

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Opening Ceremony

13:00-14:30, Thursday, August 4, 2005
Phoenix Hall
International Conference Center Hiroshima

Opening Speech

Tadatoshi Akiba
President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan

Greetings

Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of United Nations
*delivered by Nobuyasu Abe, UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs
of the United Nations*
Yuzan Fujita
Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture
delivered by Tadaomi Saito, Chairman, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

Commemorative Speech for the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing

Douglas Roche, O.C.
Chair of Middle Power Initiative
Former Canadian Senator and Ambassador for Disarmament to the UN

Tadatoshi Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan:

UN Deputy-Secretary-General Abe, Middle Powers Initiative Chairman Roche, International Christian University Professor Mogami, ambassadors, honored guests, representatives from cities around the world, ladies and gentlemen, today at the opening of the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, I am filled with gratitude to see that so many of you have come and honored us with your presence. I welcome you all from the bottom of my heart. Before we get down to business, I'd like to introduce to you some of the key Mayors for Peace and allies who have been so important to our organization, and in particular, to our campaign during the past year.

First, it is a great honor to introduce UN Deputy-Secretary-General Nobuyasu Abe. He has been a tremendous support, especially since the NPT Preparatory Committee Meeting in 2004. In fact, it was through his good offices that we were able to hold two very important events at the UN this past May, one of which was honored by an address by Secretary-General Annan.

Next, I am extremely honored to present Honorable Gisela Kallenbach who is a member of the European Parliament and is here representing that body. The European Parliament has adopted two resolutions endorsing our *2020 Vision* which greatly encouraged us in our belief that we represent a global majority and gave us a tremendous boost in prestige among the European activists.

Mayor Daniel Fontaine, representing the French national chapter of Mayors for Peace – in French it is L'Association Française des Communes Départements et Régions pour la Paix – is Mayor of Aubagne, France, a city that has long given Mayors for Peace extremely valuable support. Aubagne has recently hosted an A-bomb exhibition and has helped to make France a model for Mayors for Peace organizing.

Honorable George Regan is here representing the UK Association of Nuclear Free Local Authorities. This association can rightly take pride in having launched the Nuclear Free Local Authorities movement and their cooperation has long facilitated Mayors for Peace activities, especially in Europe. More specifically, he was one of the key people present in the Manchester Executive Committee where our *2020 Vision* was born.

Mr. Alfred Marder is here representing the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities. This association has been a strong ally, and Mr. Marder has personally devoted considerable time and energy to the design and implementation of our emergency campaign. He was present at this birth at our Executive Committee Meeting in Manchester.

Let me also mention here that Mayor Beverly O'Neill of Long Beach, California, who is the current president of the US Conference of Mayors, will arrive at 8 p.m. tonight and will be participating in the conference. I should mention in passing that the US Conference of Mayors, consisting of 1,083 cities with populations larger than 30,000 in the United States, has endorsed the *2020 Vision* in its general assembly in June last year.

Now let me now introduce our Vice-President City. Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki needs no introduction, but some may not be aware of his great contributions to encouraging

NGO activities and youth involvement in peace activities, especially in Japan. He is also the president of the National Council of Japan, Nuclear-Free Local Authorities, which has more than 300 members.

Lord Mayor Schmalstieg of Hannover, Germany, is among our longest-serving and most effective vice-presidents. Germany is a leader in the anti-nuclear movement and much of our success there can be traced in one way or another to Mayor Schmalstieg.

In France, we are extremely lucky to have a remarkably effective team that includes Mayor Catherine Margate of Malakoff and her dynamic deputies Michel and Miho Cibot . They have built a French national chapter of Mayors for Peace and have helped Hiroshima in too many other ways to mention, though one of the most spectacular is Miho's animated film on the paper crane which you may have seen already.

I am pleased also to welcome Mayor Afzal Khan who is now Lord Mayor of Manchester , our Executive City in the United Kingdom. He is new to our organization but Manchester has long been a leading player thanks to the commitment and competence of Stewart Kemp, who is our contact and advisor there.

Mayor Evgeny Petrovich Ischenko and the City of Volgograd , and the City of Volgograd have participated in the mayoral delegations in New York and have consistently supported Mayors for Peace projects. We expect him and the city to be leading our movement strongly, especially in Russia.

Councilor Raul Corro is representing Muntinlupa which has consistently attended conferences and offered valuable support. I expect Muntinlupa's role to grow as we gradually turn the focus of our campaign from the US and Europe to Asia.

Last, but far from least, allow me to introduce Councilor Susanna Agostini of Florence, Italy. Leonardo Dominici, the Mayor of Florence, is President of the National Association of Italian Municipalities. He called me personally to assure us that he intends to commit the entire association to supporting Mayors for Peace. Thus, we may soon have what is essentially an enormous national chapter in Italy. This would be wonderful.

Let me repeat that I'm filled with gratitude to all of these people and the cities and organizations they represent. I am also grateful to all of you who are taking the time to be with us today. I welcome you all from the bottom of my heart.

Mayors for Peace was formed in 1982, originally by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to foster solidarity among cities in the effort to raise consciousness and arouse international demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In August 1985, we held our 1st General Conference. Four years ago, when we held our Fifth General Conference, our membership stood at 508 cities. In the past four years, we have recruited 572 cities, bringing our total membership to 1,083 cities in 112 countries and regions. *[applause]* And this is the result of *your* efforts in each of your countries. Thus, we have become a truly global NGO representing literally hundreds of millions of people.

We have been surprised to learn that when peace activists in a given country are determined to do so, they can recruit new Mayors for Peace extremely rapidly. ITPNW in Germany and Norway, for Mother Earth in Belgium, and CND in England have recruited literally hundreds of mayors. In fact, approximately half of the mayors in Belgium are now members.

We have also found that when our member mayors are aware of and supportive of peace activities, the results far surpass expectations. We are more convinced than ever that the key to eliminating nuclear weapons is close cooperation between our mayors and the peace activists in their cities.

The reason Mayors for Peace has grown so rapidly in the past four years is because we are working from a sense of crisis. We have seen the United States move away from disarmament and toward the development of nuclear weapons, even threatening to put nuclear weapons in space. We have seen Russia respond by increasing its reliance on nuclear weapons. We have seen India and Pakistan come to the brink of war that could have easily escalated to a nuclear exchange. We have seen North Korea abandon the NPT and turn to nuclear weapons for security. We have seen the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York, followed by US attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq. In the case of Iraq, the attack was based on what turned out to be a non-existent threat from weapons of mass destruction.

Most frighteningly of all, we have seen the emergence of a so-called "war on terror" that is likely to perpetrate and escalate cycles of hatred, violence and retaliation that could lead to nuclear terrorism or nuclear attack on terrorists.

To confront this crisis, the Mayors for Peace Executive Meeting in Manchester in 2003 approved an emergency campaign to ban nuclear weapons. This campaign, which was launched in Nagasaki in November that year, is promoting our 2020 Vision, a program for a nuclear weapons-free world by the year 2020, the 58th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings. However, the NPT Review Conference held at UN headquarters this past May was quite disappointing. Resistance from nuclear weapons states refusing to work seriously towards nuclear disarmament prevented any meaningful progress. It is no exaggeration to say that the NPT, the only international agreement for the control of nuclear weapons, is on the brink of collapse.

In this context, our meeting here in Hiroshima, just prior to the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings, is extremely important. The fact that we have come from so many cities and countries reflects growing international public demand for genuine world peace, and as a sponsor of this conference nothing could be more encouraging than your presence.

Mayors for Peace is a gathering of mayors and cities. Mayors have a responsibility to protect the lives of their citizens. However, if nuclear weapons are used, no amount of planning or training will allow us to protect the tremendous numbers of people who will be killed and injured. To protect our people, our only option is to make sure nuclear weapons are never used, and the only way to do that is to physically eliminate them. The voices calling for an end to nuclear weapons represent the overwhelming majority of the world's population. Only a handful few actively seek to retain nuclear weapons, and yet the people elect or polarize those few. In other words, all we have

to do is to make nuclear weapons a salient issue in the election of our leaders. And with our power as the majority, we can actually abolish nuclear weapons.

At this General Conference we will examine the results of the NPT Review Conference and explore the next steps for Mayors for Peace from various perspectives. We will refer to the international ban on anti-personnel landmines as an example of transcending the normal frameworks of diplomacy to achieve popular results. That campaign mobilized nations and NGOs around the world to generate an enormous movement that led to a highly effective international treaty.

As I have said many times, the great majority of people on this planet want the human race to survive, and we need to make sure that the will of this majority is reflected in international decision-making. We need to find the most effective ways to bring the nuclear threat to the attention of the international public, then we need to offer the public opportunities to express their demand in ways that will influence their leaders. For three days, from August 4, that's today, to the 6th, we will cross national and ethnic barriers and overcome differences of religion and ideology to deliberate and adopt a plan to do exactly that. I hope you will all help us understand the most effective means of reaching and arousing the peace-loving public in your cities and nations.

Let me again thank our mayors and other representatives for traveling to Hiroshima for the 60th anniversary. I do hope you will come to a deeper understanding of the atomic bombings and the Mayors for Peace campaign, and that you will help us by mobilizing the people of your respective cities to demand complete and permanent liberation from the threat of nuclear annihilation. Thank you very much. *[applause]*

Now let us introduce at this point a message from Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. On behalf of Secretary-General Annan, his message will be read by Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations. Mr. Abe.

Nobuyasu Abe, UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations: Mayors for Peace participating in this conference, distinguished guests, let me read the statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

Please accept my best wishes for this Conference of Mayors for Peace commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings.

When the atom was split over Hiroshima and Nagasaki 60 years ago, a dark shadow was cast over our human future. Untold destruction and human suffering were unleashed; more than 100,000 men, women and children were killed instantly, and more than 200,000 more were condemned to horrific and lethal sickness. Global politics were transformed forever. We entered a new and terrifying era in which the annihilation of humankind suddenly loomed as a real possibility. Our mutual vulnerability became inescapable.

And yet, from that shadow a new hope emerged. Recognition of our interdependence ushered in the United Nations and the concept of our

collective security. The link between the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the founding aspirations of the United Nations was quickly manifest: the UN General Assembly, in its very first resolution, declared that our common goal must be the elimination of all weapons 'adaptable to mass destruction.'

Six decades later, the world has been reawakened to nuclear dangers. Nuclear proliferation remains one of the most pressing problems confronting our world. Tens of thousands of nuclear weapons remain, many of them on 'hair-trigger' alert. The emergence of a nuclear black market and attempts by terrorists to acquire nuclear weapons and materials have compounded the nuclear threat.

Today, our challenge -- as it was for the founders of the United Nations - is to pass on to our children a brighter legacy than that bequeathed to us. We must build a future as envisioned in the UN Charter -- a future 'in larger freedom.' That requires us to continue to work towards a world free of nuclear dangers, and ultimately, free of nuclear weapons. All States must do everything in their power to ensure that the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are not visited on any peoples, anywhere, every again.

I am heartened, therefore, that you, Mayors for Peace, are promoting your vision of a global ban on nuclear weapons by 2020. As representatives of the aspirations of peoples and communities around the world, as a link between the local and the global, you have a crucial role to play.

I hope that in September, when Heads of State and Government convene at the United Nations for one of the largest gatherings of the world leaders ever, they will use the occasion to take bold steps towards realizing your vision. For the sake of succeeding generations, for your communities today, and to honour the memory of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they must do no less. Thank you.

Akiba: Thank you very much, Ambassador Abe. Now I would like to invite Mr. Tadaomi Saitoh who is the Chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation to read the message we have received from the Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture, Yuzan Fujita-san. Mr. Saitoh, please.

Tadaomi Saito, Chairman, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Hiroshima, Japan:

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings. I deeply respect the distinguished participants' efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. Since the first atomic bombing in human history on August 6, 1945, we, the citizens of Hiroshima Prefecture, have strongly appealed for the

elimination of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace.

Although this year marks the 60th anniversary since the end of the Second World War, when we look at the situation in the international community, the road to a nuclear-free world is still rough due to rise of new countries wishing to hold nuclear arsenals and the fact that no concrete measures were produced at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held in May of this year.

In addition, various problems arising from a combination of ethnic and religious differences and poverty has made the international situation more complicated and difficult with regional conflicts and rampant terrorism.

To cope with this situation, aside from the efforts towards the abolition of nuclear weapons, Hiroshima Prefecture is promoting peace contribution activities based on “Hiroshima Peace Contribution Plan” under the principle of creating peace, including reconstruction assistance and development of human resources in post-conflict regions, utilizing the knowledge, human resources and facilities accumulated in Hiroshima.

We believe that local authorities can play an important role in establishing peace and stability in the international community by working together with international organizations, national government and NGOs. We will continue to work more actively towards that end.

It is also significant for Hiroshima Prefecture that representatives of cities and NGOs around the world gather here today to engage in wide-ranging discussions, strengthening their solidarity towards the realization of nuclear-free world and lasting world peace. I believe this will be a significant contribution for lasting world peace.

I close my congratulatory remarks with best wishes that this conference will produce most fruitful results for all the participants, as well as the whole global community.

Signed August 4, 2005, Yuzan Fujita, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture.

We also received many other messages expressing wishes for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and success of the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings from Mr. Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, and other mayors who could not attend the conference today.

Akiba: Thank you, Mr. Saitoh. And now it is my pleasure to introduce the speaker of the 60th commemorative address.

The occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings is a solemn one for the City of Hiroshima and on August 9 that of Nagasaki. And we are honored to welcome Senator Douglas Roche to look at the 60 years and outline for us the paths we could take for the coming 60 years.

Douglas Roche or Senator Douglas Roche or Ambassador Douglas Roche, in many different ways he's called, he is now the Chair of the Middle Powers Initiative. Senator Roche served as a member of the Canadian Parliament from 1972 to 1984. He was appointed Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament from 1984 to 1989, and elected Chairman of the United Nations Political and Security, that deals with disarmament, Committee in 1988. He was a Canadian senator from 1998 to 2004. He has also served as Chairman of the Middle Powers Initiative from 1998 to the present. So there is no wonder that many of us who have been associated with disarmament issues consider Senator Roche, Ambassador Roche, as the leading figure in the areas of international disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons. In a sense, some people call him "Godfather of Disarmament," and he certainly deserves it. And today he will deliver a speech titled, "Overcoming the Obstacles to a Nuclear Weapons-free World."

Incidentally, let me mention something which I'd like to bring to your attention, that is, we have planned to have three feature speakers during this conference: Senator Roche, Prof. Inoguchi and Miss Walker. All these people actually have played a vital important role in transforming the United Nations for a more effectively democratic body from their own different perspectives, and that, I hope, will become clear as you listen to the speeches of these people.

So with that, I'd like to invite Senator Roche up to the stage. Thank you very much.

Senator Douglas Roche, OC., Chair of Middle Power Initiative, Former Canadian Senator and Ambassador for Disarmament to the UN: Thank you, Mayor Akiba. Mr. Under-Secretary-General Abe, Prof. Mogami, Chairman of this Conference, distinguished mayors and representatives of cities, and dear friends in Hiroshima, as we gather in this historic location to observe the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and then Nagasaki, my first thoughts turn to the hibakusha. I pay my respects to these brave people who have suffered so much and who have taught the world. The stories of the hibakusha must never be lost. Future generations must understand the reality of nuclear weapons. They must continue to learn from these brave people who overcame Armageddon and chose the path of life. The hibakusha rejected retaliation and embraced reconciliation as their guiding force. That is a lesson for the ages.

I also wish to pay my respects, my deepest respects, to Mayor Akiba for his worldwide leadership in building Mayors for Peace into a vibrant organization in the campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The 2020 Vision campaign, articulated so brilliantly by Mayor Akiba, has provided new hope for all those who desire to live in a nuclear weapons-free world. I congratulate the people of Hiroshima for having selected such an outstanding world figure to represent their interests, and I pledge today the continuing support of the Middle Powers Initiative for Mayor Akiba and the Mayors for Peace campaign.

The framework for a nuclear weapons-free world is coming into view, even as the daily news seems discouraging. It is perhaps paradoxical that a light can be seen, by those with vision, even in the darkness of the moment.

My experience tells me that it is reasonable to hope for, and to work for, a world beyond the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As a parliamentarian, a diplomat and an educator, I have worked on nuclear disarmament issues for the past 30 years. I understand the obstinacy and the lassitude of governments all too well. But I have also seen the developments taking place in civil society where increasing numbers of highly informed and deeply committed activists are cooperating with like-minded governments to get things done to improve human security. The Anti-Personnel Landmines Treaty, the International Criminal Court and the new surge of government commitment to Official Development Assistance have come about because of civil society's input into the government machinery.

We stand on the threshold of the construction of a viable plan for a nuclear weapons-free world resulting from the active cooperation of knowledgeable leaders of civil society working with those politicians and officials of like-minded governments who truly want to move forward.

The day will arrive when either nuclear weapons abolition takes effect or the world will be devastated by a nuclear attack. *One or the other will take place.* And no person, informed on the gravity of the situation, can deny this.

Dear friends, the eyes of the world are on Hiroshima today. It is our task to ensure that political decision-makers stay focused on solving the problems at the epicenter of Hiroshima. We must have national policies that ban the production, deployment and use of nuclear weapons by all countries in all circumstances for all time. There can be no more equivocation. We must project our message for all to hear: nuclear weapons are immoral, they are illegal and they are the ultimate evil. No civilized person can any longer defend the possession of nuclear weapons. They must be banished from the face of the earth.

We who are assembled here today must gather new energy for our struggle. It is not yet too late to prevent a nuclear catastrophe, which would be the third use of nuclear weapons. But the hour is late. The nuclear weapons States refuse to negotiate the elimination of their nuclear arsenals. Proliferation of nuclear weapons is occurring. Nuclear weapons have become part of war-fighting strategies. Terrorists seek nuclear weapons. The Second Nuclear Age has already begun. This is a message that we must get out to all those who think that the nuclear weapons problems went away with the end of the Cold War.

Let us take heart as we renew our work today. We who stand for the abolition of nuclear weapons are not some isolated minority. Unthinking politicians may try to marginalize us. But we are a part of a growing majority. This is the majority just referred to by Mayor Akiba. An international poll of citizens in 11 countries showed that 86 per cent of people either strongly agree or agree to some extent that all nations should sign a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. In Japan, the figure is 97 per cent of people. The people of Japan want the abolition of nuclear weapons. We must tell the

government of Japan to work harder to obtain what the Japanese people so ardently desire.

In the United States, 76 per cent of people favor a treaty to ban all nuclear weapons. Yet the government of the United States stands today as the biggest obstacle to nuclear disarmament. I make that statement as a Canadian and next-door neighbor to the United States, one who has lived among and loves the American people. Three of my children were born in the United States. But my parliamentary and diplomatic experience has shown me how the present administration of the United States is undermining the rule of law. By refusing to accept today the commitments made in 1995 and 2000 to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the government of the US is weakening the non-proliferation regime. They have the ill-conceived idea that they can reserve to themselves the right to continued possession of nuclear weapons while proscribing their acquisition by other countries.

We must say clearly to the United States: you cannot have a two-class world. You owe it to humanity to work with other countries in a constructive manner to negotiate the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons. As Chairman of the Middle Powers Initiative, I approach this work in a positive and a constructive spirit, not one of recrimination. I want to help the US, and the people of the US, understand that together the world community can build the architecture to provide security in a nuclear weapons-free world.

I am announcing today that the Middle Powers Initiative will sponsor an "Article VI Forum" – Article VI, the key article of the Non-Proliferation Treaty calling for nuclear disarmament. We will sponsor this forum for like-minded States to start working on identifying the legal, political and technical requirements for the elimination for nuclear weapons. We will invite the senior representatives of some 30 countries to a special meeting in early October at the United Nations in New York to specify steps that could be taken unilaterally, bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally, to enhance security without relying on nuclear weapons. This process may well produce the outline of how negotiations, as called for in Article VI of the NPT and reinforced by the International Court of Justice, can proceed. A framework for negotiations could be started. The Article VI Forum, with its ongoing work, will, of course, pay attention to non-proliferation issues, but the focus will be principally on nuclear disarmament issues, which are at the true center of the nuclear weapons crisis.

The Middle Powers Initiative cordially invites the government of Japan to join the Article VI Forum. Membership in the Forum, in the opening stages, will be confined to like-minded non-nuclear weapons States. They need to spend some time working together to allow their creativity and commitment to surface in a non-confrontational atmosphere. At some point in the new deliberations, those nuclear weapons States interested in joining a new process to fulfill their Article VI commitments could be invited to join in. I don't know how long this process will take. I only know it must begin.

My dear friends, it is much better to light a candle and show some hope for the world than to curse the darkness. .

All of this work is intended to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty so that negotiations for the elimination of nuclear weapons will not only be pursued but concluded. I see this work as a direct contribution to the Mayors for Peace campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Convention to come fully into effect by the year 2020. The immediate steps of Mayors for Peace to stimulate productive work at the United Nations First Committee this fall and to get talks started by the year 2006, next year, is highly commendable. I support it. Governments must begin to work together on specific issues leading to nuclear disarmament, as Mayors for Peace has stated. It is the duty of middle power states to lead the way and the Article VI Forum would help them to fulfill this function.

The Middle Powers Initiative work in building some momentum through having like-minded States concentrate on preparing for a nuclear weapons-free world and the Mayors for Peace work in driving the First Committee work forward this fall, go hand in hand. Together, the Middle Powers Initiative and Mayors for Peace can contribute to progress. We can show all the nuclear weapons States that the world can work together in addressing this greatest-of-all security problems. However, the Middle Powers Initiative and Mayors for Peace cannot do this alone. Much will depend on public backing and the political support needed for these new initiatives. A rising public demand for nations to get on with negotiating and implementing a Nuclear Weapons Convention to ban the production and deployment of all nuclear weapons must take hold in the future. The work of Mayors for Peace, with its growing and extensive network around the world, now more than 1,080 mayors, I'm sure that number will double over the next year as a result of the immense energy that the mayors here representing other cities today, along with the leadership here in Japan and Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I'm sure that that is going to be productive. There will be a rolling effect across the world over the next year or two, and this conference marking the 60th anniversary, for the next three days, can build that energy to roll out from this auditorium and this place, to reach communities around the world. That is our challenge, our mission, and that is what we must do in the next three days.

Now it can be expected that one or more of the nuclear weapons States will resist and continue to claim that it still needs nuclear weapons. But such claims will have less and less credibility in a world where the architecture for security without nuclear weapons becomes better understood and where the universal norm against the possession of nuclear weapons is growing in stature.

