuclear-armed states and those who do not have nuclear weapons. So we believe that Mayors for Peace, which goes beyond any ideological differences, needs to work as a good mediator between the two worlds so that we will be able to move fast to a world without nuclear weapons. There are diverse people and diverse organizations, and it’s important for Mayors for Peace to mobilize those diverse people and groups and diverse ideas into our drive for a world without nuclear weapons. In order to have more cities involved in the realization of a world without nuclear weapons, we believe that we need to pay attention to other regional issues such as terrorism, refugees, and poverty. These issues should be discussed and lead by lead cities in each region, and that will enhance the level of interest of many cities. And their interest, I hope, will eventually lead to their involvements in our effort to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

Beside this important point, I would like to add one more point why we are adding this new piece of activities “realization of safe and resilient cities.” In our past discussion with various member cities, we received many calls to add those issues such as terrorism, refugees and what not in Mayors for Peace Action Plan. By including those pieces of other activities, terrorism and refugees, we will be able to mobilize more member cities toward a world without nuclear weapons. That has been the discussion we have had with many member cities, and actually, in yesterday’s Executive Conference. This idea was approved and supported by Executive Cities.
I would like to explain this scheme. Right on top you see our ultimate goal, “realization of lasting world peace.” We are doing this work so that other people, other than hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, would not go through the same suffering. We would like to make a change in the world for the better, and we would like to realize a lasting world peace, a world without nuclear weapons where people of different notions and different ideas are able to live happily with each other. In order to realize this goal, “lasting world peace,” we decided to have two sub-goals. One is “realization of a world without nuclear weapons” which has been our goal so far, and the second is “realization of safe and resilient cities.” Cities need to create peace among their citizens, especially focusing on youth. Specifically, cities need to tackle issues such as terrorism, refugees and what not. By pushing for safe and resilient cities, this will eventually move us toward a world without nuclear weapons.

I would like to explain the sub-goals. Regarding the realization of a world without nuclear weapons, Mayors for Peace will call upon the UN and national governments. The content of the requests are, first, to act with a mindset of understanding hibakusha’s wishes. In order to do so, we would like the leaders of the world to come and visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Secondly, we will promote the early conclusion of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. So far, in the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision, we have been calling it a nuclear weapons convention. We have been calling that way because we were not just considering about the prohibition, but the verification system or how to deal with the weapon’s impact on environment. Of course it takes a long way to achieve such a ban. Many states decided to clearly have a treaty on banning nuclear weapons and in order to allow nuclear-armed states to come and join this treaty, they decided to have a certain flexibility in the treaty. We believe that the civil society and cities need to work upon national governments so that they will join the treaty in the near future. This treaty is not complete, but it has such a very grave significance so we need to support it. We need to call upon national governments to join the treaty as soon as possible.

Thirdly, create a security framework that moves away from nuclear deterrence. Nuclear deterrence is the big reason why nuclear weapons still exists. Nuclear deterrence means mutual distrust, and because of this, with the threat of massacre and mass-killing,
nuclear deterrence has been used as a rationale. For instance, terrorism and refugee crisis we see today are the result of mutual distrust, and exclusiveness. Nuclear deterrence will not be able to solve such issues. Furthermore, nuclear deterrence has negative impact: it is a waste of resource and there is a risk of nuclear proliferation, as we have seen in North Korea. We the cities need to not just criticize national governments, but advise them so that they can work toward a more appropriate road.

The second bullet point is efforts to be made by a wide range of citizens to call on nuclear-armed states and their allies to act. Nuclear-armed states and those under their nuclear umbrella who are not part of the treaty have to move toward a world without nuclear weapons. Of course, they have their own security concerns, but on behalf of our citizens, we, the mayors and cities, need to call upon our national leaders to make a change in the course of their actions.

On the right, creation of peace culture and the specific activities are to be conducted at the same time. In order to move such activities, we need to foster and grow international public opinions. Mayors for Peace and cities are close to citizens, therefore this is a very important role for us to play.

If you look at the left box, we need to create something long lasting, and we can see that big changes have been brought about by the young people. Their passion and their will can make a change in the world. So, young people need to really understand the value of peace and also the earnest wishes of hibakusha. They need to become citizens that will create a better world in the future, and we, Mayors for Peace, need to support them. That is the first point. For peace education, we will use animation films and take inventive approach, and the secretariat will create educational materials with you to raise awareness of young people. We will enhance the scheme to have many more students come to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to study. We will continue with the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course in higher education.

