

NPT Speech

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Mr. President, Delegates, Colleagues,

You have just heard Mayor Taue present the intense desire of the people of Nagasaki for the abolition of nuclear weapons. I would like to add, as mayor of the first city ever to experience the catastrophe of a nuclear war, that there are at least 2,869 more cities and mayors from 134 countries and regions around the world that agree with him! I am referring to Mayors for Peace, which started the 2020 Vision Campaign five and a half years ago to create a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020. Because mayors are determined to rid the world of nuclear weapons, our membership has grown almost 6-fold over these 5 years. We do represent the majority voice of the world.

I predicted last August that the American people would choose a President who would “listen conscientiously to the majority, for whom the top priority is human survival.” President Obama’s speech in Prague has assured us that the vast majority of the world is absolutely right in asserting that nuclear weapons should be abolished. The speech was a clarion echo of what Mayors for Peace has created and is pursuing.

It is only proper and fitting that President Obama’s speech is firmly anchored in **moral responsibility**. Cities concluded a long time ago that they have suffered for centuries due to the lack of an effective moral foundation. That is why the City of Gernika-Lumo in its Peace Declaration demanded that ethics be ushered back into international politics. That is why Ypres, Belgium, still holds a solemn ceremony to console the souls of the war dead more than 90 years after the end of World War every evening.

The international community has translated this sublime, moral axiom into a concrete and practical legal entity by establishing it as the foundation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Article VI, which has been endorsed by the International Court of Justice, legally obligated all governments to adhere to it diligently and faithfully.

The Court clearly stated that the emphasis must be on the outcome, not on how hard you try. Let me quote again:

“The legal import of that obligation goes beyond that of a mere obligation of conduct; the obligation involved here is an obligation to achieve a precise result - -nuclear disarmament in all its aspects -- by adopting a particular course of conduct, namely, the pursuit of negotiations on the matter in good faith.”

I cannot overemphasize the fact that this is the majority opinion of the world. That is why 190 countries are members of the NPT, which binds them to do their utmost to abolish nuclear

weapons. Precisely 119 countries, a clear majority of the 192 members of the UN, have taken the trouble to sign nuclear-free zone treaties. And every year, approximately 170 countries vote for the Japanese resolution calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

President Obama knows that we are the majority standing on a solid moral foundation. That is why he has promised to conclude negotiations between the US and Russia on a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty by the end of this year that will be “legally binding and sufficiently bold.” And I quote “And this will set the stage for further cuts, and we will seek to include all nuclear weapon states in this endeavor.” I would also like to applaud President Medvedev for his outstanding efforts in this direction as well.

President Obama knows that to convince even the incurable skeptics that we must show solid and indisputable results quickly. That is why he has pledged that his “administration will immediately and aggressively pursue U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty” as well as the conclusion of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty soon.

We must support his objectives. This is where mayors, especially mayors from the United States, can play a pivotal role in creating a surge of public opinion supporting ratification. To make sure that we succeed, we must work closely together. President Obama underscores this point when he says that “Human destiny is what we make of it” and “Together we can do it.” “Yes, we can!”

We can do it because we are the majority led by inspirational leaders. We have President Obama. We have leaders in other countries with strong commitment to a nuclear-free world. We also have Dr. Kissinger and the four wise men, Ground Zero, ICNND, IAEA, CTBTO, IALANA, IPB, AFSC, International Red Cross and Crescent, just to name a few and the list goes on, and the United Nations, this body, is filled with experts in international affairs who can help.

At this point, let me propose a new word that describes who we are, our aspirations, our expertise, moral conviction, and the fact that the future of the globe rests on the efforts we start to launch today. I propose that we call ourselves the “**Obamajority**.” I hope President Obama does not mind my borrowing his name. I do it because he is the one who has given all of us new energy and hope that we can and must abolish all nuclear weapons from the surface of this earth. This new word also emphasizes the coming of age of participatory diplomacy and the paradigm shift to a partnership model of the world.

But we need more. We need a plan, a plan of action that rallies all these entities into a single, unstoppable force. We also need a timeline for this plan. When we build a baseball stadium just as we have recently done in Hiroshima, we need a timeline so that the baseball fans know for sure that it will be ready for the opening game.

We need a plan to abolish nuclear weapons, too, and we do have one. We need a timeline to execute that plan, and we have one. We made public a document last year during the second PrepCom held in Geneva.

Today, Mayors for Peace, and, I dare add the **Obamajority**, request your full and enthusiastic

support for the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol.

This protocol is the plan that will get us to the unequivocal commitment that was promised by all the nuclear-weapon states at the review conference in 2000. It stipulates common-sense, good-faith behavior to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020. It eliminates the provocative discrepancy between nuclear haves and have-nots by stipulating the immediate termination of all preparations to develop, acquire, deploy or use nuclear weapons. It also stipulates an immediate start to disarmament negotiations to continue until a nuclear weapon convention or comparable framework agreement is signed no later than 2015.

The Protocol will ensure that hundreds of days of collective planning are devoted to this world-saving project, instead of just a few hours during the Cold War and the 'absolute zero' days since it ended.

The date 2020 is based on US and Russia continuing to disassemble nuclear weapons at the pace set and maintained since the end of the Cold War. Anyone suggesting that the elimination of nuclear weapons will take longer than ten years is actually proposing that we slow down the current rate of disassembly. There is no acceptable reason for such foot dragging. The desire of the **Obamajority** is to be liberated from the nuclear threat, and there is no physical or technical reason we cannot reach that goal by 2020.

You have the passion, commitment, and skills of persuasion to engage your foreign ministers, prime ministers and presidents. As the European Parliament has recently done, let the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol guide your work. We will back you up 100%. Your ability and power combined with our enthusiasm and numbers can bequeath to the next generation a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Let me tell you what kind of help we can muster. Hiroshima citizens decided to devote one entire professional baseball game to supporting the 2020 Vision Campaign. We even raised green posters in the seventh inning to support Mayors for Peace while simultaneously supporting the Hiroshima Carp, our home team. The campaign was aptly named, the Orizuru Night Game, or the paper crane night game, in the spirit of a 12-year-old girl named Sadako Sasaki, who folded more than one thousand paper cranes in hopes that the A-bomb-caused leukemia would be cured.

Please look at this tiny paper crane. This is one Sadako herself actually folded using the paper her powder medicine came in. Sadly, she did not live to celebrate her 13th birthday. But her friends and the **Obamajority** have been carrying her torch for over 60 years. That spirit was fully manifest during the Paper Crane Night Game.

Let me offer another gargantuan example. Our 2020 Vision Campaign was endorsed definitively by resolutions unanimously adopted several times at the annual meetings of the US Conference of Mayors, consisting of 1139 US cities with populations larger than 30,000.

The most recent resolution urges the US Federal government to lead the world in utilizing the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol as the roadmap to the abolition of all nuclear weapons by 2020.

Other cities are also engaged in their own creative activities and more will be appearing after this PrepCom sends its strong message about the final goal.

Buttressed by the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, I bet my life that we can achieve that goal within the lifetimes of the venerable *hibakusha*, or atomic bomb survivors, who are with us here today. What a tribute it would be to let them, at the end of their days, take the news to those, including Sadako Sasaki, who did not live to see the day. Let them announce with joy that the world has finally turned resolutely away from these infernal weapons of mass destruction and that civilization triumphed over barbarism!

Please look at this crane again. Beautiful as it is, let us work together so that not even one more child will fold such a crane, wishing to live and praying fervently to be spared from an effect caused by a nuclear weapon.

You have the power. You have the responsibility. And we are the **Obamajority**. Together we can do it! Yes, we can! Thank you very much.