Dear friends in Hiroshima, let us always remember: we have the historical momentum for the abolition of nuclear weapons on our side. The Non-Proliferation Treaty, the International Court of Justice, the votes of the majority of nations are all calling for an "unequivocal undertaking" and systematic progress towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. The proponents of nuclear weapons have been reduced to the most ridiculous arguments to justify nuclear retention. You know, not only are nuclear weapons immoral and illegal, they are now devoid of any intellectual understanding. Those who defend nuclear weapons should be laughed at, as one day they will be when humanity discovers it has the strength to overcome some merchants of evil. Future generations will look back to our time and say without hesitation that nuclear weapons were an anachronism, the obsession of old men trapped in the past. It will be a source of wonder to future generations how humanity ever tolerated the means to its own mass destruction. We can take power from that thought.

It's our job to work toward this future of enlightenment. The people of the world want us to succeed in building true human security. We must feel confident that we can do the job. We must know that we can respond to our historical calling. We must be forever determined to build a nuclear weapons-free world. Hiroshima gives me that strength and hope.

Thank you.

Akiba: Thank you very much, Senator Roche, for the wonderful, inspiring and invigorating speech, which outlined the path that we should take, the path that will lead us to a nuclear-free world. And I thank you for making it so concise, understandable, and also giving us confidence, and again, with deepest gratitude, with a place that will follow the path, I'd like to ask you to join me in applauding Senator Roche again. Thank you very much. [*applause*]

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Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

General Conference

14:30-15:30, Thursday, August 4, 2005

Phoenix Hall

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Tadatoshi Akiba**

President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan

Explanation of Agenda Items by:

Steve Leeper

U. S. Representative of Mayors for Peace Secretariat

Aaron Tovish

2020 Vision Campaign Manager

Speaker: **Johanne Winchester**

Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA

Ellen Woodsworth

Councilor, Vancouver, Canada

John Hipkin

Mayor, Cambridge, U.K

Irene Michaud

Representing the Town of Leverett, U.S.A.

Frank Liu

Director of Japan region, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA

Gisela Kallenbach

Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany

Miho Cibot

AFCD RP French Mayors for Peace, Malakoff, France

Alan Ware

Global Coordinator, Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament

Fumio Ueda

Mayor, Sapporo, Japan

Chairperson, Tadatoshi Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan: And now I would like to call the session to order, the session of the General Conference of the Mayors of Peace. Based on the covenant of Mayors of Peace, I will chair the General Conference today as the President of Mayors for Peace. Before discussing the agenda items, I would like to introduce the chairperson of each session and ask them to be recognized.

First of all, let's see, where are they seated? There. First of all, I would like to introduce Prof. Toshiki Mogami of the International Christian University, who will chair the whole program of the General Conference as well as the plenary sessions 1 and 2.

Next, I would like to introduce Mr. Alyn Ware, Consultant, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, IALANA, who came all the way from New Zealand. Mr. Ware will chair the Session Meeting 1.

Lastly, Prof. Nobuo Kazashi of Kobe University who will chair the exchange with Hiroshima citizens. I guess he's not here. I will recognize him again when he's here. Actually, it's not limited to Hiroshima citizens, citizens of the world.

And Prof. Asai, President of the Hiroshima Peace Institute who will chair Session Meeting 2. He is absent today on other business but he will join just shortly.

Now this session of the General Conference is where member cities of Mayors for Peace discuss the agenda items. Today we have participants from non-member cities of Mayors for Peace. Please understand that your participation will be as observers, but that does not mean that you cannot speak. Please speak freely, but when it comes to vote-taking, those who are not members will not be asked to vote. That is the rule. And also, the representatives from national governments, NGOs and the general public are asked to participate only as observers as well. So thank you for your cooperation.

Now I would also like to ask representatives of non-member cities again to take this opportunity to join Mayors for Peace, and I'm sure you will be convinced that it is a good idea after you have listened to the discussions which will start shortly.

Now we will take up the agenda item 1, Election of Executive Cities. I would like to call on the Secretariat, which has been preparing for this conference for many months, to give an explanation of the agenda item.

Secretariat, Steve Leeper, U. S. Representative of Mayors for Peace Secretariat: Good afternoon. For those of you who have handouts, the handouts of the agenda items, this item is on page 1 of that handout. I'm just going to give some brief background of these recommendations that we're making now.

At the Fifth Executive Meeting in Hannover in September 2000, it was decided to find and involve leading cities, especially in nuclear weapons States or suspected nuclear weapons States, that could help to strengthen our activities in those countries. In addition, the by-laws of this conference stipulate that we are obligated to consider regional balance in our selection of executive committee members. For these

reasons, and because all the individuals mayors I will now introduce have provided invaluable support to Mayors for Peace, the Secretariat is recommending that the following cities be elected to serve as Vice-President Cities.

Donald Plusquellic is Mayor of Akron, Ohio. Mayor Plusquellic, who was until June this year the president of the US Conference of Mayors, was instrumental in getting that conference to pass a resolution strongly supporting Mayors for Peace and our 2020 Vision. That resolution has proven to be a powerful tool for recruiting US mayors and promoting the campaign.

Gary Moore is Mayor of Christchurch, New Zealand. We have never had an Executive City from Oceania, and Mayor Moore has a strong personal commitment to our cause. In addition, New Zealand has for decades been at the forefront of the struggle against nuclear weapons and it will be extremely beneficial to our organization to have Mayor Moore as our contact in his highly advanced anti-nuclear nation.

Leonardo Dominici is Mayor of Florence, Italy. He is also President of the National Association of Italian Municipalities and has personally assured Mayor Akiba that he intends to commit that organization representing most of Italy's major cities, to supporting our campaign.

Patrik Vankrunkelsven is Mayor of Laakdal, Belgium. He is also a member of the Belgium parliament and a devoted activist. He has been arrested for attempting a citizen's inspection looking for weapons of mass destruction at a NATO site in Belgium, and he has been a central figure in the remarkable campaign that recruited 233 Mayors for Peace in Belgium. I believe that more than half of Belgium's mayors are now members of Mayors for Peace.

We are extremely lucky that these four outstanding mayors have agreed to join our Executive Meeting, and they have been so appointed by Mayor Akiba under his authority as President. At this point we have one President City, Hiroshima, seven Vice-President Cities, and four new Executive Cities. According to Article IV, paragraph 2 of our by-laws, the new Executive Cities can be elected Vice-President Cities only by a vote in the General Conference. If elected, according to Article V they would serve for four years until the next General Conference. There is no restriction on the number of terms they can serve.

Prior to this 6th General Conference, the Secretariat approached all current vice-presidents to inquire if they are willing to continue serving. In response, the mayors of Nagasaki, Hannover, Malakoff, Manchester, Muntinlupa and Volgograd agreed to continue as vice-presidents. Unfortunately, the Mayor of Como, Italy has decided to resign his position.

Assuming that you elect all these candidates, we will have an executive committee of ten Vice-President Cities led by the President Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima. Thus, we will have 11 officer cities. We do hope that you will approve these nominations. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Now we have discussed this matter in the Executive Committee, and based on the discussion the Secretariat would like to ask you to approve this appointment of officers by a show of applause. May I have your applause of approval? *[applause]*

Okay, thank you very much. I would like to ask the new vice-presidents to take a leading role until the 7th General Conference.

Next will be agenda item No. 2, The Future Role of Mayors for Peace. Again, I would like to call on the Secretariat to give you an account of the plan for this coming year, as well as a glimpse to the future years, so please.

Secretariat, Aaron Tovish, 2020 Vision Campaign Manager: Good afternoon. We have had an extraordinary campaign up until this time over the last year-and-a-half or so. It has done wonders for getting the name of Mayors for Peace out to a much wider public, and it has established a reputation, a good name for the organization in circles of power and among the people.

Our challenge in the coming year, which is the main focus of the presentation that I've been asked to make, is on building that reputation and exploiting it to the good of the campaign and its objectives.

I want to first draw your attention to the draft pamphlet that describes the history of the organization and will present the plans once they have been discussed, modified and approved. The section that I'm dealing with begins on page 4 and continues relentlessly for over four pages. I will not subject you to four pages of small type. I will instead refer to the agenda item 2 of the conference work and I will move through it more or less reading it but also adding some commentary, and for that I apologize to the interpreters.

Several of the speakers have already -- now I'm louder aren't I -- have already referred to the kind of attitude that we need to take into this campaign as we move forward, one of recognizing that nuclear weapons have had their day, that any attempt to defend further prolongation of nuclear weapons is out of step with the great majority of people and we represent that great majority. And so you'll see that the campaign plan tries to build on that attitude in a very concrete and we hope successful way.

The campaign will consist of events and projects or ongoing activities. There will be three major events in the course of what we can think of as the calendar, not the calendar year, not the fiscal year, but the campaign year. In this campaign, campaign years go from August commemoration to the next year's August commemoration. So we'd like you to think in terms of August to August when it comes to the forward movement of the campaign.

So in the coming campaign year we have envisioned three main events. The first would be an effort to revise Disarmament Week which begins on UN Day, which is the 24th October. We will call on cities around the world to mark these periods with local public events for education and outreach. The importance of this timing is that

this is when the First Committee is meeting in New York, and I will get to that when we go to projects.

The second major event is going to be in Vancouver in June 2006. We're fortunate to have here representatives from Vancouver who will give us much more detail on this, but a particularly marvelous coincidence, which makes this irresistible, is that the World Urban Forum will take place just before and slightly overlapping with the World Peace Forum. And it doesn't take too much to add 1 and 1 and get 2. Mayors, peace, Mayors for Peace. We're going to be there, we're going to urge our membership to be there, we will build ties to cities at the Urban Forum and we will build ties to our peace movement allies during the World Peace Forum.

And that in itself will be an excellent opportunity to promote the third major event in 2006, in this first calendar year, and that is the 10th Anniversary of the International Court of Justice. The unanimous opinion of the universal obligation to pursue and conclude measures leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects – Alan will correct me if I didn't do that absolutely perfectly -- that advisory opinion will have been in force, you could say, for ten years, and we know that it has not been complied with. And so we will launch a month of action for compliance starting with the Tenth Anniversary with a massive demonstration in the Hague with the help of all our European colleagues hosting people from all over the world, and we will continue activities on a local basis culminating here in Hiroshima and other Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day commemorations around the world.

These events are opportunities for mayors to get involved who have not yet been involved, and we are going to work throughout the year to ensure that we have broad participation from our membership and from new mayors as well.

But these events are only successful if the long-ongoing activities, the projects of the organization, are stirring up the determination and the public support that's needed for mayors to really throw themselves into this. And we have several important projects under way.

The first is that we are already approaching governments, asking them to take into account the lack of results from the NPT Conference, the lack of results from the Conference on Disarmament, recognize that one of the main problems in both of these bodies, as well as the Disarmament Commission, is that they have been hamstrung by the consensus rule, which in effect gives a veto to any country. And as we know, a small number of countries have been abusing that veto, and we are going to look to the First Committee to establish a new, complimentary, supportive sub-committee that is not hampered by this consensus veto and that can operate on the same basis as the First Committee and the General Assembly and that is by majority vote if necessary to advance the work needed to plan for the achievement of a nuclear weapons-free world by the year 2020. This will be an important new direction for the international community, and we are already finding a great deal of interest in this, and we are hoping that we can push that through.

The activities on UN Day will coincide closely to when the First Committee will actually be moving towards a vote on this and related resolutions and we are hoping that it will give courage to countries to see this through. I could mean, while it is not

at all certain, it could mean that negotiations could begin in Geneva as early as January 2006.

The second project: Ask the People. We are going to try to promote in perhaps 50 countries, and hopefully we'll succeed in maybe 35, to get national opinion polls conducted by newspapers and other respectable and scientific polling operations, to reconfirm what has been found in a smattering and a disorganized and varied set of polls over the years, and which Ambassador Roche referred to, which is that huge majorities of people want to see their governments get down to work and sort out this threat and eliminate it.

So this will be an opportunity over the course of a single year to get polls taken in a broad spectrum of countries, nuclear weapons States, potential nuclear weapons States, non-nuclear weapons States, demonstrating that no matter where the poll was taken, people want to see this problem solved in their lifetime so their children can have a better world.

Third project. You may recall, and I'm actually pleased to see so many of the mayors who were in New York with us today, you may recall we had a presentation from the Rand Corporation. The Rand Corporation was commissioned by the Department of Homeland Security to do a study on the impact of a nuclear detonation in the Port of Long Beach, which is right next to the Port of Los Angeles. A quarter of all exports and imports in and out of the United States go through that port. And what the study found, and what he presented to us in New York, was that they still could not fully track and fully comprehend the economic impact of such a disruption of world trade. And it occurred to us that it would be very useful to do a similar study in other major advanced technological centers of the world that have become so dependent on the just-on-time delivery of the world trade system.

So we're looking to promote a similar study in East Asia and a similar study in Europe, and we're hoping to bring those results to the attention of political leaders and people everywhere. It's a wonderful coincidence, again, that the new president of the US Conference of Mayors is in fact the Mayor of Long Beach, California. So we have a good friend and ally in this effort. In fact, it was Mayors for Peace that brought this study to her attention.

Participation in international, regional and local conferences. Mayors for Peace obviously needs to find allies everywhere it can, and mayors operate in regional and international contexts, not just in Mayors for Peace but in all kinds of different organizations. Mayors for Peace often gets invitations to participate in such meetings, not just meetings of mayors, but also peace movement meetings and so forth. We need the capacity to be represented at those meetings by mayors, if not by mayors then by staff members of the Secretariat or other people we want to empower to take those roles.

We will be establishing an Advisory Committee to the campaign. Thus far, the campaign has received on a very informal, but very useful basis, advice from experts, peace activists, mayors, ex-mayors, and we want to formalize that a bit and regularize it so that we have the benefit of their advice on a consistent basis.

We also need to strengthen the membership database. As the membership grows rapidly we need to install new systems so that our communication with the membership improves, rather than deteriorating.

We also, as a major tool of communication, need to bring on board a web designer who can make sure that our web is not irregularly up to date, is not only up to date but extremely user friendly and valuable to those who visit it.

There are several education projects that will be discussed during the course of this meeting, and you can get more information about them.

But then I must come to the question of fundraising. And I want now to draw your attention to the dollar signs on this report, and you will see that the Secretariat and our offices outside of Japan have an annual bill of over \$380,000. That bill, up until now, has been consistently covered by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we all hope and pray that they can continue to do that, but the activities of the campaign create an extra financial need, and this burden should not fall on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They are just two of the thousand members of this organization.

If you look at the difference between what Hiroshima is covering in terms of the infrastructure of the organization and the total cost of the campaign year that I've just described, you will see that it's about \$160,000. So the Executive Committee has decided, or is recommending, that the Mayors for Peace membership take an active role in making up this difference of 160,000 and covering the costs of this campaign as we have it planned, and hopefully we can even expand it as additional funds are raised.

If you just do pure mathematics on this, and this is not a specific proposal, but if you take 1,000 members and divide it into the \$160,000, you come up with the need of \$160 from each city. That's not a lot of money. But we're also looking, in fact, to raise money from a number of other sources besides contributions gathered and contributed voluntarily by cities. We're going to be going to foundations. A number of the projects I've described are likely candidates for grants from foundations. And we will be going to other NGOs, corporations and individuals and literally directly soliciting their support for the work of Mayors For Peace.

Mayor Akiba has done work in this area himself here in Hiroshima and has found a very, very positive response, and we hope that other mayors will take on this task as well and that other NGOs will pitch in as well, and we are more than happy to cooperate with NGOs in specific fundraising initiatives.

An example is given that the Global Peacemakers Association in the United States has contracted with an organization called EPOP Productions to put on a concert, a major concert, and it's possible that this will generate significant revenues in the next campaign year.

I have skipped a page, if you're following me, I've skipped to page 5 to discuss revenue. I'll just quickly draw your attention to the fact that as the General Conference here was responsible for a budget over a four-year period, because conferences are held every four years, the budget does not claim to be at all detailed in

the following three years. There are activities, there are Secretariat expenses and then you'll see there's an Executive Committee Meeting in August 2007 at the end of that campaign year, and then there's the next General Conference. The expenses for those meetings have been covered by Hiroshima in the past and so we're again focusing the attention of the membership on helping us raise the costs of what we expect to be an increasingly powerful and therefore expensive campaign, although the cost is, we feel, quite moderately projected, and we're hoping in fact that as the campaign develops we'll do far better than that. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. And now we open the floor for discussion, new ideas. If you have any comments, questions, whatever, I'd like to invite you to speak up. Please raise your hand. And also for the sake of simultaneous interpretation, you have to speak through a microphone. Does anyone want to speak at this point on this agenda item? Oh, yes, yes, please. Please identify which city and what?

Johanne Winchester, Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA: Yes, I'm Johanne Winchester from the Communications Coordination Committee of the United Nations. Two thoughts. Does anyone know what the average nuclear weapon costs? And does anyone know what the total nuclear weapons budget for building, maintaining stockpiles, stewardship, et cetera, is globally, just to put our small budget in perspective. So this is something –

Chairperson: Is that a rhetorical question? So that you can actually give us an answer? If that's the case please give us the figure.

Winchester: I don't know the answer. I wondered if someone here knows.

Chairperson: Okay. Does anyone have a figure? But yes, I'll promise you that the Secretariat will, and some of the expert friends who are present here, will come up with the figure and make that available to you. That's a very good point in proportion with the total amount of money utilized for creating nuclear weapons and maintaining them and so forth, in comparison with the budget we have just proposed. And I think that'll make a very good point to the rest of the world, and I think in terms of the fundraising efforts that will drive home the importance of our work as well.

Winchester: And the second announcement is that my colleague, Mr. Liu Frank and I, who is the Asia-Pacific Coordinator for CCCUN and our other colleague who is coordinating Japan have just come from a meeting in Tokyo with a major musical talent who also happens to be a senator in the Diet in Japan, and he and one of our business colleagues have offered to work with the Mayors for Peace campaign, self-funded, not asking for any money from the mayors, to create concerts in Asia, hopefully working with EPOP.

Chairperson: Okay, thank you very much. There are other musicians and celebrities that I personally came to know recently who have offered their services as well. So I think the list of those people who will be cooperating with us will get longer as time goes by. So if you have any suggestions or any leads to people who

could help us, please get in touch with the Secretariat so that we can really strengthen our network. Yes, please.

Ellen Woodsworth, Councillor, Vancouver, Canada: My name is Ellen Woodsworth. I am the Acting Mayor of the City of Vancouver and I'm very pleased to hear that you will join us in Vancouver at the World Peace Forum, and I hope that all the delegates here will join us. It's a crucial time. The theme of the conference is "Cities and Communities Working Together to Build a Peaceful, Just, Sustainable World," and it draws upon the deep desire of young people to join the peace movement with preceding generations of activists who fought against nuclear weapons and for disarmament and tying the struggles for peace budgets as against the budgets that are being used to build nuclear arms. So I just wanted to identify myself and I'm happy to talk to anyone who'd like to know about this, and I hope we can continue that discussion. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. I'm sure many of us will be visiting Vancouver next year. And in preparation for that, if you could tie what you're planning in the conference in Vancouver next year with what we might be or we could possibly do in conjunction with your efforts and discuss that during this conference, I think that would be quite fruitful, so thank you for your intervention. Any others? Yes, please.

John Hipkin, Mayor, Cambridge, U.K.: Mayor Akiba, thank you for this opportunity to speak to the conference. I'm John Hipkin and I'm the Mayor of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. I simply want to stress, if I may, the importance of local activity. Cambridge is a small city, it's a renowned city, I know, but it's a comparatively small city. Could I just give you the example of what happened in our community in the build-up to the war against Iraq?

Leading members of the City Council were not afraid to demean themselves by appearing in the marketplace very Saturday morning, asking people as they went about their shopping, as they went about their ordinary business, to sign a petition. That petition was directed in the first instance to the City Council. It asked the City Council to formally oppose the intervention in Iraq. That resolution was passed.

Subsequently, a further resolution was presented to the Member of Parliament for Cambridge who resigned her government position. In order to support the petition she knew that it would make her unpopular with her own government, but she was prepared to stand by the people of Cambridge. Subsequently, the member of the European Parliament representing Cambridge endorsed the campaign.

I simply want to stress, although I support all the measures which have been outlined this morning, there is no substitute for mayors getting down amongst the people, working locally, putting pressure on the immediate politicians in their own communities who are in the best position to affect policy. I wish you well Mayor Akiba, and thank you for inviting me to Hiroshima.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a wonderful report of courage in the City of Cambridge. And I would like to add to your comment as somebody who has lived in Cambridge, USA, and as somebody who is in a position to report to you that

Cambridge, Massachusetts is also quite active in the efforts. And I'm really pleased to see that both Cambridges are exemplary in our efforts towards creating peace, and I would like to thank you for your report and welcome to Hiroshima as well.

Any other comments or opinions? Yes, in the back, please.

Irene Michaud, Representing the Town of Leverett, U.S.A.: Hello. My name is Irene Michaud and I'm here from Massachusetts in the US, and I had the good news just before I left to come here that one of our representatives in Massachusetts wrote a resolution that he brought before the House of Representatives and it was co-sponsored by 16 other representatives. And as a result of that, the Massachusetts House of Representatives has endorsed the Mayors for Peace, which will be very helpful in our continued work. So thank you very much for paying tribute to Cambridge, Massachusetts and the House of Representatives. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for the wonderful report from Massachusetts, and I'm proud to say, as a former resident of the state of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, excuse me, that this time I think you went ahead of the state of Vermont in passing resolutions of the nature. In the 80s, Vermont was the frontrunner in the efforts. So I hope that that trend will spread all through the United States because we do respect American mayors taking the initiative through their US Conference of Mayors and through their efforts and also the state legislature joining the US Conference of Mayors, and we do need to work with Americans of conscience, which I know is the majority. So any others? Yes, please.

Frank Liu, Director of Japan region, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA: My name is Frank Liu, I'm from New York, Communications Coordination for the United Nations, originally I'm from China. Here is a very short announcement. We are going to make a special event to celebrate the UN 60th year anniversary to ring the harmony bell in New York in the Waldorf and we are going to invite President Hu Jintao and some other senior officers of the UN. At that time when we ring the bell, this bell we ring for harmony, we ring for peace, we ring for no war. So we hope that every city mayor, everybody here who are willing, we invite you to join us: when we ring the bell, you can ring the bell at the same time in your city. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Okay, thank you very much for the information. Any others? Yes, please.

Gisela Kallenbach, Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany: Thank you, Mr. Akiba. You introduced me kindly as a member of the European Parliament, but I want to tell you officially that I'm also here bringing with me the very best wishes of a new member of Mayors for Peace, my home City of Leipzig, Germany. And my Lord Mayor gave me in my luggage an address which I would like to hand over to you later this night. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. I should also mention that there's going to be a concert of St. Matthew's Passion composed by Bach on the evening of August 5, and since Leipzig is related to Bach, your Lord Mayor has sent us a message tying Bach's masterpiece with our Mayors for Peace, and I would like to thank you

personally and I ask you to convey our thanks to your Lord Mayor. Thank you very much. Any other comments, questions? Yes, please.