The second point is to raise awareness for peace among a wide range of citizens. Point 1 is the petition drive signature campaign that also creates an opportunity to have a dialogue with many people. We can exchange opinions with a diverse range of people,
and that will inspire us toward new ideas, and out of this, we will be able to create further awareness of peace. Through petition drive and signature collection started by mothers stopped the nuclear testing by the US and the USSR in 1950s. So, signature collection or petition drive are indeed important and significant. Another is appointing Campaign Ambassadors. Unfortunately, inhumanity of nuclear weapons is not well understood throughout the world. So, in collaboration with researchers, scholars, citizens and hibakusha, we need to conduct outreach activities on the inhumanity and risks.

The third point is promoting and disseminating Hiroshima and Nagasaki’s messages to member cities. For instance, the use of A-bombed trees’ seeds, and receive foreign diplomats in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Actually, the US Consul-General listened to the story about the A-bombed trees, and through this, he planted an A-bombed tree’s sapling on the ground of his residence. An A-bombed trees’ sapling, which is very difficult to grow, was planted together by Mayor Matsui and the Consul-General of the United States, and this is a symbol of creating peace together. Hannover and Manchester, those cities are also joining, and also French cities are joining this.

The fourth point is the collaboration with other organizations of cities and also ICRC. On the right-hand side column, similar activities are shown. The first is the next generation, young people’s education, and also various activities to solve region-specific issues. In yesterday’s Executive Conference, one thing was considered important. That is SDGs, the UN Sustainable Development Goal, which was also discussed by Ms. Nakamitsu in her keynote speech. On our part, we noticed that there are some SDGs goals which are important for citizens and cities. It was discussed yesterday in the Executive Conference that we are going to also encourage achieving such SDGs.

Regarding the collaboration with other organizations of local authorities, there are two examples. For instance, the mayor of Granollers from Spain mentioned that the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is an organization where he serves as the vice president, and he has been working to link Mayors for Peace and UCLG. So, we would like to join that kind of effort. And the mayor of Des Moines and his predecessor have
been working in the biggest mayors’ organization in the United States, which is the US Conference of Mayors, and they have been organizing efforts on the nuclear disarmament resolution for 13 years. Lead cities are expected to make a creative effort so that they will be able to further link Mayors for Peace with other organizations of local authorities.

In order to carry out those activities, we need to have management and financial foundation. What we discussed just a few minutes ago is going to be very important. Membership fee is not a major financial resource, but with funding from foundations from outside, we might be able to collect additional fees and donations. We hope that we will be able to consolidate our activities by making the best use of those funds. So, those are the proposals I want you to ask your understanding.

Chairperson
Thank you very much. Secretary General has given us the ideas and point of view of Mayors for Peace Action Plan. Now that you listened to this overview, what we’ve been doing in the past: focusing on the nuclear weapon prohibition, thus creating lasting world peace. But with additional suggestions, in order to create lasting world peace, we need to focus on what’s happening in the regions; terrorism, refugees, issues embraced by different cities. Those have to be rectified in order to create lasting world peace. So we have increased one pillar and made the two pillars to support the lasting world peace. And, as one of the major points, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Nuclear weapon convention was the word we used to use in English, but we have introduced a new idea, which is to first establish a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, and change this treaty that will lead up to a total nuclear weapon convention. So this is going to be the basis of our activities. In order to do that, we need to have our sights set on SDGs by the United Nations. In order to do that, we have to have a good organization and strengthen our source of the funds. The new idea and proposal were incorporated in this concept. Now, any questions? There being no questions, if you agree to this idea as is proposed, may I assume that we have the agreement? Please.

Mr. David Lucas Parron, Mayor of Mostoles, Spain
I am from Mostoles City. Allow me to make a comment. For us, attending here at
Mayors for Peace on behalf of Spain for many years, we made a lot of efforts and 30 cities joined in this association last year. The basic theme is collaboration and cooperation among local cities. There is a special committee in order to realize our objective both from inside and outside of the country. It is necessary to have good collaborations between Mayors for Peace and local authorities. And there is the idea of the UN-Habitat and a conference was held in Quito. In that meeting, strategic actions were put on the table. As one of the cities of Spain, not only the Spanish cities, but also the other local authorities, for example, are able to put a lot of efforts in the regional committee. I believe it is necessary to develop our regional initiative in order to establish the lasting world peace. Now those organizational activities would be more effective in order to realize our objectives. In Spain, we have a gathering of mayors, and we demonstrate our ideas and the statement to give the support.