Unknown: I just wanted to inform everyone that the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the Senate of the State of Connecticut voted 34 to 0 in favor of the Mayors resolution. And there's a proposal in Connecticut that our Senate marry the Massachusetts House and so we'll have both houses.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for an encouraging, good report. And so it seems that the legislatures in the United States are beginning to move and are coming in full force in cooperation with us to move ahead toward nuclear disarmament. It's wonderful. Any other comments or questions? Yes, please.

Miho Cibot, AFCDRP French Mayors for Peace, Malakoff, France: I am Miho Cibot from the French Local Authorities Association. I am Japanese and I have lived for 30 years in France. We are acting as the chapter for the Mayors for Peace and we want to recruit as many local authorities as possible to expand the movement of the Mayors for Peace. For the French mayors, there are a lot of mayors who are acting also as the head of councils and assemblies, therefore, not only the mayors but the representatives of the provinces are representing each province and city. And we have created a website of our activities where we introduce the various activities of the Mayors for Peace and Mayors for Peace can be linked from our website.

And also, because this is the 60th anniversary, and to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Association, there are a lot of inquiries about this organization, and we have been engaged in the PR activities. There was a radio interview last night and I have very actively engaged in communicating what we are doing in Mayors For Peace. We would like to have the other mayors do the same so that we can have various activities in many corners of the world.

Chairperson: There was the suggestion that we should work harder so that citizens themselves know that the Mayors for Peace exists and are working very hard towards our goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons by 2020. Thank you very much for your proposal and report. Are there any others? Yes, please.

Alan Ware, Global Coordinator, Parliamentary Network for Nuclear

Disarmament: Thank you very much, Mayor Akiba. Alan Ware from the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament. Just a quick comment on one of the projects which was proposed here, which is the Jump-Start Disarmament Project which is under consideration for support by Mayors for Peace. I'd like to say that we, the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament, has been in collaboration with Mayors for Peace on preliminary work on this project, and in New York at the NPT PrepCom we released a joint statement as parliamentarians and mayors calling for such negotiations. So we're looking forward to continuing that collaboration with Mayors for Peace, so therefore we would look very closely at hoping that this project does get support. And we will have copies of that Appeal which is continuing for members during this conference. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. We have been receiving -. Oh, do you want to make a comment?

Secretariat, Tovish: Just a point of information. In my description that went through the items, there was one section that was called Advisory Group and Developing Ties. If you turn to page 5 of your more descriptive pamphlet, we feature as the second major area for developing ties in outreach, national legislatures. So that's in this publication, this thing. So I kind of brushed over that in the original presentation, but a great deal of thinking and planning and hopefully results will be coming out of work in conjunction with national legislatures following up on the good progress that we've been hearing about today. Obviously, the main point of outreach is to other mayors and mayors' organizations and that's what I mentioned in my presentation. But I short-shrived parliamentarians.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. And so actually one encouraging piece I would like to add to your comment is that we have been receiving signed statements from mayors who support the Appeal that went out of the joint meeting we've had. So it's being spread and it is having good effects, so thank you very much. I think that will continue to be quite effective in the future as well. Yes, please.

Fumio Ueda, Mayor, Sapporo, Japan: I am the Mayor of Sapporo City. The anti-nuclear movement, the movement called Nuclear Abolition, we cannot just depend on Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities alone. All the people in Japan share the same aspiration. I am not still a member of the Mayors for Peace Association. There are so many other cities in Japan who share the same viewpoint and perception. We hope that we will be able to expand the scope of the movement because you are gathered here in Hiroshima, in this wonderful set-up and discussion set-up.

I congratulate this organization, and Mayor Akiba, I congratulate your efforts and I am very much encouraged by your big voices for seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons. We hope that we will do the same in Sapporo City. The day of Hiroshima should be brought to Hiroshima City on the 6th August. In front of the City Hall of Sapporo City there was the Winter Olympics held in 1972 and there is the tower for the Olympic flame and we are going to put on the flame of this commemorative Olympic tower to commemorate our activities to put our hands together with you in Sapporo. This is the report from Sapporo. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for your efforts to spread our activities throughout Japan as well. Are there any other people who would like to speak? I don't see any hands. All right.

With that then I believe that the agenda item No. 2, that is, our future plans of activities of the Mayors for Peace, I believe that that means that you approve our future plans. So I'd like to again ask you to show your approval by applause. [applause].

Okay, thank you very much. We will proceed as the explanation from the Secretariat told you in this coming year.

Now what we are trying to accomplish is something which is unprecedented in history, that is, cities trying to change something that has to do with the survival of the entire

human race. But at this point it seems that we are accomplishing another unprecedented thing and making a world record which is an international conference of this magnitude and scale actually is moving ahead of its schedule. This is unheard of actually, and therefore we have 30 minutes left, but perhaps because of the jetlag and heat and humidity we may deserve a recess ten minutes longer, but that still leaves us with 20 minutes.

So this is my proposal. Many of you have actually asked for a slot in workshops, in plenary sessions to make a report or to speak for five minutes or ten minutes. But since we did not have much time, I'm sure there are some cities that did not get the slot either in the plenary session or the workshop to speak, and this is short notice, I know, but if you would like to speak at this point, even though you were not given a slot in the plenary session or one of the workshops, please raise your hand. I think we can give five minutes to each city now so that about three or four cities probably could speak at this point. If you'd like to do that you're welcome and this is a good time to do it. Is there anybody who'd like to make a presentation at this point?

Okay, I'm sorry that it's unprepared, you certainly would not wish to make at this point, but we will make an effort to accommodate any city that would like to speak at a later point.

So then I would like to call this session adjourned. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Keynote Speech
*Evaluating the 2005 NPT Review Conference and Prospect
for Nuclear Abolition*

15:45-17:00, Thursday, August 4, 2005
Phoenix Hall
International Conference Center Hiroshima

Keynote Speaker: **Kuniko Inoguchi**
Professor, Sophia University

Tadatoshi Akiba, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan:

I would like to welcome all of you back to the conference hall and it is my pleasure to start this session. The keynote speaker of the 6th General Conference of the Mayors For Peace is Prof. Inoguchi. She is currently a Professor of Sophia University in Tokyo but her illustrious career is quite long. I'd like to introduce part of that to you briefly.

She received her Ph.D. in political science from Yale University, and from April 2002 to April 2004 she was appointed as Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland. So this is the Japanese Ambassador of Disarmament in Geneva. And her publications include *War and Peace*, this is not a novel but a scholarly treatise, and also *An Emerging Post-Hegemonic System: Choices for Japan, Invitation to Political Science* and academic articles published in various journals.

Previously, I mentioned her in connection with democratizing the United Nations and she will, I'm sure, mention her work in the United Nations that while she was the Ambassador to the United Nations she actually showed to the world what an excellent academician could do in politics and in diplomacy by implementing measures which restrict effectively the small arms trade within the world, among other things. So without further adieu, I'd like to invite Prof. Kuniko Inoguchi of Sophia University. Prof. Inoguchi, please.

Kuniko Inoguchi, Professor, Sophia University: Thank you very much indeed, Mayor Akiba. You are very kind, too kind. Thank you very much. So Mayor Akiba, Your Excellencies, and distinguished mayors from all around the world, and ladies and gentlemen, and also colleagues, it is indeed my very, very great pleasure to be here to participate in this very important and inspiring conference.

And first of all, I would like to congratulate the organizers of this conference and all the Mayors for Peace and all of those who support those mayors in such a dynamic and significant effort of a transnational nature.

I also would like to congratulate very strongly and personally Mayor Akiba and also Mayor Itoh for their unfailing and untiring effort to uphold the profound message of hibakusha and their children and grandchildren and the rest of the citizens of those two cities. And the message is that, as was pointed out by Ambassador Roche, the sufferings they had gone through should never be repeated by anybody anywhere in the world. Their continuous commitment, as represented by the energetic campaigns and work of those two mayors is a kind of light or a ray of light or ray of hope in dark waters of difficulties and political stalemates, about which we are all very much frustrated. So I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate the very successful effort of this campaign and wish you all the best, and of course you have all my support, maximum of my support.

Now the task assigned to me this afternoon is to evaluate the 2005 NPT Conference and discuss prospects for nuclear abolition, but in order to do that let us first of all try to think and keep in mind the emerging features of the new multilateralism or new internationalization, and it is my understanding that our effort towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons needs to be placed within the new features of the new

internationalization, which together has reduced, and some signs of that are already with us. So let us capitalize on those new trends and place disarmament efforts within that context.

So let us spend just a few minutes to see and think together, what are the new features of the new multilateralism as opposed to new conservatism? So here is the other conceptual dimension, an alternative to the prevailing view of new conservatism, so a new multilateralism, new international relations in the 21st century. What are the components and how can we relate the nuclear disarmament area to those new features?

First of all, I pointed out the past knowledge. So many of the global issues today have become increasingly more complex, that experts or a coalition of experts and practitioners must create successful networks to deepen their knowledge and to show in a knowledge-based effort the path to the future. Now in the past, if we think back, what were the components of international relations that forced other countries to think which otherwise they wouldn't have thought. In the 19th century, probably the coercive labor power. In the 20th century, it could have been the economic power. But in the 21st century, you cannot threaten other states to make them do things that otherwise they would not do. You neither can persuade other countries with economic power. In the 21st century it is most likely that changes will come along those that profess excessive knowledge and can show knowledge-based ways to achieve these goals.

Now the labor power rests with States. Economic power rests with States and business enterprises, but the knowledge of power rests with each individual human existence, so in the end a State will have to look into the civil society and each expert, each activist, each campaigner, and of course the mayors of local government who possess very important pieces of local knowledge, as well as ways to relate them to a universal message, full ideas as to how to overcome global bottlenecks. So the power of knowledge is what I would consider to be one of the very important features of the coming age, and here I think we should have, in the former part I said, a network of scholars, scientists, professionals, NGOs, citizens, mayors, practitioners, policy-makers, those who share knowledge and a problem-solving mindset. And it's called an epistemic community, it comes from the philosophy, the vocabulary of philosophy of epistemology. It's the community of knowledge but not in the sense contained within the knowledge community only, but with the problem-solving mindset to utilize knowledge to overcome the world's problems. So the power of knowledge is one of the major elements of the new multilateralism which we wish to have and in which future nuclear disarmament efforts should be placed.

The second important feature is the priority on human time and progress. Now of course in the nuclear disarmament area, listening to hibakusha and what they have to tell us is the single-most important driving force to force us to think, what are the humanitarian goals of nuclear disarmament? I know in this issue we can learn a lot from other areas of government, as was introduced by Mayor Akiba, from the kind of objectives which were done in conventional weapons including anti-personnel landmines, ICBMs. We have Dr. Susan Walker represented in this room. We can learn from the efforts of humanitarian de-mining, on the importance of prioritizing

humanitarian progress, so that we will be able to make common ground to bring safe together to pursue the kinds of legal arrangements that they are responsible for doing.

And as I said when I tried to make the point for the power of knowledge, the third, got enhanced partnerships, is the key point. I called it a "new triad for making a difference": States, international organizations and civil society must come together. And it is very indicative that in this room we have representatives and the Under-Secretary-General Mr. Ambassador Abe, and also I hope some governments are interested in our activities and we have this wide range of representation from civil society, NGOs, local governments and citizens and just the citizens. What we need is an enhanced partnership. And this is from NPT 2005, it will tell us what we need to do to enhance that partnership so that States will not make similar failures in the future.

Now the next feature is the implementation of norms and rules, and the norms and rules are there but those are not implemented. The 20th century was very much into this, creating norms and rules, but was not very capable of implementing them. And as we implement norms and rules, it is very important to do that in an integrated manner at all different level: global, regional, national and local. At the global level there is this United Nations effort for nuclear disarmament, also, as Ambassador Akiba kindly pointed out, all kinds of efforts at the conventional weapons level as well. In the nuclear disarmament area, we have adopted numerous General Assembly resolutions and there are many resolutions, and tricky resolutions, associated with treaties. At the regional level we could have more of a common denominator and therefore we may be able to push the process even farther beyond what is acceptable at the global level. At the global level, sometimes it tends to become a minimum common denominator, whereas, at the regional level one could step forward further due to common understanding about the common States in the same region. You could have, you could carry on campaigns at the regional levels, in the Asia-Pacific, in Europe, and of course nuclear-free zone activities and efforts belong to very successful ways of consolidating regional commitments to that end.

And of course States, the primary bearer of responsibility in this regard, States must put in place the necessary legislation according to the treaty commitments they have made at the global level. Also, States are responsible for putting on the agenda, at the global level, of the priorities for the human society. But then, the local government level or the local citizens level is the key to the real implementation and real understanding and deep support for what national governments should be doing at the global level as they represent States.

So coordination of all these four levels is very important. And we can look at examples from the conventional weapons area. In small arms, we have the United Nations forces to the program of action, we even don't have a treaty, so nuclear disarmament is far ahead of us. But still the implementation efforts in small arms or the anti-personnel landmines area is very vigorous and regional platforms also serve as a very important implementation focal arena. And nation states' governments are asked to put in place administrative and legislative measures to make sure the treaty commitments or political commitments will be carried out. And the real de-mining or collection and destruction of small arms and the like takes place at the local level. And also the real education and disarmament takes us to the local level. And the real

voice of the affected, the local knowledge, is mobilized at the local level. All knowledge starts with local knowledge. And among all local knowledge, what is locally known by the affected population is something that everybody else must learn from.

So this brings us to the next bullet point, mobilizing local knowledge for global solutions. And here the hibakusha knowledge needs to be shared more systematically and widely. And I appreciate the kind of statement made earlier by Ambassador Roche focusing on the importance of focusing on hibakusha. And we now have, as I said, the second generation, third generation of people who lived through, survived, and are trying to send an inter-generational message to us.

And the next bullet, the results-oriented mindset. We are here not only to extend words but to make sure that something could happen, "make a difference" needs to be the keyword. Since we've said, the second bullet, we are prioritizing humanitarian progress, that means something that affects each human beings and human security, results are very important. You need to even take more acute effort, understanding of the need for the result-oriented mindset.

For the last point, inclusion, I call it the "philosophy of inclusion," under democracy everybody is equal, but then even if you are equal you may not be included in the network. In the United Nations, for example, this is a little bit different area, but adjacent to disarmament in the development area these days, for example, poverty is conceptualized not only as a category of income but as exclusion. No matter how much income you could increase under certain policy measures, if certain parts of the population, such as women or such as minorities or in other criteria, are excluded, the poverty is wisdom. So inclusion is the keyword. It doesn't necessarily mean that every decision needs to be on a consensus basis, as was indicated earlier, but we have to always be mindful of the fact that weapons affect every nation and every human community, and therefore, in the end we have to make maximum effort to develop the sense of ownership to the process on the part of all States and all actors, including NGOs, international organizations, citizens' activities, local governments. So everybody is the partner and owner of the process, and therefore they have to be responsible and they have to make due contributions to push the process forward with a results-oriented mindset.

So against these new elements, how was the NPT Review Conference? And we really should be very shameful of what really the main conference produced in the light of some of the new trends that are emerging in some other areas. Now let us, since this is a task assigned to me, I hope you would not mind reading with me what I have to say about the outcome of the Review Conference 2005.

Now it was attended by 153 countries. They failed to build on the past agreement, and on any kind of decisions or recommendations for furthering progress on the vital security issues of nuclear non-proliferation, so some see it as a total failure. And the conference, as everybody knows, lasted for four weeks, and four weeks is a long, long time. When I had to promote the small arms and light weapons processes at the United Nations I had one week, but then the lead-up to that was as important as one week of conference. But the NPT had four weeks! And they had three years of lead-up, and it failed. And instead of utilizing their four weeks and resources to tackle

vital challenges and debate practical ideas for implementing, because implementation is the key. Later I will be discussing the need for a new treaty beyond NPT, but before getting there we have to implement NPT, and implementation, as I said, has always been lacking during the 20th century. We were very good at writing down something, drafting, but not at implementation for the reasons that, as I've shown earlier, the coordination between all four levels didn't function.

So we could have, during the four weeks, or they could have, I was not in the government any more, debated practical ideas for implementing the treaty's commitment more effectively. The government delegations tangled themselves with procedures and lost a lot of time. It was a lot of time spent in procedural issues. On the final day they agreed to a procedural document that numbers of participants in meetings and indicated how they could cover the financial cost. So that is my evaluation of this NPT 2005 conference.

Now what could have been done? I am fully aware of the enormous difficulties and political difficulties and circumstances, but despite that, it should still have been possible to use the conference to give a strong message at least, *at least* about the importance of preventing the use, acquisition and spread of nuclear weapons. At least, when I said at least I didn't write down the ban of production. At least they could have agreed on those messages, and nuclear weapons, and also nuclear materials, of course, and possibly delivery means of nuclear weapons, and in failing to address these issues seriously or send any kind of principled message, you see? Those conferences are to produce a principled message agreed among governments. The governments have the trades' aspirations and security interests of their citizens from around the world.

But many parties felt something, and most parties, I would assume, would agree on those points. There are a few that may not agree, but during those four weeks, those were the points which most parties felt were important. All right? First now, we find it quite important, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are not two very separate things. The States tends to be more interested in non-proliferation issues because of this understanding of this perception of new threats, the terrorist threat, and in order to deal with terrorist threats you have to have very strong non-proliferation policies, and that means a lot attention and also support, but what is important is, nuclear non-proliferation is unsustainable without significant progress in nuclear disarmament.

Now this is because, among many other reasons, it's very simple. Now, if you want to minimize the probability of nuclear terrorism, how should we go about thinking on non-proliferation and disarmament issues? Nuclear terrorism could occur by nuclear weapons falling into the wrong hands. When do such circumstances arrive? Other things being equal, if you have a larger quantity of anything, the probability of slipping away from your stockpiles or arsenals is larger. So if you want to minimize or reduce the risk of proliferation, you need to reduce the active quantity of the thing, of the good, weapon, that you don't want to leak out.

So non-proliferation in fact is a first step towards anti-terrorist strategy. In order to stem terrorism, and in fact I did cite that, you have to understand the nature of the conflict and you have to go for reconciliation, but then you don't have reconciliation

with the maximum amount of weapons in hand and also you don't reduce the risk of proliferation if you keep on increasing the upset quantity of the weapon. So the first bullet, non-proliferation is unsustainable without significant progress in nuclear disarmament. That was what most parties felt in my understanding.

Now the second point is about the disguise of proliferation under the cover of peaceful use. That needs to be discussed and addressed more intensively. So the second point goes, the nuclear fuel cycle is now a bigger security problem than recognized when the treaty entered into force in the 1970s and therefore will have to be addressed. And it was a pity that the May conference failed to address this to the full extent given the enormous amount of time which was available.

Later, I have made this slide for you, some of the ideas about how to go about the nuclear fuel cycle. These are the discussions that could have taken place if delegations of State were serious enough to use the United Nations conference rooms and the treaty body itself to discuss some important issues, new issues, that have future implications.

Now there are other points I probably have left. In importance, the third point could be less important, but nevertheless I may have to point it out. We all know that NPT functions and also the Conference on Disarmament and many other bodies function on a group system basis, and the group based on the Western group and others, New York and the Eastern European, oh, I didn't mean to say, that's all. I mean, many East European countries are in New York, so other East European countries and the non-aligned movement is outdated, so they have to revise the group system and that was felt strongly by many participants or parties to that conference.

Now the fourth bullet is relatively important or very important. In view of the failure of the 2005 Review Conference, the agreements obtained in the Review Conferences of 1995 and 2000 still stand as legal and political benchmarks for measuring progress and promoting compliance until the NPT can be fully implemented in all its nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation aspects. So what was achieved in 1995 and 2000 in particular, when there was an unequivocal commitment by nuclear weapons States to agree on certain important points, that stands still as the legal commitment and political benchmarks.

So the problems of the 2005 conference neither invalidate nor undermine the relevant obligations and undertakings previously agreed to, and therefore, since the conference this year did not produce documents that would guide us to implementation, we have to find the guidance in previous documents.

The next bullet is something very, very important. Now during the NPT conference, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki led a movement, and during the conference, but also in the lead-up, so led the movement to the 2005 Review Conference, and now that needs to be built on and that needs to be given the right coherent strategy. We have to strategize what was achieved by those two mayors in the lead-up to the 2005 conference and during the 2005 conference. The world mayors and governors together with parliamentarians must create a strategic partnership. Now this is what I called "an enhanced partnership" as one of the characteristics of the new

multilateralism. We need a strategic partnership between government, civil society, government and civil society, including local government.

And then I have a rather important line. Local knowledge, as I've said, of survivors, an affected population. And in the nuclear disarmament context this is hibakusha, and second generation hibakusha, and third generation hibakusha. They must be put to use to create common bases for global solutions. We have to encourage them to raise voices and in this campaign to raise a voice we can learn from ICBL, in anti-personnel landmines. And also we learned a lot as we enhance the United Nations process on small arms and light weapons, learn from what was done with anti-personnel mines regarding the affected. Incidentally, I was the co-chair for the Anti-Mining Standing Committee for the Ottawa Treaty as well. What we tried to do is really to encourage survivors to raise their voices, and when they raise their voice, the delegates of States must listen carefully and with respect because those are the people who have gone through and survived such a tremendous challenge.

So Mayor Akiba and Mayor Itoh were very effective and instrumental in pushing this campaign to make sure that voices from the two cities are heard on the global level.

Now the last point I have to make as a professor -- which is rather unfortunate because we think that what we should hope is that our generation will be able to tackle all the problems and therefore there is no need for disarmament education for the future generation, but it doesn't go that way -- outreach to generations to come is a must since nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation requires long-term commitment and obligations and also implementation is far from complete. So the goal of disarmament education is to prioritize, to enhance inter-generational partnerships to carry on the process.

So in my view, those are some of the few points which most States felt were understood during the four weeks of deliberations. However, we have to think beyond, we have to really think beyond. We need a treaty that takes us beyond NPT. We have to keep the NPT, we have to implement it to the full extent, but what we need to look into now is the next generation of nuclear disarmament treaty. And it is essentially a ban on the future production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

Now the future production of fissile materials, weapons grade fissile material, is, I would say, is a kind of raw material for something you manufacture. So if you don't have the raw material, you will not be able to produce the final product. So FMCT, to some material, a kind of treaty, is a kind of treaty that ultimately prohibits any production of any nuclear weapons in any part of the world. The single most important feature of this treaty is that it does not have a discriminative nature. As you know, NPT distinguishes two categories of States, those that exploded a nuclear device before January 1, 1967, and those who didn't. Now this fissile material sort of treaty prohibits the production of fissile material, weapons grade, for all States, so there is one category of States and members, parties, if this treaty is adopted. And therefore, nuclear weapons States under NPT will also agree not to produce any further nuclear weapons.