**Chairperson**

We need to put our hands together with other cities, not just limiting our activities to Mayors for Peace but work on wide range of issues, not just regional urban issues. I believe Spanish cities are quite active in promoting peace activities in order to realize our objective, the lasting world peace. We have to have a good collaboration and communication among different organizations. Thank you very much for your input.

Any other questions or comments? If not, this Mayors for Peace Action Plan, as was put on the table, may I take it that you have the concurrence in agreement? If so, please give a clap of your hands. Thank you very much.

In relation to this, there is one more thing. There is a proposal for a special resolution. Secretary General, would you like to explain?

**Secretariat**

In order to further promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, what we need to do is the early entry into force of this Treaty. Yesterday in the Executive Conference, Mayor Taue of Nagasaki proposed a special resolution to call for the early entry into force of the Treaty, in addition to the Nagasaki Appeal. This was endorsed by 100% of the members of the Executive Conference. As for the actual wording, we will
discuss this at the Nagasaki Appeal Drafting Committee on the evening of August 9. After the discussion, we are going to bring that to the meeting. Therefore, in this meeting today, we would like to ask if you will agree on this idea.

**Chairperson**

Thank you for your explanation. In this general conference in Nagasaki, we are proposing the special resolution to make this as a basis for furtherance of our activities. As for the actual wording, this will be discussed in the committee meeting, and this will be also sounded out in the coming day. Is this agreeable? If it’s agreeable, please show your “yes” with the clapping of hands. Thank you very much. We shall act accordingly based on this Mayors for Peace Action Plan until 2020, and of course, special resolution should be put on the table. We have been discussing our action plan until 2020. Eventually, since we are discussing the lasting world peace, we have to think about it in a longer perspective, what’s going to happen beyond 2020. What is going to be the future vision in Mayors for Peace? Is there something we need to dwell upon now? Among the Executive member cities we hope that we will be able to start to have the discussion beyond 2020. And if there is something comes up, we shall report to you.

Now, some reports and housekeeping announcement from the secretariat, please.

**Secretariat**

Thank you very much. I have one point to report. It is about the timing of the next Mayors for Peace general conference. The target year of Mayors for Peace is 2020 so it is a common sense judgement to hold the conference that year. Therefore, we hope to hold the quadrennial general conference in the year 2020 in the City of Hiroshima, three years from now. We only have three years, and we will be witnessing a lot of challenges and changes.

Usually, regular meetings are held every two years for the Executive members, but in leading up to 2020, we are planning to hold the Executive Conference in 2018 and 2019. In the next year, 2018, NPT preparatory conference is going to be held in Geneva. By using this as a very good opportunity, those who are able to get together, we hope to have the meeting there. If you wish, you will be able to have the communication by a
way of Skype in the meeting in 2018. And in 2019, immediately before the general conference and the target year, we need to have a meeting. As for the venue, while we were discussing, there was an icebreaking proposal. Hannover City is ready to host the meeting. In addition, as the condition in proviso, Halabja, if a certain condition is met, they said they are prepared to host this meeting. So as to the actual venue, in the year 2018 when we have the Executive Conference at that time, probably we will be able to decide the venue for 2019. There will be the general conference in 2020, and Executive Conference will be held twice: in 2018, at the timing of the NPT prep conference, and in 2019 either in Hannover or Halabja, or any other location. This is going to be the flow of our meetings.

**Chairperson**

Thank you very much. The year 2020 marks exactly 75 years after the A-bombing. It is going to be the last year of 75 years which was said that no grass or tree would grow after the atomic bombing. We will look into the current status on the abolition of nuclear weapons and will be a critical year for us. An Executive Conference is usually held every two years, but we shall have the Executive Conference twice in 2018 and 2019, leading up to 2020. In 2018, we are going to have the Executive Conference in Geneva, and there are two candidates for the meeting in 2019. Either would be decided by way of the decision making process at the Executive Conference.

We hope we will be able to lead the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons up to the nuclear weapon convention so that we will be able to have the recognition of as many nuclear-weapon states as possible to make this treaty into a convention. We hope that we will be able to put our hands together to realize this. With your cooperation, we hope we will be able to realize this. Thank you very much for your cooperation. With your cooperation, I think we were able to have a very smooth progressing of the meeting, and I think we finished the meeting very effectively. I would like to thank you all for your cooperation.