If you allow me, this was one of the issues which absorbed most of my energy during my ambassadorship in Geneva. Essentially my job was to convince each nuclear

weapons States to agree to entering into the negotiation of this treaty. And the disarmament treaty, once it is put to a legal negotiation process, it usually comes out with a product. So what States do is to deter the entry into the negotiation and nuclear weapons States have very strong reasons not to let this negotiation process progress forward. But some things do change, whereas many things don't change.

What I found, with some limited encouragement, is that in the end, for example, the United States also said yes to this concept of treaty throughout the NPT in May, the NPT conference in May. It is my understanding because I was not there, but the United States insisted that FMCT is a must and it is necessary, and part of the argument which we said, which I've said with them, is that, as I said, as I discussed anti-terrorist strategies, the most important anti-terrorist strategy is to make every country agree, and every country will not agree unless the United States agrees that no country will produce any further nuclear weapons, because if you keep increasing the absolute quantity then the probability of getting into the wrong hands is bigger, so if you want to fight terrorism you have to have NPT. This will ban production of nuclear weapons.

So under NPT, Article VI, as Ambassador Roche explained, we have to dismantle the existing weapons, but then there is no treaty to prohibit future production of nuclear weapons. So this is the next nuclear disarmament treaty after NPT, and after entering into force of the CTBT, but we can do that on parallel, there's nothing that hinders us from getting into negotiations of this FMCT and therefore effort in Geneva is expected. And I would like to take this opportunity to ask the Mayors for Peace and all other associated NGOs and citizens to put all out pressure to governments to get down with this FMCT negotiation because most nuclear weapons States, including the United States, have accepted the prospect for this treaty now.

Now I have written down the basis for legitimacy. First of all, in the NPT context, as we had the 1995 extension conference, the review and extension conference, the call for the FMCT was included as immediate, it was included, not only included but it called for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation on the FMCT. It was a part of a political bargain and it was never denied explicitly and therefore there is full legitimate reasons for the need of going to this next generation nuclear disarmament treaty.

Now if you're interested in the elements of this treaty, I have a website in fact. It was Sophia University's website, and I have drafted a lot of recommends and also the framework for negotiations. I have it on my website. I'm sure it's with the website of the Conference on Disarmament also, so please look at it and share with me the understanding that we need the next nuclear disarmament treaty; we need a legally binding treaty that takes us beyond NPT to make sure that any further production of nuclear weapons is banned in the entire global community.

The second bullet shows that in the 2000 NPT Review Conference, which was five years ago, which was not all that unsuccessful, in fact it was quite successful given that the Review Conference this time was totally unsuccessful. In the 2000 NPT, the parties successfully drafted a final document, and in the final document it included this call for the immediate commencement and negotiation of FMCT. This has to do with CD and agree on the work, but that's a technicality so you don't have to pay

attention to that, but what was important is that in the 2000 NPT it was also again included in the final document, so there is all legitimate legal basis to identify FMCT as the next treaty in line. And also since 2000, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted annually, by consensus, the resolution on FMCT. So those are the bases on which we insist that we have to look to treaties beyond NPT.

And of course NPT does not enjoy full universalization due to India, Pakistan and Israel. So FMCT, since there's no discriminative clause, there is no reason for any country not to come into FMCT.

Now, those are rather technical notes so you really don't have to look to the first bullet point, but this Ambassador Shannon is a Canadian ambassador who in 1995 made a major effort forward to put this agenda under an international forum, and so we owe a lot to the late Ambassador Shannon, and still today the Shannon Mandate tells us what the FMCT is about. And it is on the Second Lagos Ban of the Production of Fissile Materials for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices.

And the last line, the second from the last line, is also very important. To negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally effective and verifiable treaty. So this is called the Shannon Mandate along which we understand how the FMCT would look like. And of course there are many elements within this context that need to be discussed.

Now the third bullet point is, let's see, well I think we can go to the next one. The technical deliberations. Now let me take this opportunity to share with you some of the technical side of this FMCT to show what is to be expected beyond NPT and to strengthen NPT.

Now the first goes, substantial technical deliberations will be required to achieve this objective without affecting the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy. So the right to the fissile use of nuclear energy is guaranteed under the NPT, so this will not be jeopardized and to make that sure the technical deliberations could be quite extensive and rather difficult.

Now States need to define the scope of materials to be placed under monitoring and elaborate the verification schemes and to ensure the sufficient credibility to the treaty, and the materials to be monitored. So those are very familiar to many of you, of course the plutonium and hydrogen-enriched uranium and 235 isotopes, if it's enriched to 20 per cent can be used for weapons and this is the benchmark used by IAEA to safeguard also. So those materials are within the scope of FMCT.

And for the plutonium, there are two different views, one is if the plutonium is produced by irradiation in the reactive core, that plutonium needs to be subjected to monitoring. The other idea is that if it is only separated from irradiated reactive fuel, then it needs to be monitored. But in any case, this is for the weapons grade and for the weapons, so how to make it compatible to peaceful use is a kind of very difficult technical issue, as I've said earlier, in relation to the proliferation under the disguise of peaceful use.

And of course there are what we call ANMs, alternative nuclear materials, and many other isotopes that need to be covered within the FMCT. And once, as I've said, those materials for weapons are totally banned from production, you will not be able to make a nuclear weapon. And therefore, to think of that in Hiroshima, of the day when no other nuclear weapon will be made anywhere in the world, is something that we should look into and hope for.

So the verification is also a very technical but also a very contested part of this argument so I might share some major points that they often discuss. The verification regime needs to be composed of three elements: the declaration of fissile materials in facilities by member states; the verification of declared material, and; the verification of undeclared material and activities. This is very much in line with NPT. And then I drew some generic parameters from the arms control verification regimes that already exist today. So those are the things that we need to negotiate and put into the treaty format, and in fact, when I say knowledge-based consultations or knowledge, the power of knowledge, it is expected that civil society, the experts, scientists, scholars, think tanks, activists, would come together to draw this kind of treaty together.

And I would very much hope that future activities of Hiroshima are, first of all, we have to consolidate the raise voice campaign for hibakusha. But for the scholars it is very important to draft treaties for the practitioners because they need models to proceed with to imagine how the ultimate end product would look. And such effort is not all that coming at least from Japan. A few European NGOs have helped me a lot with the drafting of the framework for FMCT, but in future we need the power of knowledge to install new nuclear disarmament treaties, and for that we need many alternative treaties, models, and that can come from citizens, from civil society.

Now some of the general parameters for the verification, because verification is a very sensitive part of the entire framework of this new treaty, how to ensure the correctness and completeness of the initial declaration. That sounds very much like IAEA. How to guarantee, sufficient assurances from routine inspections, how to detect and declare activities and issue effectiveness at least of the inspections. I mean, what if some other countries have clandestine activities to produce such weapons grade materials. How to protect sensitive, confidential information, the framework of verification. So in the transition, nuclear weapons States will have the nuclear weapons that already exist. So they will have confidential information, but on the other hand they will be committing to no further production, future production, so they need to be put under some kind of verification, but the No. 4 point encompasses the difficulty associated with this, how to protect the sensitive and confidential information for those States that need to be protected under NPT.

Now how to ensure cost effectiveness and cost efficiency. Verification is always very costly, but of course, if you think of the cost of wars or WMD wars, we should not be scared away with the budget consideration.

Now the last, how to create a verification system that can respond flexibly to technological progress. Now there are many non-intrusive verification technologies these days, remote sensing or monitoring, and while the FMCT entering into negotiation is pending, technological progress could provide us with a lot of non-

intrusive monitoring and verification technologies and that will make this FMCT verification component a little easier to negotiate.

And of course the non-nuclear weapons States of NPT, like Japan, which have accepted both IAEA full scope safeguards and additional protocols are considered to meet FMCT verification requirements. So it is expected that all countries or all non-nuclear weapons States who are pending the negotiation for FMCT will accept full scope safeguards and additional protocols so that once we have FMCT, non-nuclear weapons States will not have to worry about any further.

Now this is a kind of new issue which I sort of hinted earlier. Now there is this very big problem that the world needs a lot of energy and there is this worldwide demand for nuclear energy. Now why is that? Now why is that? Growing global demand for electricity. Many countries are successfully growing, although the human community as a whole hasn't very successfully developed in a sustainable manner of development, and therefore global demand for electricity is soaring and uncertainty of supply and price of natural gas and soaring prices of oil, of course, concerns about air pollution and the immense challenge of lowering the greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol and so forth. So now these have come to justify the growing demand for nuclear energy.

Of course, as the technical and organization foundation for nuclear safety improves, the prospect of new nuclear power stations on a large scale is a real one. So in future we have to agree to the scenario whereby a lot of countries will resort to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, but at the same time, how could we guarantee their right to use nuclear energy but make sure that the process will not occur? So that's a challenge and there is no answer. So this is not an answer. This is just sitting out of the agenda of the problem, the new kind of problem which should have been discussed within the NPT conference.

Now could we allow a great number of States to develop their own nuclear fuel cycles? And the answer is probably not, considering the non-proliferation advantage. So there is this report which just came out, actually it came out right before the NPT May conference from IAEA, there was an expert group for the Director-General of IAEA, and they produced a concept paper entitled "Multilateral Nuclear Approach" and the report number is 640 so you might be able to have access to it through the IAEA website.

Now it suggests multiple options for avoiding unlimited development of sovereign nuclear fuel cycles by developing some kind of international-regional mechanisms whereby assurance in supplies and services in nuclear fuel will be provided to States, provided to those governments, those States that had in turn agreed to forego building its own nuclear fuel cycle capacity. In that case, assurances in supply of services takes a form of fuel leasing and fuel take-back offers, and it would have to include effective backup sources of supplies in the event that multilateral nuclear approved suppliers are unable to provide the nuclear fuel material and services. A kind of inter-governmental fuel bank could be established to alleviate unexpected cases, such as excessive shortage of supplies, denial of service for political reasons, and so forth. And IAEA could function as an anchor, a guarantor of the agreement.

So those are the forefront of our discussions. It may not be the best idea. Of course if we could abandon the need for the fissile use of nuclear energy, that is desirable for many societies, but for the reasons I have elaborated at the very first, the top of the page, there is this demand for peaceful use, and how should we relate that problem with this risk of polarization, and how should we deal with these issues under the NPT, because NPT assures us of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. So those are the forefront of issues.

So we are faced with new facts, and all this proliferation concern comes from the terrorist threat or threats from non-actors which States are not used to dealing with. So let us share a few minutes to think, what is the real challenge that we face? Of course we have NPT, we need further nuclear disarmament treaties, but without the kind of points that I intend to make from here-on, all the efforts already said in this statement could be meaningless.

So now let us look into, what is the conflict in wars that we face in the current international community? We have to analyze wars, conflict, the nature of conflict, because armaments are for wars, and unless we can change or understand the nature of wars, we may not be able to have some strong thrust to the future of disarmament. So in my view the nature of conflict changed after the Cold War.

During the 19th century or 20th century and during the Cold War, most of the major wars were fought for political reasons. So if the political leaders have a peace pact, sign a peace pact, the war is finished, terminated, and you will not have killings any more. But after the Cold War we face a kind of a new form of conflict, and I decided to label it as "deep-rooted conflict." And in fact I have given you some of the citation of some most illuminating books that come from, and I take this opportunity to advertise this Stockholm-based inter-governmental organization called the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, and Mayor Akiba was kind enough to mention that democratization is another major pursuit as a political scientist. Now this international IDEA, it is called, is an inter-governmental body that studies democracy and promotes democracy, and they have produced this concept and I am an executive board member of that inter-governmental organization. Now they have produced these reconciliation, deep-rooted conflict concepts. So if anybody is interested in these new concepts beyond disarmament, but they are very deeply associated with disarmament.

Now what is deep-rooted conflict? It is the kind of conflict which goes beyond State, beyond political purposes, and is based on hatred. Now the first split goes, there is a shift in the characteristics of violent conflicts from a traditional inter-State conflict to deep-rooted intra-State or even inter-State conflict, and therefore the reconciliation process along with a peace pact is necessary to deter recurrence of similar conflicts. So they said, if it is a political conflict you have to literally sign a peace pact and the war is finished, but since the nature of the current conflicts around the world are deep-rooted, there is this penetration of hatred in all social cohorts so you need to design a reconciliation process that penetrates all cohorts of the society to finally terminate a conflict in a way that will not recur.

Now the second bullet I have cited from one of the books, deep-rooted conflict. What is it? It combines two powerful elements, important identity-based factors based on

differences in race, religion, culture, language, sometimes it's called a conflict of civilization, with a perceived imbalance in the distribution of economic, political and social resources and opportunities. So there comes the hatred. And traditional approaches all too often fail to address the deep-rooted nature of conflicts and that's the conclusion of peace pacts. It does not necessarily bring human security. With the peace pact you have a national security, but since the deep-rooted nature is not resolved, because there is no process of reconciliation. The United Nations Security Council resolutions will not talk about reconciliation or the process of reconciliation, so it is beyond the scope of addressing the termination role, the need to design a reconciliation process. So this is a vacancy that can be considered to be one of the major reasons why wars recur in post-Cold War years and that they tend to persist, and even if the country is fit to have finished the war, still people suffer immensely from lack of human security and lack of any protection.

So people continue to suffer and die from war-related effects long after the war itself has come to an end, and national security is seemingly restored. And of course terrorism grows on such a deep-rooted sense of hatred. And many people say that poverty is the basis of terrorism. But even more so, hatred is the basis. If you have deep-rooted hate in the community, so they will live on that.

Now there is no clear solution for this, to overcome the conflicts that have this kind of nature. But there is one common denominator, which is deep-rooted hatred in the minds of people. So the reconciliation at all political social levels is the key to ending the violent conflict. And unless you have disarmament, along with the reconciliation process, you will not in the end achieve the difference, which is, that was very important. To make a difference we have to focus on the need for reconciliation.

Now this brings me to the last point which I really wanted to make. Hiroshima is a global model for reconciliation as was pointed out by Ambassador Roche. The first point, the reconciliation as the aftermath of violent conflict is a complex process. In an inclusive process combining the search for truth, justice, forgiveness, healing, reparation and cooperation is the design of the road to a peaceful future. Reconciliation is both the goal and the process to find a way to coexist with former adversaries by sharing a future. So this is the reconciliation process that has to be designed, implemented, has to go into every resolution of the Security Council of the United Nations if it is serious to end the conflict permanently without recurrence.

Now the next bullet is cited from one of the books printed at the bottom. Now this is on the concept of reconciliation because it's very difficult to conceptualize. The word "reconciliation" is a very popular vocabulary, but if you're asked how would you define it, it's very difficult, so to make the job easier for everybody I decided to put this in the slide. Reconciliation is a concept and a pact to refrain the conflict so that the parties are no longer preoccupied with focusing on the issues in a direct cognitive manner. Its primary goal and key contribution is to seek innovative ways to create a time and a place within various levels of the affected population to address, integrate, embrace the painful past, and the necessity for the shared future as a means of dealing with the present. So that's the definition of reconciliation.

And so this brings me to the last point. Hibakusha, the affected, the survivors of the bomb, of the nuclear bomb, is a global model. They have never sought retaliation and

they have embraced reconciliation. So this should be the message from Hiroshima, Nagasaki. But from Japan, generally that in the 21st century, along with the legally binding instrument to enhance nuclear disarmament, we need the process for reconciliation and hibakusha at the core of the nuclear disarmament as the global model.

Even right after the bombing, hibakusha never asked Japan to possess weapons for retaliation, only the complete opposite; they asked that Japan should never have access to it, and that nobody anywhere in the world should go through what they had to go through, so they have embraced this concept of reconciliation. Now I have seen that.

Well, I decided to put in this last page. This was me with Mr. Kofi Annan at the United Nations.

Now the diplomatic negotiations can never fail because if you fail in disarmament negotiations there could be a lot of people killed, so you are facing the great fate of many individuals. So what are the future keys to the success in negotiations? Remembering this page, these are the new elements of the international community. And in order to achieve this, first of all, knowledge-based search for common ground. We have to know, we have to be able to draft the future path and roadmaps, and those who are in the position to accumulate knowledge and share, they have to accumulate knowledge and come out of their offices to share with activists.

The second bullet point is very important: putting survivors first, putting the affected first. Raise your voice. Help them raise their voice. Bring the voice to the conference room so that people will never forget what they have never gone through. And this will help create some common ground for those delegations that are not necessarily convinced or interested in disarmament issues.

But in real negotiations, factoring in domestic context is very important. Many countries, especially big powers such as, of course, the United States, China, big powers, usually take a longer time to convince the domestic audiences and the domestic audience and different government agencies they will spend a lot of time for inter-agency consultations. You have to let them do that. You have to factor that in. And therefore, the roadmap or the process needs to be drawn up with a lot of cautions and extensiveness. So I call it the "enhanced extended process."

Now I said at the outset, we need results-oriented mindset, and I came up with this SOS, so save our ship. And in order to save our ship what we need is a "solution-oriented synergy." In the first place I thought SOA, "solution-oriented action," but then I came to the conclusion that you alone will never be able to achieve anything which could make a real difference. You always have to work in synergies, in a network, in linkages with other organizations, with other interested groups, so you have to develop this synergy, and it was very encouraging to see some synergy developing between nuclear disarmament for, for example, the anti-personnel mines area, and also possibly and hopefully in the small arms and light weapons area, because Mr. Kofi Annan said, small arms are a de facto weapon of mass destruction, 500,000 killed every year, 500,000 people. That means 1,400 a day, and while we sit in this kind of air-conditioned conference room, it's like one person per minute, so

already it's 60 or 70 people have died of small and light weapons. So this is really, really a slow motion weapons of mass destruction or de facto weapons of mass destruction.

And I will add to this comment that the reason why we have never really looked into those conventional weapons areas, and I ask, I plead for the support from the nuclear disarmament community to extend your understanding and support for the conventional weapons disarmament area as well, because the reason why small arms, anti-personnel mines and all that, are left to the sidelines is because, I found the reason why. When I arrived as ambassador I couldn't understand why these exceptionally important issues are not necessarily making progress. But then I understood the reason. It discriminately affects women. Most of the victims are children and women. So the kind of weapons that kill simply women and children are not the priority for disarmament in the current international community. Of the 500,000 victims of small arms and light weapons, 70 per cent are women and children. And this is the picture when I am telling Mr. Kofi Annan that other areas of disarmament, including small arms, needs to be included because of this discriminate nature of victims that arrive in the conventional area.

Now in the end, multi-faceted follow-ups. Well NPT failed but we can send out many other follow-ups and make best use of the limited outcome. Of course the Mayors for Peace activities come really to the forefront. The importance of putting Hiroshima, Nagasaki first, upholding the message. If the States are not doing it, why not the mayor? The Middle Power Initiative. Yes, of course, since the big powers are not doing it, why not the middle powers? So we should go for multi-faceted follow-ups. Please help the Japanese government push for FMCT because FMCT is the top priority for the government, for my government.

Also in the Asia-Pacific we have, we face the threat of proliferation with the DPRK. I was in the Republic of South Korea last month and I called to the East Asian community that since NPT failed, nobody is really making consolidated pressure for DPRK, so DPRK should make an independent non-pressured decision to return to the family of NPT.

So those are the kinds of tricky follow-ups that you could do, well, NPT didn't produce a very high-pressure document condemning the proliferation, condemning DPRK to having non-compliance or to having abandoned the treaty commitment. But since there is no pressure, it is an opportunity for DPRK to independently make its own decisions in return, and I hope that is being done with the Six Party Talks which are taking place even at this particular moment in Beijing.

So thank you very much for putting up with my long talk and I would like to put this on my website also, so if you are interested in looking into these issues, please visit my site. I gave my email address so if you have questions, please contact me. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT AKIBA: Thank you very much, Prof. Inoguchi. I would like to thank you for speaking for such a long time for all of us on the important issues of diplomacy, especially in the areas of disarmament. It has especially been gratifying that you were able to place the message of hibakusha within the context of the rarefied

work of diplomacy and academia and vice versa. I believe it is important for us to appreciate that because in order for us to mobilize, the majority of the people in the world, it is very important for us to realize that we focus on the common threads that unite, that tie together different groups. Those two groups may not coincide on every point of issue, but we can always find a common thread that ties any two groups together. And that thread will eventually create, piece by piece, a beautiful final product, such as a quilt. If you can envision a quilt which consists of beautiful pieces of cloth and each cloth is independent, they are not completely overlapped, however, they are stitched along a common line and together they form a beautiful and warm quilt. And your presentation this afternoon basically laid out in front of us how we can make that beautiful quilt, which is what we are developing here. So I'd like to thank you again, and please join me with another applause to Prof. Inoguchi.

[applause]

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Plenary Session I

Next Steps for Mayors for Peace

-What mayors and citizens can do to abolish nuclear weapons-

10:00-14:00, Friday, August 5, 2005

Himawari

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Toshiki Mogami**

Professor, International Christian University

Keynote Speaker:

Susan Walker

Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant

Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer

Speaker:

Ellen Woodsworth

Councilor, Vancouver, Canada

Daniel Fontaine

Mayor, Aubagne, France

Alfred Marder

New Haven, Chairman of New Haven Peace Commission, U.S.A

André Hédiger

Mayor, Geneva, Switzerland

Gary Moore

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Christchurch, New Zealand

Beverly O'Neill

President of the US Conference of Mayors, Mayor, Long Beach, U.S.A

Herbert Schmalstieg

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Hannover, Germany

Mohamed Afzal Khan

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Manchester, U.K

Evgeny Petrovich Ischenko

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Volgograd, Russia

Alain Audoubert

Mayor, Vitry-sur-Seine, France

Hervé Brahmy

President, Seine St. Denis, France

Walter Momper

President of House of Representatives, Berlin, Germany

Steve Freedkin

Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, U.S.A

Brian Fitch

City Councilor, Brighton & Hove, U.K

Bob Harvey

Mayor, Waitakere, New Zealand

Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff

Mayor, Galle, Sri Lanka

Jean-Pierre Brouhon

Official Delegation Representative, Ixelles, Belgium

Susanna Agostini

Councilor, Florence, Italy

Bruno Vincenzo Scittarelli

Mayor, Cassino, Italy

Nimal Chandrasiri de Silva

Mayor, Kurunegala, Sri Lanka

Arlette Zielinski

Deputy Mayor, Villejiuf, France

Peter Chan

Councilor, Waitakere, New Zealand

Tadatoshi Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan:

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call the plenary Session 1 to order. This morning we are honored by the presence of Prof. Toshiki Mogami of the International Christian University located in Tokyo. He will chair this plenary Session 1 and 2. Let me explain a little bit about Prof. Mogami's contributions to the cause of peace and his academic career.

He graduated from the University of Tokyo and then received his Masters and Doctorate degree in international law with his specialty of international law and international organization. He assumed the professorship of the International Christian University in 1990 and was appointed to chair many professional organizations. One of these organizations is the Japan Peace Studies Association. He was a very active chairman of that organization from 1999 to 2001 and made peace studies one of the recognized academic disciplines in Japan.

He has contributed to the Mayors for Peace as an excellent advisor and served as the moderator, chairman, chairman of the drafting committees, and so forth during the 4th and the 5th General Conference, and we are lucky and honored and pleased to have him as the advisor, as well as the chairperson for the plenary session. The City of Hiroshima owes him a great deal because he has been a consistent supporter of the City of Hiroshima peace activities, as well as a leader in his own discipline. So now I would like to introduce Prof. Mogami and take this podium.

Chairperson, Toshiki Mogami, Professor, International Christian University:

Thank you very much, Mayor Akiba, and good morning, everyone. I am happy to hear the over-generous introduction by Mayor Akiba. And I am deeply honored to chair this conference once again. Since this is the third time for me to chair this conference, I see many faces among you which are familiar to me and I feel very happy whenever I see them. Of course, I feel equally happy when I see faces which are new to me. Welcome to this meaningful conference. But I feel unhappy when I think about the failure of the recent NPT Review Conference and when I think about the stalemates in the nuclear disarmament and lack of enthusiasm on the part of some governments for nuclear disarmament.

But we are not here to share our disappointments or discouragement. Instead, we have gathered here to get united once again in our endeavors for peace. We are here despite the failure of the NPT Review Conference and despite the increasingly looming prospects of nuclear proliferation, and even nuclear clashes. We are here to enliven our commitment to the unity and reconciliation of humankind. And we are here to mutually enrich our approaches to these problems by hearing ideas which may be new to us. And above all, we are here to reconfirm our conviction that what happened here, 60 years ago, in Hiroshima must never happen again to anybody in the world. And let's be united with our commitments to all these purposes and ideals.

Now I would like to call the meeting to order. And today, at the beginning, we have the pleasure of having Ms. Susan Walker as the very exciting keynote speaker and we begin with her presentation. But before calling on her, I would like to give the floor to the Councilor of the City of Vancouver, Ms. Ellen Woodsworth so that she can present to you some announcement about the World Peace Forum which will be held June next year.

Ellen Woodsworth, Councilor, Vancouver, Canada: Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here on behalf of the Mayor of the City of Vancouver. We decided that it was time to mobilize cities and communities together for peace, justice and to end poverty, and we have decided to hold a World Peace Forum in June 2006 in the City of Vancouver, Canada, dovetailed with the World Urban Forum, which is a time when mayors, councilors, environmentalists, architects, planners, emerge to talk about ideal cities and sustainable cities. We thought that this would be an ideal time in world history when communities, who, like Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are being destroyed in wars and have burst to stop wars and pro-peace movements could get together with councilors and mayors and to find a way forward.

So in June of next year in Vancouver we are meeting, and at the same time many organizations will be having their conferences there: International Peace Messenger Cities will be meeting with Mayors for Peace, International Peace Research Center will be coming there, Pugwash. The working groups, the youth, the women, the arts, the anti-racist groups, groups from all over the world are planning now how to make Vancouver, which is renowned as a city of peace, a city that will leave a legacy and build towards a future of peace and sustainability.

Our theme which we're asking everyone to use as they talk in their organizations of plans to bring to the World Peace Forum is "Cities and Communities Working Together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World." We have invitations that Dr. Price will be handing out to you, and you will probably have seen our flyer that we have been handing out.

As we speak today, in Vancouver we will be honoring the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a commemoration service, and our Vancouver Public Library is doing a special folding of cranes at all its neighborhood libraries that will be coming together at its main library. So there are many, many activities that are happening in Vancouver. And I wanted to give a poster to the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mayor Akiba, that is a picture taken of Hiroshima in the 50s with Kinoku Laskey who just passed away, who was a resident of Vancouver. And I will present this to Mayor Akiba, and I hope that you will be able to bring your organizations to Vancouver to work with civil society to advance peace and justice and to fight poverty in this world by building a peace agenda as opposed to a military agenda. Thank you so much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Ms. Woodsworth. Now we begin the official part. First, as I told you, we will ask Ms. Susan Walker to give her presentation, and soon after that we will call on each of you to give your presentation. And the basic rule is that you are requested to limit your presentation to five minutes maximum, the shorter, the better because we have so many requests to speak up on the stage, so please abide by the time limit. So now we will have Ms. Susan Walker on stage, but before that I'll give you a brief introduction of Ms. Walker.

Ms. Walker is well known as a strong part of the ICBL, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, but before doing that she worked in the American Refugee Committee, a medical program, and after that she worked strenuously for Handicap International, and Handicap International, this NGO became one of the six co-founding NGOs to establish the ICBL, and it was in 1992. And from 1992 she

worked hard for the cause of the ICBL and then finally succeeded in getting the treaty ratified by the world community.

Susan completed her contract with the ICBL in May 2005, but she continues to work on the implementation of the 1997 Mine Ban Convention, humanitarian affairs and disarmament consultant in Geneva. She has been always active in giving the world a humanitarian moment. So as this conference is willing to incorporate the ideas of the so-called Ottawa Process, which was adopted for the signing of the landmine ban convention, I think we can turn to the rich experiences of hers. So she may have lots of advice and suggestions to us, I believe. So will you please come up? Ms. Walker.

Susan Walker, Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant, Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer: Good morning, everyone. Mayor Akiba-san, Mayor Itoh-san, Dr. Mogami-san, Senator Roche-san, mayors, hibakusha-san, and other champions in the movement to ban nuclear weapons, konnichiwa, and thank you very much to the Mayors for Peace for inviting me as a long-term advocate in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, or ICBL, to address this important and historic conference on the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings and to share our experience. It is an honor and a privilege to be here.

Walking through the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum yesterday, it was the stories of individual suffering and death which brought the horrors of nuclear war into clear focus. Such as Sadako Sasaki, who was two years old on the 6th August, 1945, and who died ten years later after contracting leukemia. The thousands of paper cranes she folded with a child's innocent hope of recovering from her illness has become a worldwide symbol of peace. Your work during the challenging years ahead must succeed in realizing her hopes so that never again will a child have to say in agony, and I quote, "Am I still alive? I am so thirsty," as Hiroki Hori, a 13-year-old boy who died on the 10th August, 1945, said as he was dying.

This week I learned that most of the footage and the photos of the Holocaust caused by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were hidden away and declared top secret by the United States government for decades before a few were released. More will now be broadcast for the first time on television on this 60th anniversary weekend. May they so horrify and shake the world citizens and governments that we, collectively, seize the opportunity to progress on banning nuclear weapons. There is an urgency to do so, particularly in this post 9/11 world of the war on terrorism.

We always need to try new things, and I'm going to try a new thing today. I've never made or done a PowerPoint, so the remainder, it's not words, it is photos that hopefully will bring the landmines issue to play, so I will try to see if this works.

It is indeed fitting to have a session on the civil society role in achieving the AP Mine Ban Convention in order to learn from the extraordinary success to date in making strides to rid the world of this indiscriminate and insidious weapon. The anti-personnel mine ban movement, or "Ottawa Process," as it is called, is very likely the most successful example to date of government and civil society partnership to address a global humanitarian crisis. It is also the first time that a conventional weapon in widespread use has been banned.

The photos that you'll be seeing are taken the last two weeks in Thailand and Cambodia. As Professor Mogami said, I continue to work on implementation of the convention and was on mission in Thailand and Cambodia to implement the victim assistance provisions of the convention.

As you know, the limited military utility of anti-personnel mines is far outweighed by their humanitarian consequences, as documented in the study done by a group of retired generals for the International Committee of the Red Cross. It's entitled, "Anti-personnel mines: Friend or Foe?" The world responded to the global humanitarian crisis caused by anti-personnel mines with a comprehensive and unequivocal ban. This historic convention was negotiated, signed and entered into force faster than any convention in modern times. There are many lessons that can be drawn from the AP mine ban movement for your efforts to achieve a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons and I hope to share some of these with you.

The ICBL is a coalition of 1,400 organizations in over 90 countries, including a broad range of relief and development, rehabilitation, humanitarian mine clearance, and human rights organizations. This is almost identical in numbers to the Mayors for Peace network of 1,080 cities in 112 countries and territories. This is an advantage which must be used to its fullest, having a network like this. In 1997, the Nobel Peace Prize Committee spoke of our joint efforts saying, and I quote, "As a model for similar processes in the future, it could prove of decisive importance to the international effort for disarmament and peace."

I have been asked to speak about the role of the ICBL and civil society in achieving the global ban on anti-personnel mines. I will focus on how the unprecedented partnership between civil society and governments brought about the convention and the success we have had to date.

The next five years are indeed a critical period as we continue to implement the convention, and I will say the full name only once, Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, and On Their Destruction. The first review conference of the convention, also known as the "Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World," took place in Kenya from 29 November to 3 December last year. It reviewed the first five years of progress since the convention entered into force on 1st March 1999 and issued a high-level declaration signed by the heads of States that were there and the heads of delegation. Most importantly, the States parties adopted the Nairobi Action Plan for 2005-2009 in order to reach our life-saving objective of a world without anti-personnel mines. This is probably the most detailed and comprehensive action plan ever to come out of a convention review conference.

Anti-personnel mines are the cause of a global humanitarian crisis with severe health, human rights, environmental, rehabilitation and social and economic consequences in many of the poorest, war-torn or post-conflict countries in the world. These are also the countries that are least able to deal with the humanitarian consequences and devastation on their infrastructure.

The disastrous effects of anti-personnel mines on anyone who steps on them, changes lives forever, if one survives the blast. Children are more vulnerable, as they are

usually ripped apart and killed by them due to their small size, rather than maimed, as the designers of anti-personnel mines intended for strategic military reasons. Most of the photos that you'll be seeing here are, themselves, people that are landmine survivors, some of them my old patients and workers.

At this time when there is a great deal of pessimism surrounding multilateral affairs worldwide, the convention serves as a beacon of hope that citizens and their governments, working in partnership, can and have made a difference. Anti-personnel mines continue to maim and kill for decades after wars have ended, as they do not recognize peace accords, but the international community has made great strides during the past seven years to address this crisis.

Speaking personally, I am involved in the mine ban movement because of 15 years of working in medical, rehabilitation and humanitarian mine clearance programs in Southeast Asia with refugees, villagers and persons with disability, including literally tens of thousands of landmine survivors. I have experienced the horror of a 34-year-old Cambodian man being killed by an anti-personnel mine 400 meters from where I stood, leaving behind a wife and three small children, and have carried a 19-year-old Cambodian boy to the hospital two hours after he was blown up by an anti-personnel mine.

I have also had the joy of talking with one of our patients happily working in his radio repair shop, who thanked us for "giving him back his life." Why? Because Handicap International's Social and Economic Reintegration Programme had provided him with the opportunity to establish a livelihood. He was able to marry and have two children, and he said it never would have happened if he was not able to support himself and his family.

A letter I received in 1995 from my colleague following one of my trips to Cambodia said, and I quote:

We have information on the man who died of a mine explosion on June 8th, 1995, the day you and Steve were on site with the mines advisory group in Battambang. His was Pech Korb. He was 36 years old. He is survived by his wife, Seang Chantorn, and three sons, ages 2, 4 and 6. He had stopped being a soldier five months before he died. He resigned from the military, as his salary was not enough to support his family. He thought they would have more security if he farmed. He knew his land was mined, but he worked on it every day anyway because he had no other choice. Like every other farmer, they needed the rice crop in order to survive. His wife is still working on the same plot of land. She and her children are completely destitute. Enclosed are pictures of Mr. Pech and his family; unfortunately, we have none of him while he was still alive.

It is because of experiences like this that many of us are involved in this process, for the AP landmine convention was borne out of the utter and massive devastation caused by anti-personnel mines and the more-than-compelling humanitarian imperative to address this crisis. This is why ensuring that the convention is fully

implemented must remain high on each of our agendas and indeed on that of the international community.

When the convention was negotiated in Oslo in September of '97 and signed in Ottawa in December '97, millions of survivors and those living and working in mined communities worldwide felt the voice of the victims had finally been heard. As you know, we were honored to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in '97. In the words of the Nobel Committee, and I'll show you what it is, a copy of what you get when you receive the Nobel Peace Prize, this was the announcement on October 10, '97, and then they present a diploma with an original work of art on the 10th December when it's issued each year. The committee said, and I quote:

The ICBL and Jody Williams started a process which in the space of a few years changed a ban on anti-personnel mines from a vision to a feasible reality. ...With the governments of several small and mid-sized countries taking the issue up and taking steps to deal with it, this work has grown into a convincing example of an effective policy for peace.

Indeed, since '97 the ICBL and the Ottawa Process have been used as a model in creating the Human Security Network, the International Criminal Court, the Child Soldiers Campaign, the Small Arms and Light Weapons Campaign, the Cluster Munitions Coalition, and even the Tobacco Convention to name a few. The real prize for the ICBL will always remain the convention, which was courageously negotiated and adopted in Oslo by small and mid-sized countries who joined together to address this global humanitarian crisis, thereby defining a new way of conducting international diplomacy. The convention was then signed in Ottawa on the 2nd and 3rd of December '97. Throughout this historical process, the ICBL, in partnership with key governments such as Norway, Canada, Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Mexico, South Africa and Switzerland, the eight countries that came to the first meeting we convened on a possible ban in January of '96, these countries, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and various UN agencies have played a crucial role in ensuring that the world achieved and has now begun to consolidate and fully implement this convention "without exceptions, without reservations, and without loopholes."

The convention, indeed, provides a "Framework for a Mine-Free World" with a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mine, an obligation for all States Parties to destroy their stockpiles of AP mines within four years and clear mined areas within ten years. While no extension is allowed for the four-year stockpile destruction deadline, for mine clearance, especially for countries like Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola, that has millions and millions of mines, there is a possibility for extension of the mine clearance deadline.

There is also an obligation for "Each State Party," and I'm quoting the convention, "Each State Party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims and for mine awareness programs." The ICBL believes that all countries, including mine-affected countries, are in a position to help mine victims.

Yesterday someone said to me, oh, are there still many landmines in the world. A few figures to update you. Eighty-two countries worldwide remain mine-affected with 15–20,000 new victims in 65 of these countries; 85 per cent of the victims are civilians, as reported in the ICBL's Landmine Monitor 2004 report. Forty-one of the 65 countries where there were new victims were "at peace," not war.

Significant global progress has been made since entry into force on the 1st March '99 with a de facto export ban in place, reduced use, a decrease in production, an increase in humanitarian demining and victim assistance programs, and tens of millions of stockpiled mines having been destroyed by States Parties. Most importantly, we are beginning to see a decrease in the number of new victims. When we first started reporting, we reported 26,000 new victims per year, and the last report's estimated number is 15–20,000 new victims per year, but 15–20,000 new victims in 65 countries still remains totally unacceptable. That is one new landmine victim every 30 minutes or approximately 150 new landmine victims around the world during the days we are here in Hiroshima.

Just a quick update on this progress. There are now 145 States Parties and 8 Signatory States, or 80 per cent of the world. On transfers, as I said, a de facto ban is in place, even for countries that have not joined the convention. More than 37 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed by States Parties, and there has been a dramatic drop in production. There used to be 55, 5-5 countries producing landmines. Now there are only 15, 1-5, and out of those 15 some are not currently producing but we keep them on the list because they have not banned landmines.

There has also been a significant decrease in new use of AP mines by States. Only four governments since May 2003 compared to 15 governments using them in 1999. The use by armed non-state actors has also decreased.

Mine clearance, victim assistance, resource mobilization have all increased.

Global mine action funding is estimated to be \$2.3 billion over the past decade. It sounds like a lot but it's not enough to address the problem.

And most importantly, as I've said, the number of new victims is going down each year, but remember they are added to the 3 to 4 to 500,000 landmine survivors who will need care for the rest of their lives.

Even with these significant achievements during the first seven years of the convention, we must not be complacent because what the ICBL has always called "a weapon of terror" or a weapon of mass destruction in slow motion continues to have devastating humanitarian, developmental and socio-economic consequences in 82 mine-affected countries. We will not rest on our laurels. The ICBL will not stop until they have completed what they set out to accomplish: a mine-free world.

So what lessons can be drawn from the AP mine ban movement to contribute to the Mayors for Peace effort to translate the vision and the dream of a world free of nuclear weapons into reality by the year 2020? I will mention only nine points, though there are many more.

First, identify a few key like-minded governments and work closely in cooperation with them to galvanize the necessary political will and to develop a strategic action plan for the coming years, one that is practical and visionary. Perhaps Aaron Tovish's presentation last night addressed this matter.

Number 2, if necessary, take the process out of the United Nations, as we did with the Ottawa Process, unless the consensus rules and tyranny of the minority can be circumvented.

Three. Raise the voices. Dr. Inoguchi mentioned the Raising the Voices program which was a leadership training program for landmine survivors. You can raise the voices of the hibakusha and subsequent generations of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki so the citizens and governments of the world understand the horrors of a nuclear holocaust.

But also raise the voices of like-minded governments. They need pressure from you to be able to do this. We face this all the time in the landmine convention, even with the most committed governments like Norway and Canada that have been very strong since the beginning. They are constantly telling us, the people we work with, you must put pressure, priorities are elsewhere now. We need to get the budget and commitment from our government so please continue to push us to do this. So raise the voices of like-minded governments and citizens of the world calling for a ban on nuclear weapons. Another government, South Africa, said to me when I told him I was coming here, he said, "We need more pressure from civil society, otherwise this will not happen." As Senator Roche said yesterday, we are the majority and our collective voice must be heard. International public opinion and many governments, the majority of governments, are on our side.

Number five. Bring together all the organizations, mayors, parliamentarians and others calling for a ban on nuclear weapons and deliver an unequivocal and united message to the international community. Why not turn your 2020 Vision into a truly international and united campaign to ban nuclear weapons?

Number six. Get the issue on the agendas of every relevant movement in national, regional and international organizations and governments, not only for nice words on paper, like resolutions, but for concrete action and implementation of such declarations of intent.

Number seven. Become the experts. Yesterday someone asked statistics on the costs of nuclear weapons and stocking all of that. Become the experts, and issue briefing papers on the facts, the dangers and the horrors of nuclear weapons.

Number eight. Again, when I was preparing to come to Hiroshima I met with Prof. Jozef Goldblat of the Geneva International Peace Research Institute, who I'm sure many of you know. He has suggested that perhaps the first step should be a prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons, rather than seeking a ban, a total ban on everything.

And finally, proceed with determination, commitment and plain hard work.

Now none of these nine points are rocket science. And I'm sure you're doing many of them already, but this is what has gotten us in the campaign to the success that we have had to date. But again, implementation is the key, because we have a long way to go to rid the world of AP mines.

As ICBL's ambassador and co-laureate of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, Jody Williams, said on 19th July at the first ever conference of the Global Partnership on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, or GPPAC, a new acronym to me, the conference was entitled "From Reaction to Prevention: Civil society forging partnerships to prevent violent conflict and build peace." And it was held at the UN headquarters in New York. Jody said, and this was just two weeks ago:

This conference is a tremendous demonstration of civil society's commitment to creating a new agenda for conflict prevention. The GPPAC Global Action Agenda that has emerged from three years of work by thousands of women and men around the world helps focus the mind for continued work. But more importantly, it provides a basis for enhanced action by civil society to strengthen efforts to prevent violent conflict and to build peace. It clearly demonstrates our commitment, one that must be matched by governments and the international institutions at all levels in order to forge a real partnership for change.

In conclusion, ICBL's goals have always been clear. Our message has not changed from Day 1, from 1992. The total ban which we achieved, now to universalize the convention, to monitor the implementation, and to ensure that victim assistance and humanitarian mine clearance programs are adequately funded.

Your Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision emergency campaign to ban nuclear weapons must strive forward with this same clear vision and the same sense of determination and purpose. The AP Mine Ban Convention is one of the few multilateral processes, which is working successfully today. The close partnerships between governments and civil society has been key to our success. Continued success in the full implementation of the convention will serve to resolve not only this global humanitarian crisis but also to underline the importance of the Rule of Law and International Humanitarian Law.

Failure to do so will relegate our historic achievements to the dustbins of history. For the sake of humanity we must not allow this to happen. Collectively, we have made history. Collectively, we will work to ensure that place in history by translating the promise of the AP Land Mine Convention into life-saving reality on the ground.

For the sake of the millions living in mined communities and the tens of thousands of new mine victims each year, we must and we will succeed in securing a world where children and adults can "walk, play and live without fear" that their next step may be their last.

Our work is far from over. This week when I was checking email, I got a notice from the campaign that the United States is considering very seriously to resume the production of anti-personnel mines. They haven't used them since the Gulf War, the United States has not produced them since 1997, but earlier this year the Bush

Administration announced, following a two-and-a-half year review that in fact the United States would not join the convention. I believe it's probably the only country in the world that has said they will not join the mine ban convention. Others have said we cannot join now, we believe in the humanitarian goals and we will eventually join. So we have our work cut out for us. And so do you.

For the sake of the survival of humanity, you must and you will be successful. We must and we will be successful in achieving a world without nuclear weapons. May you be energized and inspired by the urgency of achieving this by 2020, if not before. Thank you. Domo arigato gosaimashita.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Ms. Walker, for your informative, insightful and energizing speech. We are really encouraged by what she said. And her speech strongly impressed us that this is really, truly a humanitarian age. As long as you have strong and clear humanitarian objectives and determination, people always gather together to achieve those purposes, and in essence of that it would be better if we can have some like-minded countries, I would rather call them conscientiously-minded countries, like the case of Canada and Norway and other countries in the case of ICBL. So there is some strong hope which we can cling to. We have to thank Ms. Susan Walker once again.

And just in passing, you heard many times over the name of Ms. Jody Williams, who was also representing the ICBL together with Susan Walker. And there is a commonality between myself and Ms. Jody Williams. It is that her birthday and mine are exactly the same, Oct. 9, 1950, and this makes me feel an affinity to Ms. Williams. And what is more, this is the same birthday as Snoopy. He was born on exactly the same day, so we three have the same proud commonality.

Now I'd like to –

Walker: Excuse me, Professor Mogami. In honor of your sharing the birthday with Jody Williams, may I ask you and Mayor Itoh-san to come. I would like to present you with this copy of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Chairperson: Something related to Snoopy?

Walker: Yes. Snoopy would, I'm sure Snoopy would be in favor of the Nobel Peace Prize and the ban.

What this is are the key documents in the Ottawa Process, also the report from the Nairobi Summit, our theme was "Wanted: A Mine-Free World." And a copy of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Chairperson: Well, thank you very, very much again, Susan. And now we will move on to the presentation of the representatives of each city. I will call on them according to the order as distributed to you. And I'll call on one person, and at the same time I'll call on the person to be followed, who will follow the current speaker, so I will ask the next speaker to be ready in time. And we will keep doing this for about an hour, and after that we'll take about a ten-minute break, and after that we will resume the presentations until 1:00 in the afternoon. And in order to save time,

and since you are the principal actors of this conference, I'll try to give you as much time as possible, so I'll refrain from making comments on the presentations of each of you, however important it may be. So I'll be, basically, quiet. So please, this is my cooperation to you and I would like you to cooperate with me.

So the first speaker is the Mayor of Aubagne, France, Monsieur Daniel Fontaine. And the second speaker is the Chairman of the New Haven Peace Commission, Mr. Alfred Marder. Monsieur Fontaine?

Daniel Fontaine, Mayor, Aubagne, France: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Daniel Fontaine. I am the Mayor of Aubagne, France. I am also a member of AFCD RP, that's the French Peace Authorities Association, I am the Chairman of that AFCD RP.

First of all, I would like to start my presentation as to how we brought as many as 25 local authorities to this meeting. And to you Mayor Akiba, I would like to thank you for organizing this wonderful setup for the Mayors for Peace. In France, AFCD RP members, and also we do have the French Association of Mayors for Peace, and we are acting as the chapter of the Mayors for Peace.

In 1985, Hiroshima and Nagasaki took the initiative in creating this organization, Mayors for Peace, but in those days there was not much participation by France. In 1985, there were only five or six local authorities who were participants. But after founding AFCD RP, the number of French local authorities who are participants in this organization exceeds 60. As the country France, which advocates itself for the nuclear deterrence, this is a substantial number. French local authorities and the cities throughout the membership of AFCD RP concur with Vision 2020 campaign because we realize that it is necessary to think about seriously the world peace, and in the minds of the citizens for many, many years this was the high level of interest. In reality, peace is a global but yet daily issue. And this is indeed the issue which has to be tackled from all perspectives. Based on this notion, we hope that we will be able to contribute a lot for the ideal of creating peace.

Peace impacts on various aspects such as East Asian culture and security. Through that dialogues we hope that we will be able to tackle the issue which might be considered far from the daily life of people, without creating apathy in the minds of the people. We hope that we will be able to tackle these various problems in order to establish peace.

I would like to give you one good example I came across in the school children's education from four to five years old. There was a program for education. There was an interview with the children and they were able to create or refuse violence. As for the need for dialogue, assimilate the other's culture and try to find the solidarity. Through those educational programs, children are able to do the same as is seen in the United Nations and UNESCO, and this kind of dialogue among children will give life and the future to our world. If cities are able to do the same, then this kind of value set can be strongly promoted. Peace values should not stay only at schools and conference rooms. This is not at all an abstract theme.

Peace is the inevitable result of justice and sharing on a global scale. The use of nuclear weapons and the use of weapons are creating a threat to human beings in the future because we have not come up with a solution peacefully to eradicate the cause of tension. Mayor Akiba continues to give the warning to the authorities and organizations in the world about the threat of such nuclear weapons. In May this year, Mayor Akiba has clearly stated his opinions at the United Nations podium in New York. We, the members of AFCDRP, would like to deliver our appreciation to Mayor Akiba for his courageous delivery of the speech.

I wonder whether it is possible for us to rectify all those problems which lie in our future to abolish nuclear weapons. Those weapons are in the accessible range of the States and state actors and non-state actors. We can no longer sacrifice many people's lives with this threat. There are a lot of differences in income among the States and individuals, but our lives, our environments are at stake. Based on such purpose on those conceptions, in many conferences there is much deliberation seen, the hope and aspirations of human beings are common. Because the threat of nuclear weapons is so serious we have to give the global perspectives. Nuclear weapons are not a single anomaly in our period. It is a horrifying omen for our future as human beings.

For the cities and local authorities in the world, there are a lot of roles to be played by them in fighting against nuclear weapons. Every single citizen in the world has the hope to live in a peaceful society and world. We do have strong confidence in that belief. The cities consist of people who are in different ages, and this is the most appropriate place that we can enjoy the flowering of peaceful flowers. I belong to AFCDRP France. We focus on the sustainability of actions. We have campaigns concurring with Vision 2020. We hope that we will be able to continue such campaigns to encourage such movements. And at the same time, the membership of France local authorities, 60 of them in Mayors for Peace, this is our commitment. I would like you to understand. Thank you indeed very much, ladies and gentlemen.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Fontaine. And the next speaker is Mr. Marder from New Haven, USA.

Alfred Marder, New Haven, Chairman of New Haven Peace Commission, U.S.A.: Mayor Akiba and honored guests, first, for the interpreters, I am going to move away slightly from my prepared text.

The 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is not only an occasion of remembrance but more. It is a harsh reminder that a political weapon of horrible dimensions was ushered into the world 60 years ago aimed at cities and their people, a weapon so frightening it was capable, and is capable, of holding all humanity hostage. Faced with the reality of even a more critical time today, mayors and officials of cities have the sworn duty not only to raise their voices for the total abolition of these weapons, but must use the full resources of their cities to mobilize their citizen in this campaign.

Just as we gather here, in my city we are mobilizing for vigils, bicycle rides, demonstrations, exhibits for August 6. Proclamations have been issued, City

Councils have endorsed. All this is happening in perhaps thousands of US cities this coming week.

We must do more. And we can do more. We are proposing, in addition to the track of enlisting governments to come together, to formulate a treaty calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons, two additional steps. Number one, there is a resolution that has been passed at the United Nations, calling for a Special Session on Disarmament No. 4. This will provide an opportunity for those of us in the anti-nuclear weapons movement and the anti-war movement to mobilize throughout the world. There is a working group that has been set up and I would urge that the mayors and Mayors for Peace, my organization, the Peace Messenger Cities, and others, begin to campaign to insist that our governments endorse the Special Session in the year 2007.

But in addition to that, we are proposing a part of this campaign that I believe every single mayor can endorse. We are calling for divestment of investments from doing business with any company that is participating in the manufacture or deployment of nuclear weapons.

A little touch of history. Those of use who were in the leadership of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa used the weapon of divestment to force corporations, to force institutions, to force cities to divest their pensions from any corporation doing business with apartheid South Africa. That proved to be a fantastically successful campaign, less in terms of costing corporations dollars, but in mobilizing the moral and spiritual sense of our countries that we could not tolerate any longer a situation in one country maintaining the apartheid system.

We recognize that nuclear weapons are not apartheid. We also recognize that the United States is not South Africa. However, if the cities were to direct their pensions from any corporation involved in nuclear weapons manufacture, it would have major ramifications. And may I emphasize, *this is cost-free*. It is cost-free. There is no financial penalty for instructing the pension management from moving the investments from one corporation to another. If universities, trade unions, religious bodies and individuals, as well as cities, regions and states were to join the campaign, it would create that political atmosphere that would not be ignored and could not be ignored, even in my country, the United States.

Again, I emphasize, this campaign costs nothing. And in most cases, it depends upon you as the mayor if you were to instruct the pension investment folks that your city would no longer tolerate financially backing corporations manufacturing nuclear weapons. This campaign would not take focus or energy from any of the other suggestions that have been made. We believe that this campaign must operate on any number of tracks for us to succeed. This campaign that we are suggesting is a grassroots campaign, a local campaign, a campaign in which mayors and cities can play a leading role. It would enhance efforts to gather governments to fashion a treaty calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Dear friends, it is now up to us.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Marder, for your interesting proposals. And the next speaker is the Mayor of Geneva, Switzerland, Mr. André Hédiger. And the following speaker will be the Mayor of Christchurch, New Zealand, Mr. Gary Moore.

André Hédiger, Mayor, Geneva, Switzerland: Mayor Tadatashi Akiba, guests, ladies and gentlemen, the first thing I would like to say is that I feel very honored to be here with you here.

We are here to discuss the concrete actions that we can undertake to guarantee the security of our children and that of generations to come. Above all, we are gathered here in this symbolic City of Hiroshima to remember the past and celebrate the courage of a people to rise above the ruins and smoke of destruction.

It is our task to remember and ensure that such suffering would never again be inflicted on humankind – for there are no words that exist in any language that can describe the horror and agony that the survivors of Hiroshima, the hibakusha, endure to this day. The written archives of the Red Cross review the terrible impact.

For many years, the United States prohibited any information to be distributed on A-bombs, and at the Red Cross, Dr. Marcel Junod's report is kept in Geneva. He was a doctor sent to Hiroshima and the first foreign doctor who helped hibakusha. He provided medical supplies and he prepared them to be airlifted to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "The Disaster of Hiroshima" is the title of his report. It was written in September 1945. This report was also censored and was not published for many years. In 1982, the International Red Cross for the first time announced the existence of this report in its journal.

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary, Geneva decided to republish this. "The effect of the bomb was mysteriously serious..." as he wrote, "many victims apparently recovering suddenly suffer a fatal relapse due to the decomposition of white blood cells and other internal injuries now dying in great numbers..." This is what Dr. Junod has confirmed.

A commemorative day is important in certain respects because it recalls the past and leads us to the future. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki, very extreme activities were realized, that is, the horrible bomb was developed and then there was an effort of the people who tried to rescue the victims, sacrificing and risking their own lives. There also was strong protest and opposition. This is scientific knowledge, the strength of opposition, and the self-sacrificing effort, these are the things that we need to treasure.

Even now, after 60 years, more than 17,000 A-bombs exist on this earth. Ninety-three per cent belong to the US and Russia. All efforts to try to stop the production and abolish them were discouraged by the nuclear power States. As a guarantee for self defense, they possess nuclear weapons. Now the United States is trying to develop mini nukes; the United States does not exclude the possibility of their use because they are more effective than conventional weapons. They can destroy the hideouts of the terrorists in the mountains. With this, much opposition was heard because no use of nuclear weapons was to be supported, but that effort can be completely negated by this kind of activity. But we need to have a talk, therefore, a campaign to eliminate

nuclear weapons. We need to provide information to the citizens and we need to appeal to the government. Security and peace can only be realized when there is dialogue and trust.

For international society it is important that you prioritize the interest of mankind as a whole and this has to be appealed to the government. Human beings are now faced with many different threats. Children die every three seconds from poverty and other impacts, and very soon more than 2 million would lose their lives due to HIV, 14 million new patients of AIDS appear, and 1.7 million people died of tuberculosis in 2003, and in the same year 8.8 million people were said to be inflicted with tuberculosis. Appropriate medical service, food and the real right of development should be given to the people all over the world. That means we need to provide resources, we need to have knowledge. These should not be used for violence.

At the NPT review meeting in New York, the real issue was not discussed. We should not, however, give up our efforts, as this failure should not discourage us from our efforts to achieve the ultimate goal of a nuclear-free world. For the NPT and then the countries, we need to appeal to them to be in compliance with all the provisions of the treaty. We also need to speak to the countries with active nuclear capabilities to take part in NPT as soon as possible.

Mayor Akiba, taking this opportunity I'd like to pay my respects to your ceaseless efforts. You protect peace, you promote nuclear disarmament, and you carry out international campaigns for Mayors for Peace, which I understand is very difficult. The City of Geneva supports his effort and we will continue to support the objectives of Mayors for Peace in the future.

Taking this opportunity, in Geneva next year we intend to take part in the next World Peace Forum in Vancouver, which will be held next year. In September, the City of Geneva, the city of peace and humanity, will pay homage to Dr. Junod and hibakusha. We are going to name the new plaza, the Junod Plaza. And we need to always remind ourselves of the reason why we are here. We need to get rid of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and for that we need to reach a new stage of discussion. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Hédiger. The next speaker is Mr. Gary Moore from Christchurch, New Zealand.

Gary Moore, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Christchurch, New Zealand: Mayor Akiba and Itoh, fellow mayors and elected representative and all attendees, konnichiwa.

Greetings to the global peace community - those of us here today - and the many billions of people who are here with us in spirit.

Here in Hiroshima, and in Nagasaki, it is impossible to not feel that it is here where humanity took a deadly wrong turn on the road of destiny. It was here that our species first felt the fury and finality of what the foolish like to call "our mastery of the atom." The only "mastery" shown here was that humans were capable of taking the fatal step in giving us the potential for complete destruction of our species.

It is appropriate that we should also be here, where the horror that became reality, that we should turn back from that deadly past. There can be no more fitting time to increase our efforts for peace than when much of the world seems mesmerized by the politics of terror. The world has known, right here, the ultimate in terror. It is a form of terror that some think is acceptable because it is held in the hands of governments of major and powerful nations. It is still terror! Governments are made of people just as flawed and fallible as any of us here today, and many of them forget that we hold this world in trust for our children's children.

In a world beset with terror, massive economic and social change, and climate change, the path to survival and peace is through embracing our common humanity. The pursuit of peace as a quest specially suited to a global group such as Mayors for Peace. We mayors are elected by our local residents to be the First Citizens in our communities. We are the ideal medium with which to dilute the poison of terror and war. As a fellow mayor said to me in New York earlier this year when we were at the United Nations, it is on cities that nuclear bombs will fall, not on governments. In cities, live people.

I believe that in most people exist the common desire for peace and prosperity. As First Citizens, we have a moral and ethical responsibility to reflect this desire of our citizens. Mayor to mayor, city to city, and person to person, we can build bridges of understanding and insight beyond the ability of our national leaders and corporate hubs. We already have about 1,000 mayors involved with the Mayors for Peace movement. A simple request here today is that this 1,000 will be joined by thousands more over the years.

Our goal is to rid the world of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. We should say that we desire to live on a planet which has no war. I remember a child once asking its mother, "Mother, what is war?" We must make this a historical question.

Our worst enemies on our journey will be a sense of cynicism and defeat. We must not give these enemies any power. They are illusions used to shackle much of the modern global community into a world of hollow, mindless consumerism. There is no product more worthy of pursuit than peace and a civil society. Without this product, the rest of life becomes indeed one of terror, futility and hopelessness.

In my own life journey, I have had the joy of overcoming the forces of cynicism and defeat many times. Five years ago in New Zealand, at a time of very high youth unemployment, a small group of mayors started an organization called Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. At that time the prevailing view was that unemployment was not a concern for mayors.

Our goal was zero unemployment. We chose to start with youth unemployment. We have set a goal in our country as mayors that no person under 25 would have nothing to do. They will either be in training or in jobs. The cynics said it could not be done, that other cities would not join us, and that there would always be a number of unemployed people in our communities. And they were wrong.

The majority of New Zealand mayors are now members of Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. Our country has the second-lowest rate of unemployment in the developed world. Our whole attitude towards unemployment has changed. And it changed because some of us said that unemployment was not acceptable and that we needed to be both idealistic and pragmatic at the same time. We took an impossible vision and we're well on the way to achieving and making it a reality.

Let me illustrate with another story. Before I became mayor my job was to establish work schemes with groups and communities hit by the massive economic changes in New Zealand in the 1990s. Amongst the hardest-hit were the Maori people. Some of them were living in their coastal town of Kaikoura, two hours' drive north of Christchurch. Prosperity had left the town, as had hope and optimism. We talked to the residents to see if we could find something that might be developed to uplift the town. Some people said that tourists might be interested in taking boats out to sea to watch the migration of whales in the area. The cynics were dismissive, and the defeated of spirit could not imagine it happening, particularly by the Maori people. But a tiny group could imagine it, and when all other funding failed they mortgaged their homes to turn this dream into a reality.

These days, Kaikoura Whalewatch is rated as one of the top eco-tourism destinations in the world. And the journey took us many years. It is a booming business, about to become a \$100 million New Zealand business. It has completely revived and renewed its community. It plays an important role in attracting tourists to the South Island of New Zealand and it exists because a few people rejected cynicism and defeat and held on to a vision.

We can do the same with Mayors for Peace. We already have 1,000 members representing 1,000 cities. Instead of promoting us as being just anti-nuclear, let us be especially pro-peace. Let us make the step towards righting the immense wrong done to our common humanity, and let us start today. That's the challenge for Mayors for Peace.

Remember, we as mayors, as cities, are not a threat to nation-states. Without a backdrop of peace, there can be no successful international trade. People stop trusting each other. Imagine if as the mayors of the world we said: We will hold hands and we will promote trade, peace city to peace city. We will promote culture, peace city to peace city. We will promote our people to know each other, from peace city to peace city. We will promote the civil society in every peace city. We will exchange artists from peace city to peace city. We should turn our minds, attendees, to how we can assist cities right now in Zimbabwe and North Korea.

As nation-states play games with each other, let us form a whole new network across the world, peace city to peace city, and say, We can rid the world of nuclear terror by a massive insistence on the path of peace! Tinakoto-tinakoto-tinakoto-katol.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Moore. And the next speaker is the President of the US Conference of Mayors, Ms. Beverly O'Neill.

Beverly O'Neill, President of the US Conference of Mayors,

Mayor, Long Beach, U.S.A.: Thank you very much, Prof. Mogami, and to Mayor Akiba-san and distinguished guest speakers, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all of you. I am really honored to be here with you. I think that this room is full of friends because each one of you is making a difference. Throughout the world, you have come from throughout the world, and you are making a difference for our world. I thank you for that. We all should feel fortunate that we're here because we are with people that have the same commitment we have, we are here with people that have the same compassion and the same heart. And I thank you all for being here for this important discussion, this important conference.

I want to thank Mayor Akiba for the warmth of his welcome and also for the work he has done and the constant efforts that he has done putting this together and using the strength of the membership throughout the world. I thank you very much, Mayor Akiba-san.

I am Beverly O'Neill, I am President of the United States Conference of Mayors. I am here today representing them, I'm also Mayor of the City of Long Beach, California. Our organization is 75 years old and we represent over 1,000 of the largest cities in the United States. We have had a strong bond with mayors from throughout the world. In Japan, for many years we've had exchanges of US and Japanese mayors and in all the exchanges that we have had with mayors coming to Japan they have visited Hiroshima.

We were honored that Mayor Akiba addressed our conference this last January in Washington, DC, it's our annual conference we have each year, and also the conference was honored to participate with Mayor Akiba and the United Nations Secretary Kofi Annan at the Mayors for Peace meeting in April at the United Nations, and I know quite a few of you were there at that time. And I'm pleased to be here to extend a short message to all of the participants. And I'm pleased to be here because I feel this is a significant event.

Our organization has long strongly advocated a decrease and elimination of the threat of nuclear weapons. At our annual meeting each June we have policy resolutions that provide us the advocacy that we use in Congress and with the White House throughout the year. Dating back for several decades, the Conference of Mayors has enacted strong policy calling for the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Last year in Boston, the mayors of the United States unanimously passed a resolution entitled Support for the Commencement of Negotiations on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. This resolution declares that weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world. And that calls for commencement of negotiations on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. It declared the US Conference of Mayors will remain engaged in this matter until our cities are no longer under the threat of this destruction.

In the year of the 60th anniversary, the use of nuclear weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is interesting to review the Conference of Mayors' 1985 resolution that specifically pointed that reversing the nuclear arms race. That marked the 40th

anniversary for the use of nuclear weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and endorsed the declaration that 1985 is the year to reverse this arms race.

We stand here together today united in this cause. And I would like to especially recognize our executive director. The presidents change each year in the mayors organization. I am fortunate to be president this year, but we have the same executive director that we've had for many years, and I want to recognize him, our executive director who has played a key role in the growth and development of this organization, our organization, and with his guidance and leadership we have been consistently a strong voice for mayors, and Tom Cochrane where are you? Sitting somewhere? Right over there.

The Conference of Mayors believes in the strength of mayor-to-mayor cooperation. We have supported several international mayoral summits and worked for cooperation among mayors of the world, and that's been said several times this morning, people talking about mayors talking with each other. We are trying to do this. We have done this for years, and I think more of this is going to be happening because mayors all over the world speak the same language. Every day they see their constituents, every day they meet with their constituents, every day they are confronted with their needs and their fears of the future. If the network of mayors in your own country has not yet gone on record for the elimination of nuclear weapons, I would encourage you to consider asking your mayors' association to pass such a resolution because united we are a strong voice.

Today we are in an historic time. And we are in an historic city. It symbolizes both the destruction that mankind can do, as well as mankind's hope to achieve a better world, and we stand together in a united effort to achieve brilliance by wisdom and experience and strength informed by conscience. Through all of our efforts together, the mayors of the world, we can realize our goal of eliminating the threat of nuclear war. And that can be our century's claim to distinction and to progress. That kind of world is what all of us in this room seek. That's why we're here today and that's why I'm so proud to join with you on this occasion. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: The next speaker is Dr. Herbert Schmalstieg, the Lord Mayor of Hannover, Germany.

Herbert Schmalstieg, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hannover, Germany: Mr. Chairman, Prof. Mogami, Mayor Akiba, distinguished guests, colleagues, friends, when one talks of the dangers to peace and the growing threats in the world, in these days only a few people will call to mind Hiroshima and Nagasaki or regard nuclear weapons as a primary danger. As dates that symbolize our fear of war and violence, it is less likely that we will name the 6th August or the 9th August 1945, but rather the 11th September 2001, the 11th March 2004, or most recently, the 10th July 2005.

In the face of this wave of extremist violence that could break almost anyway in the world as we meet here, other dangers recede in our awareness. Understandable as this is, it is important not only to resist terrorism but also, and especially, to fight the origins of terrorism. These origins include, above all, the increasingly hopeless futures of so many young people; they include unemployment, poverty, hunger and

hardship. But it is just as important, and particularly this year, 60 years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, not to forget the nuclear threat, a threat which is just as real today as it has always been. As long as there are all nuclear weapons in the world the danger will persist that the number of countries that can acquire these weapons will increase, and as long as the possibility cannot be excluded that criminal organizations will get access to nuclear weapons, there will be, no peace in the world.

It is by no means simple to make progress along the road to complete nuclear disarmament and to fulfil the 2020 Vision; we have to learn this lesson again this year. The Seventh Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York ended up without producing any results, provoking increased skepticism about the chances of success for multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. The cities, and we as mayors, therefore have an important responsibility: to express the anxieties of our citizens and our politicians, to our governments, in the face of the continuing nuclear threat, and to demand once and for all such steps towards complete nuclear disarmament.

For this reason it is good to see how more and more cities, more and more mayors are recognizing this responsibility in joining us in our concern. The significant increase in affiliated cities shows this clearly. The days in New York, the participation by so many mayors of cities all over the world in the NPT Review Conference was, to this extent, also encouraging. We must persist in our commitment to our cause; we may not slacken our efforts. For we can do much to ensure that the realization of the necessity for comprehensive nuclear disarmament grows, so that it also one day will become reality. On the question on what each of us in our cities can do to achieve this, I will give just a few examples.

First, and foremost, I believe, we must be committed to education, to taking the arguments for disarmament to children and young people and encouraging a commitment to peace - in kindergarten, in school and after school. This is where the foundations of active work for peace are laid. The Mayors for Peace Conference being held at the moment here in Hiroshima is truly a good example.

Secondly, the cities must always raise their voices in protest at threats to freedom and community life, for these are the issues that affect us directly. In this we must seek to work with non-governmental organizations, citizens campaigns and groups. Since June of this year, a "Peace Tram," for example, has been running on the Hannover tramway network, decorated by striking graphics by young artists calling for peace 60 years after the A-bombs on Japan.

Thirdly, cities must also take their appeals and demands for nuclear disarmament to the national governments. They must make it clear that it is not only the concerns of political representatives, but also the interests, the anxieties of local citizens that the cities are speaking for. We are only strong if we are united. This is true not only in one's own country, but also across national borders. In a world that is increasingly growing closer and more open we must also, on issues that endanger our coexistence and peace in the world, seek and strengthen international cooperation.

And therefore, fourthly, we may never slacken in our efforts to ensure that the circle of cities that, together with us, are striving for a world without nuclear weapons continues to grow.

As a contribution in this spirit I would now like to present our President, Mayor Akiba, with new declarations of affiliation from six German cities and local authorities whose mayors have committed their communities to Mayors for Peace with their signatures. We have now in our country, in Germany, 236 members in our organization, and we are very proud that we can say this for you, Mr. Akiba, in this conference. In this way we will grow stronger and can then, we hope, in the not-too-distant future, finally make it possible that the wish No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis! comes true. Thank you very much for your attention.

Chairperson: I guess we can have at least two more speakers before we take a break. Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan, Lord Mayor of Manchester, United Kingdom, and then after him will be Mr. Evgeny Petrovic Ischencho, Mayor of Volgograd, Russia.

Mohammed Afzal Khan, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Manchester, U.K.: Mr. Chairman, Mayor Akiba, mayors, colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, konnichiwa. It is an enormous privilege to participate in this important conference and I pay tribute to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for their hard work and dedication that makes these meetings possible. I think it is unique and very important to provide this platform for people from all over the globe to come together to share and to learn from one another. It is also a great honor to be invited once again to hold the position of Vice-President City in the Mayors for Peace organization, and I am pleased to accept this on behalf of the City of Manchester.

Many of you will know that Manchester is proud of its record in promoting peace and nuclear weapons abolition. Twenty-five years ago, it initiated an international movement of nuclear weapons-free zone local authorities. The movement rapidly spread in the 80s and many towns and cities worldwide continue to declare themselves nuclear-free zones and pledge themselves to a nuclear-free future.

Since 1984 Manchester has also given its support to Mayors for Peace and we have been inspired by the energy that the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have brought to the campaign, particularly in the recent years and notably with the launch of the 2020 Vision in Nagasaki, November 2003. The goal of nuclear weapons abolition by 2020 *is* achievable. We know it is the desire of the vast majority of people worldwide and local government has a vital part to play in articulating and representing these just demands through national governments.

Through its nuclear-free policy, Manchester has worked closely with peace campaigners in the city over two decades, and will continue to do so. The City Council provides support for local groups and local groups provide support to the Council. Cooperative working is mutually beneficial and builds campaigning capacity.

To reaffirm its commitment to nuclear weapons abolition and broaden the base of its cooperative work for peace, Manchester adopted a new Peace Policy and declared

2005 a Year of Peace, Remembrance and Reconciliation. The terms of the policy demonstrate the value the city places on cooperative work at all levels of society.

Manchester, a city of peace: The council recognizes the contribution it can make through the provision and delivery of its services towards promoting social inclusion, social justice, good citizenship, and peace between the peoples, cultures and faith communities that it serves.

In a post 9/11 world the adverse consequences of conflict and international instability radiate into my city's communities. The values that the city projects in response to international conflict impacts on our community life. In this context the city will assert more vigorously its commitment to peace. With the City Council Leader taking the Presidency of the EuroCities network in July 2005, there is an additional opportunity to signal the value that Manchester places on peace to other European continental peers.

We are now setting about designing and preparing materials to communicate this new policy and we look to the city's 25th nuclear-free zone anniversary in November to launch a communications campaign to raise the profile of the city's peace work, and to encourage people to value the gift of peace more highly. Sometimes, resolving our conflict peacefully and fairly is hard and can involve very difficult decisions and unpalatable compromises, but violence and war inflict more greater suffering. The evidence is everywhere.

To support the 2020 Vision, Manchester has also sought to cooperation with other UK Mayors for Peace towns and cities and national citizens' groups. It has been able to use its position within the UK nuclear-free local authorities network to advance this.

Following the mayors' lobby at the NPT preparatory conference in April 2004, London and Manchester jointly set up a UK Mayors for Peace Working Group bringing in advisors from leading peace groups and benefiting from their expertise and energy. The group meets regularly to implement the campaign strategy of the Mayors for Peace organization within the UK and to promote further support in the UK. A detailed report of the first year of the UK Mayors for Peace Working Group's achievements was delivered to the mayors conference in New York last May by the Mayor of London's representative.

Locally elected councils, the first layer of government and the means by which so many services essential to creating a clean and healthy environment are delivered, carry great democratic legitimacy. Citizens' groups bring expertise, energy and creativity. By combining the two, the whole can often be greater than the sum of the parts. I believe Mayors for Peace recognizes this truth and, without losing its distinctive identity, we will look to combine with leading peace and nuclear abolition campaigns in the future to deliver the just demand of a nuclear weapons-free world. Thank you very much. Domo arigato gosaimashite. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. The next and last speaker will be Mr. Ischenko.

Evgeny Petrovich Ischenko, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Volgograd, Russia: Honorable Mayor Akiba, colleagues, distinguished guests,

ladies and gentlemen, Volgograd has the great honor to be one of the Vice-President Cities of Mayors for Peace and I am privileged today to represent here the City of Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, and our 1 million of its citizens who are waiting for us to come back and to report on the results of this conference.

In April–May this year with over 100 mayors drawn from different cities of the world, the Volgograd delegation was honored to attend the Seventh NPT Review Conference in New York. It has been an enormous privilege and a very moving experience to participate in this important conference. And I pay tribute to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for all their hard work and dedication which has made it possible. They brought us together in New York to discuss our priorities and to elaborate the common approach to the elimination of nuclear danger.

The NPT has become one of the most prominent events in the history of the state relations. Each of us has great aspirations and hopes for the bettering of the international situation in post-conference time. Unfortunately, we have to admit and recognize that as cities the means we can possibly employ to achieve our goal are limited. Then the prerogative belongs to militaries and national governments.

The previous name of our organization implied that vital issue which actually explains our approach to the problem, namely, inter-city solidarity. We represent the local authorities which have much more direct contact with people than central government. We have direct control and direct contact in matters affecting health and welfare, we can ensure the sustainable development of our cities in a peaceful environment. All the mayors in all countries face the similar problems. The number of members cities has far exceeded 1,000 and we must work together to achieve our goals.

We believe that as a city we should provide a wide range of activities and events to enable our citizens to understand the horrors of nuclear war and in so doing enable our citizens to be well informed to oppose nuclear weapons.

As a Mayor of Volgograd, I personally support the Peace Committee in our city. In close cooperation with Hiroshima Peace Foundation, the City of Volgograd hosted the traveling exhibition from the Peace Memorial Museum dealing with A-bomb evidence. In the coming year we will host the Executive Committee of the Peace Messenger Cities. On 6th August, Volgograd citizens will participate in the peace bell ceremony to pray for the souls of the A-bomb victims.

As the same time, the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future is being held in Hiroshima. It has brought together young people from Europe and Asia and provides them the brilliant opportunity to discuss vital issues of life and to destroy some stereotypes.

We highly appreciate that initiative of Hiroshima and we are ready to receive in Volgograd young people of our twin cities and member cities of Mayors for Peace. This will enable us to develop that inter-city solidarity we are talking about today.

Let me repeat here one very well-known thing which reflects the reality. "Pessimists are only passive observers; it is the optimist who changes the world." Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Ischenko. And this is the end of the first half of the plenary session this morning. And we will take about a ten-minute break from now on, and I would like to announce that we will keep some timeframe for questions and answers at the end of this plenary, after all the speakers have finished their presentations. So please prepare your questions and further discussion for that timeframe. Thank you very much.

-Break-

Chairperson: Okay, I think the seats are half full so I think it's time to resume without waiting for the others to come back. And due to some unavoidable reasons I'd like to propose to change the order of speakers at the outset. And I would like to call on the Mayor of Vitry-sur-Seine ahead of the Councilor of Florence. So after this representative from Vitry-sur-Seine, we will call on the Councilor of Florence. So Monsieur Alain Audoubert.

Alain Audoubert, Mayor, Vitry-sur-Seine, France: Ladies and gentlemen, our globe indeed is becoming smaller, and for future generations we have the responsibility to control and manage our globe because of biological diversification and there are a lot of problems related to the globe. And for this purpose we would need to go into a different new stage of development, not confrontation but sustainable development and cooperation need to be what we pursue. And we should not only rely on peace education, but also, nevertheless, education is very important, and therefore that is why our city would like to give the cooperation with all of you towards achieving the objectives outlined in the UNESCO Charter.

And we are conducting various cultural events throughout the year at Vitry-sur-Seine. From August 6 to 9, we are holding a Peace Poster Exhibition in our park and we are showing a movie titled *A Bird of Happiness*, and also, at the Children's Recreation Center, cultural activities are being carried out using the anthology of the 100 most beautiful peace poems, prefaced by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we also hope to open these events by releasing doves. And we are appealing to President Chirac of France to appeal for nuclear abolition by collecting petitions.

And also, in New York we have just seen our active activities putting pressure on conference participants and we had the speech by the Mayor of Hiroshima and also we had the favorable response from Secretary-General Annan, and they were all effective in some way or another, but the treaty is going back on its own objectives. And more recently, the new nuclear weapons states, amounting to about 30, are also trying to justify the development of nuclear weapons in order to destroy, which is ridiculous indeed.

We have seen the position of the United States which led to the recent failure of the NPT Review Conference, but we need to continue to exert pressure on these governments by uniting the efforts of all the citizens of the world.

The next step for our city is to conduct events. On Sep. 21, which is the UN International Day of Peace, we will have exhibits on A-bombs and we'll invite hibakusha to give us testimonies. And to the French government authorities we'll be sending our delegation carrying our petitions.

The French government has a special responsibility and the French government is quite active in preventing proliferation. For example, the criminal nuclear tests in Mururoa Atoll has been given up on under the pressure of the French people, however, research is still ongoing at research institutes. The government has also dismantled the missile launching base in Albion has reduced its nuclear subs. However, they have also decided to build new submarines and are increasing the budget, therefore, nuclear development-related programs. So we would need to continue to appeal to our own governments as to the rest of the world as well.

There are nuclear weapons States and there are countries that are not signing the NPT treaty yet. Depending on their stance, I think the situation in those countries may differ, but we need to continue to exert pressure on all of these nations and governments and we need to expand our activities to the global scale.

There were 100 mayors going on a peace march, peace activists around the world in New York, the picture of which was carried in the newspaper *Victory*. And at the end of October or beginning of November, I am suggesting that we may try to implement model activities on a global and international scale. Then we would be able to exert further pressure towards nuclear disarmament, and I think we may be able to position those events as an extension to the International Day of Peace, Sep. 21.

We would need to cooperation with NGOs and other citizens around the world, and I think that this will contribute greatly towards the materialization of Vision 2020 and open new avenues for mankind in a new way.

I would like to conclude by this poem: All cities, all people should join hands to realize a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and violence.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Audoubert. I'll call on the President of Seine St. Denis, France, Monsieur Mr. Hervé Brahmy.

Hervé Brahmy, President, Seine St. Denis, France: Mayor Akiba, mayors of the cities and colleagues, and ladies and gentlemen, abolition of nuclear weapons is necessary for us to continue to have hopes for sustainable peace on the globe. I wholeheartedly concur with the opinions advocated by Mayor Akiba. In April 2003, he delivered the speech in Geneva. He says the direct objective is on the nuclear weapons, but our long-term objective is to create the new civilization. Yes, indeed. Objecting to nuclear weapons is fighting against the concept which legitimizes that force is the right way, not for the development of human beings. Weapons are utilized for the exploitation and destruction of human beings, and we are fighting against such a force, including money.

Whenever we hear the names Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it's been already 60 years, but still we feel mournful and sorrowful. In this very place we realize that for many, many years the use of nuclear weapons have had a grave impact on human beings. And originally, come to think of it, they are formidable about money which can be utilized for medicine and education on humane purposes, they are expended for creating deadly weapons in the industries, nuclear weapons technologies which have created the worst barbaric actions gives horror and fear. Especially we hate the existence of destructive weapons such as WMD and conventional weapons. The fact

that we are using those terms and words means that those weapons are taken for granted in our world.

This illustrates how much role is to be played by science and research for the civilization development of humans. And more than that, what we are wishing to create in the world, that world has to be equipped with solidarity, non-violence, basic rights to be protected. Those value sets are necessary in order to eradicate poverty and violence, which can find the causes in exclusivism, ignorance and exploitation we are fighting for the sake of peace. We need to build up immediately cooperation, justice and an equal world.

More and more there is a proliferation of nuclear weapons seen in the world. Each country is promoting their militarization. You find many terrorist attacks. Once again, we have to recognize and respect human beings, and for us and our future generations and for our children we have to make a decision for the future of the globe.

In Europe, we are celebrating the symbolic year commemorating the liberation of the concentration camp of the Nazis. We once again have to recall what kind of experience we have had in the barbarian actions in the dark and bleak period. What was the logic there in those days? There should be something we have to do. There are so many millions of people who think that way, opposition to the Iraqi war in the various sustainable problem solutions seen in the Middle East. There are so many people who have desperation in the hope for creating a peaceful world. By using intelligent dialogue and negotiation we do have the capability to rectify those conflicts.

Based on such vision, we advocate strongly democracy and the rights of citizens. In Seine St. Denis we have strong confidence in our future which can be built up by the actions of young people. Because of that we are here in Hiroshima and we brought 15 young Peace Messengers with us. By looking at the reality of the world, we need to open our minds and we need to participate in this peace culture. I'm sure this opportunity will give those young Peace Messengers to build up their personalities in the future.

Many people still think the world without weapons is only a utopia, I know that. But we did have a wonderful experience in Europe, the convention treaty which was considered to be the complex European constitution. By using the ownership of the people are now in the hands of the Europeans. The convention, however, which has admitted only the increase of the defense expense, was denied by the obsession of the majority. Without the wonderful movement in Europe this kind of movement was not realized.

Therefore, we believe that the spirit of wishing for a utopia will make us move further. As many as 200 peace activists of France are here in Japan, including the young Peace Messengers and parliamentarians. Human beings are the ones who created nuclear weapons and it is our responsibility as humans to try to seek for other alternative ways.

A poet of France said, Paul Eluard says, those who are no longer afraid of themselves will be born because they can have confidence in whole human beings. There are no fools with human faces any more. Together with the new Messengers, who are

responsible for building the new period, I am here with you. I would like to express my appreciation for the sponsors. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you. The President of the House of Representatives of Berlin, Mr. Walter Momper.

Walter Momper, President of House of Representatives, Berlin, Germany: Mr. Chairman, Mayor Akiba, ladies and gentlemen, this conference is of great importance to the entire world, and by taking part in this event the German capital City of Berlin is expressing its deep bond and solidarity with the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As a former Governing Mayor of Berlin and the current Speaker of the Berlin House of Representatives, I am deeply moved by the visit to the city that suffered immeasurable horrors during the Second World War and today has become a symbol of hope which brings us all to work for a strong and for a lasting peace.

We have not forgotten that the Second World War was planned and unleashed in Berlin by the Nazis and that the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were a part and a consequence of the same war. The untold suffering endured by the people of Japan shocked and horrified us in Germany too.

Like Warsaw and Stalingrad, Berlin was among the cities in Europe hit hardest by the war, and today it shares the deep concern about peace in the world. We, too, are aware of the great risk of nuclear terrorism, a tragic accident or a military miscalculation. We are aware of the danger that international terrorism or emerging nations will end up acquiring nuclear weapons or the knowledge needed to produce them and could use them in regional conflicts. It is to be feared that these dangerous developments are already further than we expect them to be.

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will become even more important in the next few years as one of the cornerstones of international politics. All peace-loving nations, and fortunately these are the majority, must work together to find ways and means to stop the exchange of nuclear material and its misuse to make war. Nuclear weapons must be outlawed and stockpiles must be reduced or destroyed.

Demands and declarations alone will probably be unable to accomplish this. However, with solidarity, with determination and shared goals, the community of nations has been able to achieve great things in the past. If we join hands to work for peace and against the threat of nuclear weapons, we will help to make the world safer for peace. That is why Berlin supports the work of Mayors for Peace, in memory of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in solidarity with the survivors and with our eyes on the future, and on peace in the world.

It will remain our responsibility and our obligation to work for the peaceful solution of conflict everywhere in the world. Berlin will do its part to promote peace. With this in mind, I wish us all continued luck and good success in our fight. Thank you very much for your patience.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Momper. The next speaker will be the Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, USA, Mr. Steve Freedkin.

Steve Freedkin, Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, U.S.A.:

Konnichiwa. Members of Mayors for Peace and honored guests, my name is Steve Freedkin, I am the Chairperson of the City of Berkeley's Peace Justice Commission. I am honored to be here representing Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, and I wish to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work towards creating a world in which the atomic bomb remains a terrible fact of history, but only of history and never to be repeated.

Berkeley stands with Mayors for Peace and the peace-loving people of Japan in many ways. Our mayor, Tom Bates, joined the delegation attending the United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. On Aug. 6 at 8:15 a.m. and again on Aug. 9 at 11:02 a.m., the city's peace bell will be rung in remembrance of the two atomic bombings. This is being done in response to a request from a hibakusha from Hiroshima who visited our city in May. On the night of Aug. 6, Berkeley will hold its fourth annual peace lantern ceremony modeled after Hiroshima's event.

Mr. Marder of New Haven has already mentioned some of the ideas I wish to share today. In fact, I told him he had stolen some of my ideas, but that I'm happy to be robbed in this case. He mentioned the boycott of South Africa that helped bring down the system of apartheid. I'm proud to live in Berkeley, the city where the boycott of South Africa began.

The City of Berkeley has a process in which citizens can directly create laws. In 1986, the voters of Berkeley adopted the Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act. This law declares that the citizens of Berkeley consider nuclear weapons to be illegal and the city is to avoid conducting any business with any organization that is involved in nuclear weapons. This goes beyond the idea of pension investments that Mr. Marder mentioned. It affects all business relationships.

The University of California operates three nuclear research laboratories for the US government. Therefore, the City of Berkeley is required to avoid conducting business with the university. In practice, of course, this is difficult because the university's Berkeley campus is by far the largest institution in the city. However, whenever it is possible, the city will work with different organizations and not with the university.

The efforts of Mayors for Peace are crucial steps towards elimination of nuclear weapons. Cities may also want to take direct action of their own to withdraw support from the nuclear weapons industry, as Berkeley does under its Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act.

For one example, the Hoya Glass Company in Japan makes lenses for laser equipment that is used in fashioning nuclear bombs. Perhaps the cities of Mayors for Peace may wish to boycott any equipment or supplies containing Hoya Glass as just one example. We in Berkeley have developed a lengthy list of companies that have connections to the nuclear weapons industry that we avoid doing business with. We will be happy to assist any of your cities in developing procedures and lists of companies for a nuclear weapons boycott.

Mayor Bates and the people of Berkeley will continue to work with Mayors for Peace to achieve the vision of eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2020. Domo arigato gosaimashita.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Freedkin. The next speaker is the city councilor of Brighton & Hove, United Kingdom, Mr. Brian Fitch, please.

Brian Fitch, City Councilor, Brighton & Hove, U.K.: I thank the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the city councils and those numerous bodies that have sponsored this event enabling all of us to come here to make this happen. Those of us who are mayors or city politicians know how difficult it is to finance such events, and I would like to put on record a really big thank you for the tremendous effort and sacrifice that has been made so that we can all gather here for these few days on this important subject.

I am standing here, this is not the tie of the City of Brighton. This is one that Gary Moore gave me from Christchurch, so if you have the opportunity to be given one of these lovely presents make sure you lift your card up so that you can show the emblem. That's really like house notes. Thank you very much, Gary, for the friendship that you have shown to many of us here, and I think it really makes this conference gel when we can share some of the lighthearted things with serious things.

The subject we are here for, what can mayors and citizens do to abolish nuclear weapons? My city, which is on the south coast of England, is a Peace Messenger City and a member of Mayors for Peace. I am an elected member for over 30 years of the City Council and I'm Secretary-General of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities. So many of you are in Mayors for Peace and Peace Messenger Cities. So if you want to join both, Mr. Marder and myself are here. I think that's a kind of little peace commercial. Thank you very much for that.

Our city is an active member and supports the 2020 Vision of a total abolition of nuclear weapons. We want a nuclear ban treaty and we're working towards it. Our city works with the World Court Project, which opposes nuclear weapons, and is organizing a worldwide campaign. The city, which is a Peace Messenger, is working internationally with 80 cities around the globe. We share objectives, aims, and we try to, at all levels, have the interchange with politicians, citizens, universities, because that's really what makes us.

Many of us here are elected representatives and we're only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. We are elected by people, we're accountable to people, and it's important that we never lose sight of that. The people make us, and hopefully, we can carry through their inspirations and their ideals to the levels that bring peace in this world.

What do we do? On our seafront lawns each year we have a peace event, and if the weather is good, and sometimes the sun does shine in England, we can have 5,000 people at a peace event on the sunny south coast. We are involved on Hiroshima Day back home in the UK when peace activists, the Sussex Alliance of Peace – Sussex is our region, prefecture – and peace activists gather in a variety of places to have a Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day service and they float lanterns on the ponds and lakes

throughout the county. We have had the Hiroshima Exhibition three times in our city. Last year we were privileged to have a delegation from Hiroshima that toured, not only the UK but parts of Europe, and it's been a great joy to see some of you back here, and tonight we'll have the opportunity of renewing those acquaintances. Important work is being done by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and I think we all recognize this and want to work with them.

Following the failure of the NPT conference, we must support and use the New Agenda Coalition. I think we've got to use the opportunity with the states of New Zealand, Mexico, Switzerland, Ireland, South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, and of course Canada. I believe those states have a vital role in the world today because we must not lose sight of the international goal for banning nuclear weapons and creating worldwide peace, and those nations have an important role.

What do we do? Well, we as a city, a lot of my Councilors, when Blair went to Iraq we emailed Blair and we've sent a message that we did not want to go to war and we were opposed to it. We are now, in New York, we had the opportunity of meeting the British Ambassador to the UN, and the delegation from the UK gave a strong message to the government of our views on the issue of nuclear weapons.

We believe that we must use all means, we must use citizens, the people in our cities, the organizations, so that we can actually change government policy and change worldwide policy because policies are made by people and we've got to have a greater influence on those policies, on our own governments, and work through the United Nations to ensure that we begin to get decisions that will achieve the banning of nuclear weapons.

Coming to Hiroshima in 1989 changed my life. I remember coming to Narita Airport and opening the door: I think I know what a turkey felt like on Thanksgiving Day. The heat rushed in and I've never known a temperature like it. From that first visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I was the mayor of the city at the time and I became the Mayor of Peace throughout that period of my office and I've continued with this work at every level. I believe that we as individuals must use the opportunities that are given to us, that we must work with all the organizations that are in our localities and we must take the peace message forward.

Now I've put some World Court leaflets outside. There's one that I will ask you to look at and sign. "I do not accept that nuclear weapons can defend me, my country or the values I stand for." I would hope that as many of you will sign these so that they can go back to the organization and we can show how we, as Mayors for Peace, are standing and signing up to a contract. The World Court Project brochures are available there and there's a lot of really good work being done.

Can I thank you once again for this opportunity, and I look forward to listening and working with you in the next few days. And when we return to our homes I hope that we can keep the contact, use the expertise, share the ideas, so that one day we will come to this conference to announce that nuclear weapons have been banned. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much indeed, Mr. Fitch. I'd like to call on the Mayor of Waitakere, New Zealand, Mr. Bob Harvey.

Bob Harvey, Mayor, Waitakere, New Zealand: Mr. Akiba-san, haere mai, haere mai, haere mai. Haere mai piki mai, haere mai kake mai. I've just greeted you in the language of the Maori people of New Zealand, Aotearoa in the Pacific. And I stand before you today, proudly, here on this platform on this great occasion.

I'd like to dedicate this speech, which will be brief, to a former prime minister of my country, Mr. David Lange, who lies gravely ill in hospital. It was David Lange's concept that New Zealand would become nuclear-free 20 years ago, and from 20 years ago we have held his vision. He made New Zealand nuclear-free and many mayors, there was another mayor, my good friend Mr. Moore of Christchurch, Mayor Moore and I have made sure that the dedication of New Zealand as a nuclear-free city and country stays. So I dedicate this speech to him.

I'd like to give you a background to Waitakere City because I think you should know the context of New Zealand's Aotearoa in the context of Waitakere where I have been the mayor for the last 13 years. Waitakere was born as a city in 1989 when several small towns were merged. It enjoys a spectacular location in the western sector of the Auckland area. It's an urban area shaped by post-war expansion, forms of networks of small villages really, town centers and suburban sprawl.

But we have been proudly nuclear-free now for almost 30 years. We were one of the first cities to declare itself a nuclear-free city. That's pre-dating the government stance with David Lange. And every day since that time we have flown from the Council building a nuclear-free flag. Colleagues, it is a great symbol of what we can do to symbolize what we do.

The theme of this conference is of course peace, and while occasions like this are grand, it's the small things that we do every day that I believe continue to contribute towards the harmony of our communities. So let me give you some quick examples.

New Zealand, and indeed Waitakere, were always committed to the environment. And so when I became the mayor in 1992, I declared the city an eco-city, a city not only of the environment but also of peace. And that means that we have worked with the people to communicate what their needs and vision could be, and believe me, it has worked.

In our community we have built a strong, peaceful local community and we have found that crime and other social ills have evaporated with wealth and relative prosperity.

Being an eco-city has also meant that we are protecting and expanding our "green network."

It's also important that when we adopted Agenda 21 that the communities understood that Agenda 21 brought peace and solidarity through the community. And so it has a calming effect on our communities.

We are home to around 130 separate and different cultures. That is very, very interesting, particularly in the complexity of this modern 21st century. And thus we are a melting pot of the Pacific. Our population is very small, considering most of you, 190,000, and 39 per cent of our population are under the age of 24, very young, very Polynesian. One-third of the population is under 20 years of age. So we are a microcosm really of the whole country.

Waitakere has an absolute commitment to peace and sustainability. We believe the two are inseparable. Peace in Waitakere's terms means consultation and involvement in the decision-making, and so we believe peace has many voices. This is evidenced by the way Waitakere has brought Maori and Pacific Island people together. We have also signed memorandums with our Pacific Island people and our ethnic community board. Councilor Chan is our first Asian Councilor in, indeed, 40, 50 years. So I believe we have tried, and I think succeeded, in creating a peaceful community, a community in which people feel safe, valued and comfortable.

And to Waitakere's credit we have involved a number of peace initiatives and let me just tell you quickly.

We have taken a holistic approach to sustainable development, in particular, recognizing the inter-relationships between the environment and the economy and the people. And I would like to acknowledge here our relationship with our Japanese sister city of Kakogawa. Our main council building features a peace garden, which was a gift from that city to ours, and it features peace roses. And our community understands that the rose takes a lot of work to allow it to flourish, so the rose is named "peace," and in that garden peace flourishes.

I personally, like my colleague Gary, have been involved in peace initiatives all my life, almost for 40 years. But when I became the mayor, I led a delegation of protests against the testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific, closest to our door. We often saw our skies turn red in the night as the testing in Muraroa in Tahiti took place. Enough was enough. We went in 1995 and testing soon stopped. We mobilized the whole country.

In 1996 I was honored to received one of the United Nations Mayors for Peace awards for the work we had done in Waitakere City.

And so I greet you all, but I acknowledge that in dark and in good times we must take ownership of issues of peace.

But today I bring you something special. Here are the letters of every city of New Zealand, Aotearoa, not including Gary Moore and my colleague Alex Shaw from Wellington who are here. This is a whole nation, every city in New Zealand has given me a letter of support, and I present that to my friend, my dear friend, Mr. Akiba, on this because it is so important. Thank you.

And so I follow and finish this speech with just a simple Maori greeting, a greeting that says it all: He tangata, he tangata, he tangata – it is people, it is people, it is people. I also bring him a gift from New Zealand, the gift is a pottery bowl called "peace." Thank you. Kia ora rawa atu to you all.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Harvey. I would like to call on the Mayor of Galle, Sri Lanka, Mr. Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff.

Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff, Mayor, Galle, Sri Lanka: Mr. Chairman, Your Worship the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Akiba, distinguished mayors, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen. We, the Mayors for Peace who have assembled here today in this august assembly at Hiroshima, have a great responsibility thrust on us for the maintenance for peace in the world. It is a very urgent necessity. The subject that I need is towards a safer world has a great bearing on it today than it was at any other time.

Today there is great unrest in the world. Why is it? There is an unrestricted expansion of nuclear power, expansion and the threat of experiments of the world's major powers. They are in the process of experimenting with the further use of nuclear power generation. This has caused a serious threat to all of us, to mankind. Nuclear power can be used both for peaceful purposes, as well as destructive purposes.

At the same time, there is another threat too, and what is it? It is the threat of terrorism. Frequently, we hear of bomb attacks by terrorist groups. Once America was attacked and recently we have heard about bomb attacks in the UK, and in several other countries. This has caused untold suffering and embarrassment to all of us and this aspect needs our immediate attention.

When we think of the present day world, how the increasing use of nuclear power generation has caused unrest among nations. Powerful world powers already possess them and other nations, for example, India and Pakistan and North Korea, are also in the process of developing and expanding their resources on nuclear energy. This has led to controversial arguments about the safety of the world. As we have experienced in the past, the expansion of nuclear power breeds fear and anxiety and unrest among us. Its expansion is a great threat to world peace. Its uncontrolled use will be a great danger, not only for the countries that experiment on it, but it will result in the total destruction and even and annihilation of mankind from earth.

What is needed today is a need for the control of unrestricted expansion of nuclear power. The future program of work needs control and abolition. At the same time, it is necessary to program for the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. It is a regrettable fact that so far the methods adopted to control the nuclear program have not produced the desired result. Even after 60 years of the explosion of the atomic bomb, the effects of it are still being experienced, the effects of radiation are still being studied. It is our bound duty to adopt.

We hope and pray that the solution by this body to request the world powers to think again and make use of their good offices to control the use of nuclear power. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. The next speaker is the Official Delegation Representative of Ixelles, Belgium, Mr. Jean-Pierre Brouhon.

Jean-Pierre Brouhon, Official Delegation Representative, Ixelles, Belgium:

Mayor Akiba, Mr. Chairman, esteemed guests, mayors, there are places in the world which, despite the passage of time, will forever evoke great emotion. Preserved in the spirit of human soul, the power of these emotions refuses to diminish with the passing of generations. These places lead us to a new level of understanding, one whereby we can hope to grasp the real meaning of the term "compassion." Hiroshima and Nagasaki are two such places. In Hiroshima, where the cities of the past still echo around the shops and houses, life has very quickly found a path back to normality, a normality that others so much take for granted.

Today your great city is a symbol to the enduring human spirit, as well as an example to us all of the ability in overcoming a great tragedy. We must all take time to reflect on our duties as citizens of the world. Again, for the tsunami there were lots of efforts seen for the reconstruction of cities. In the time scale of human history, the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki represents but less than the fraction of a second, though it is a moment that should be permanently etched into the memory of each and every one of us.

On Aug. 6 of 1945 science ceased to be solely a tool for the advancement of mankind, for it has now become also the instrument of Armageddon. Science, it could be said, had become the harbinger of death forever more casting a shadow over the whole of mankind. War had ceased to be just a conflict between two attacking armies, but had grown to legitimize the use of weapons of unimaginable power.

The scientist Albert Jacquard said:

Of the previous advancements in history, not the taming of fire, not the advent of writing, nor the discovery of a new continent, has been so decisive. This time men have harnessed the power such that it exceeds the capacity of the planet; they endanger everything that it contains.

Mr. Mayor, mayors of the cities, we applaud the lead you took in the United Nations through the convention for peace, and also with the other cities of the world. And starting from August 2004, there has been another action, emergency action for the nuclear abolition. One thousand eighty are the number of the members in this organization, Mayors of Peace. We have to be very careful, otherwise, we might be doomed to Armageddon. If you look at the newspaper, we have to face many threats, such as terrorism. No matter where the terrorists appear, we have to challenge against terrorist attacks.

But no matter what kind of threats we face, we should never forget the need for the abolition of nuclear weapons because those are similar fighting as you can find the bomb in the subway, armaments and nuclearization will lead the way to the destruction of the world, and we will lose the self-determination of people if we continue to allow those terrorist attacks to happen.

At the present time, the world's nuclear arsenals have a total explosive yield equivalent to a ton of TNT for every man of the planet. No longer can we afford to stick our heads in the sand ignoring the situation, hoping beyond hope that nobody uses their nuclear arsenals.

The human race received a wakeup call on the issue of nuclear weapons and their destructive powers, but since that time nothing has made it possible to reverse the influence of nuclear weapons and their holders. Nuclear tests multiplied while the nuclear arms race gathered pace at an alarming rate. The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, NPT treaty, was disregarded. For the participants armament fighting, they have disregarded the NPT treaty.

As French writer Albert Camus said:

...in view of this terrifying prospect that has been placed at the door of mankind, we can see clearer than ever that peace is the only fight worth fighting for. We cannot just leave it to hope, it is imperative that people address their governments, in order that they might rightly choose between hell and reason.

This can be the only way forward. Let us never tire of saying that it is the duty of every citizen never to forget. Under the names of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we have to continue to give the message to future generations. Hiroshima and Nagasaki experiences and events will not be in vain. This provides the world with a tangible reference point whereby countries can see the futility of a nuclear proliferation strategy. The network of Mayors for Peace initiative like the countrywide Vision 2020 led many countries to express their position in this direction.

"Bourgmestre" is the name for the mayors. We have 235 mayors in Belgium, that's the percentage of 50 per cent who give the endorsement to the purpose and the mission of the Mayors for Peace. This represents in my country an important step at the local level towards the fight for disarmament. We, the inhabitants of the world, are the only ones who have the power, the power to win the total and lasting peace.

To quote Camus again:

The only rational lesson we can learn is the urge/need to commit more vigorously to fight for a truly international society, one where larger nations don't have superior rights to small or medium nations and where war isn't motivated by the appetite or doctrine of one or more states.

Let us go back to our countries and testify to the memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let's not wait for our neighbors to act before we act, but rather to act without delay. The change will come through both through our perseverance and our will to succeed. This is the purpose of the visiting delegation from Belgium that I have the honor to lead. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: So may I call on the Councilor of Florence, Ms. Agostini, finally, and then Mr. Scittarelli after her.

Susanna Agostini, Councillor, Florence, Italy: First of all we would like to thank Mayor Akiba and all the other mayors who have made Mayors for Peace such an important and respected association at the international level.

In the name of Mayor Leonardo Dominici, the Mayor of Florence, I am here today to bring the greetings and the solidarity of the City of Florence. It is an honor to represent my city with emotion and respect in this international meeting, especially because of the importance of the City of Hiroshima as a worldwide symbol. The ceremonies reminding us about the events of our past history and that threw the whole world into chaos, can be the starting point for our new pact of civil and institutional commitment to continue our duty. Florence and its mayor are here represented in order to continue a commitment started in the 50s by an historical Mayor of Florence, Mayor Giorgio La Pira, who already back then, just like Mayors for Peace today, focused his intellectual and literary thoughts on the role of mayors as a bridge between the institutional powers and the citizens' needs.

The threat of a global apocalypse due to atomic weapons is a theme and a problem that all nations and governments must face, although we know that the resistance to find a real solution is still too strong; as proof of that, we can see how the results are far from being satisfying if we evaluate the last modification of the Non-Nuclear Proliferation Treaty signed in New York, which is unfortunately an evidence of this lack.

For these reasons, it is necessary to create a stronger intervention of the communities in the name of the powers of humankind that were evoked by Martins in the famous clause II of The Hague Conference on the limitations of weapons. What we aim is an intense pressure on governments in order to achieve new strong peace policies and the refusal of the atomic weapons.

To achieve this goal we need complicated and delicate actions to awake the citizens' sensitivity of this theme which looks distant from an individual commitment and that for this reason is often psychologically "removed." In fact, in Italy recent studies have proved how the nuclear threat is still a secondary cause of fear compared to other new causes like international terrorism, or traditional ones like criminality. The general answer is: there is nothing we can do against the nuclear threat and we are completely defenseless.

On the contrary, we are here today because there are things we can do! Mayors can play the most important role in this action together with their cabinets and the City Councils. Being the closest institution to the citizens, mayors can achieve important results. Today and in the near future – what we are calling in this conference "Next Steps" – mayors can convince their citizens of the importance of their commitment and transform the natural instincts toward peace into a real need, based on commitment and on the possibility of sustainable interventions. Mayors must become, first of all, the promoters of the diffusion of information about the dangers this threat brings. We should go beyond the new important themes of peace education in the schools and generalize and enhance the education to all the citizens, using the proper instruments of communication, which are immediate and easily understandable by all cultural levels.

We must educate children and teenaged students, we must constantly train the educators, we must give up detailed information to the citizens and to the media in particular in order to spread the knowledge on the real threat of the atomic weapons that unfortunately still exist.

Since 1996 the Municipality of Florence has created the Peace and Solidarity Commission representing all the political parties sitting in the City Council, including Councilor Agostini. The aim of the Commission is in particular to put online all the peace operators associations, both institutional and volunteer, that operate in the Florentine territory and to coordinate and guide their activities into the international scene. Our fiscal mission can count on the volunteer and direct support of free groups of citizens that have been committed for years in the field of peace promotion and that represent a precious aid to our research of a new awareness of about nuclear weapons.

In 2002 Florence has hosted the Social Forum, an opportunity for an international meeting for all the peace initiatives in the world. Florence has always been involved in the promotion of peace.

Another duty of the Peace Commission is the promotion and support of any useful initiative that can help the integration of different cultural traditions in order to create a new global culture based on the acceptance of the others and in the recognition of peace as the most important value in the world.

Adding the results of our Florentine work to the results of all the other committed cities in the world that operate on this theme can help us achieving our goals. We can only count on cooperation and on the results achieved at a local level, but each one added to the others and adjusted to the local realities can represent an actual success.

The results of these activities will create a culture of differences that altogether will avoid the atrocities that occurred against the inhabitants of this beautiful city and welcoming city on Aug. 5, 60 years ago, and we should be sure that this will never happen again in the future. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. And may I call on Mr. Scittarelli ?

Bruno Vincenzo Scittarelli, Mayor, Cassino, Italy: Amongst the most serious problems that threaten the peaceful nation and the survival of the earth, the atomic proliferation is surely the most severe, destined to condition the whole humanity of the world.

Unfortunately, war has always been an element very close to the story of mankind, an exceptional event but also recurrent: once resolving the nature of the conflict, the opposing parties have always been able to restart their reconstruction programs and reestablish new political, social and economic balance.

Up to now, therefore, war has always had losers and winners. Men, populations, have been able to restart their historical course. Today, it is no longer possible. The actual war problem in the world is completely different in aspects and dimensions as from the past. A nuclear weapon conflict means the total annihilation of mankind, therefore: no winners, no losers; no slavery, no liberty; no richness, no poverty; no progress, no underdevelopment; but the end of everyone and of all the inhabitants of the world.

Emptiness, death, silence forever.

Today, unless one wishes to choose the road leading to human sacrifice, the controversies of interests and conflicts of power must necessarily be reduced to tolerable conditions, compatible with the necessary international balance.

Peace and the survival of mankind, thus, seem to be obscured by the balance of terror, and not by a true desire to establish worldwide relations that will definitely eliminate all dangers of the explosion of a world war.

The prologue of the tragedy, of the "final solution" we have already seen. Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Nazi extermination camps, are the first testimonies of a very dangerous road that humanity risks to run up to the end.

Must we then give up and prepare ourselves for the worst? Do we have to remain motionless to all this and wait for the tragedy to occur without doing anything to stop it?

We mayors, members of these communities that during the last world conflict have learnt the horrors of the war, must direct our political actions in order to pursue the culture of peace. Every single man, every single citizen must have the desire of peace and refuse the wicked logic of war. The City of Cassino has actuated and pursues a constant and strong political action towards twinships.

Campaigns of sensitization amongst the citizens of the problems connected to nuclear proliferation in order that the national and international public opinion may convince the government to review their programs on the matter. In other words, it is necessary to pursue a serious policy of disarming, stop the running towards terrible war arms, and avoid the terrible reciprocal "chasing" along the road of never-ending military power.

Only with these methods, only with the imposing of agreements on the disarming, even if only partial and gradual, will we be able to avoid the destruction of mankind. It is essential that our actions aim to inform everyone on the risks that atomic arms threaten not only to one nation or to one continent but to the whole world and the whole humanity.

The City of Cassino, ever since 1984, with an official council committee document, has declared its territory nuclear-free. It has also included in its statute an important and valid instrument such as the Forum for Peace that is intended to take place periodically at an international level.

However, our actions must be forwarded to all the State members of the treaty on non-atomic proliferation that must obey all the rules of the treaty. In particular, they must: ensure over the illegal use of nuclear technology, that civil atomic programs do not turn into military ones, that nuclear arms do not fall into the hands of groups of terrorists and that the three components of the treaty must be obeyed. The non-proliferation of nuclear arms, the disarming of nuclear arms, the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Although the objective conditions of our times do not allow much space for hope and reason, openings where everlasting peace may enter exist and thus become an exulting reality for all humankind.

Universal peace must not and can not be founded upon the basis of terror, on scaring a balance full of uncertainties and risks, on opposing armies; it must derive from wisdom and from sensibility.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. And the next speaker will be the Mayor of Kurunegala, Sri Lanka, Mr. Nimal Chandrasiri de Silva.

Nimal Chandrasiri de Silva, Mayor, Kurunegala, Sri Lanka: Honorable Mayor Akiba and the members of councils, municipal councils, and all peace-loving participants, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I must thank Honorable Mayor Akiba for inviting the mayors and the members of councils and municipal councils in Sri Lanka for the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings.

We Sri Lankans, we are subjected to both hand-made calamities and natural calamities. We in Sri Lanka have been suffering, Sri Lankans have been suffering irreversible losses due to the monster of terrorism. Although we didn't have a track of nuclear weapons, we experience the dangers of bomb explosions due to terrorism and terrorist activities in Sri Lanka, so as a result, our daily living, happiness, mirth and future aspirations and all have been deprived. Sri Lankans are a peace-loving nation so we convey our fullest assistance to protect the world from the disaster of nuclear weapons and bomb explosions.

Ladies and gentlemen, very recently Sri Lanka had to face a natural calamity, the tsunami. That's not a hand-made calamity; that's a natural calamity, that's a natural disaster. Thousands and thousands and thousands of innocent people died unexpectedly. Many still remain homeless and jobless due to this unexpected catastrophe. The Sri Lankan government finds it very difficult to rebuild Sri Lanka within a short period of time. Many nations all over the world, especially Japan, America, Germany, France and other countries, help us a lot. And they are still helping us. So I take this opportunity to thank them all.

Ladies and gentlemen, as a peace-loving person, I have a kind, honest and humble request to all of you. Let's get together, hand in hand, to protect the world from the disaster of nuclear weapons and terrorism. Sri Lanka is a paradise of the Indian Ocean. It's very beautiful. Kurunegala is the city, the central city in Sri Lanka. I kindly invite everybody to visit our beloved motherland. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you for being short and keeping to time. And the last speaker will be the Deputy Mayor of Villejiuf, France, Madame Arlette Zielinski.

Arlette Zielinski, Deputy Mayor, Villejiuf, France: Mr. Mayor of Hiroshima, I'd like to thank Mayor Akiba for the kind invitation given to us.

From AFCDRP we would like to thank the previous speaker for explaining what we need to do for peace and peace culture. The residents of the municipalities and the

children of our city agree with the sense of friendship and peace. We have a long history of fighting against violence. Paul Vaillant Couturier was a mayor between 1929 and 1937. He was a journalist and he was an author and he also has edited a song, and in 1917 together with Henri Barbusse he established l'Association Républicaine des Anciens Combattants and it was a fight against the war.

And Villejiuf was a member since the inauguration of AFCDRP, from 2001 to 2010, it took part in the United Nations decade for the culture of peace and for non-violence for the children of the world. And we have 48,000 inhabitants in our city and we have made some endeavors to realize peace. We need to get away from the culture of war, but the culture of war is adjusting and coordinating different worlds.

And on the 21st April the City Council, with a unanimous vote, adopted a resolution which was to be sent to NPT Review Conference in terms of full compliance and immediate compliance of all provisions, in particular the provision of Article IV and Article VI in request of early compliance.

And whenever people suffer from the injustice of wars, violence and difficulties, our children and women and citizens fight against these. And the 21st September we hear the poems and songs of peace-loving artists. The walls are also decorated with the paintings of artists calling for peace. And this day-to-day civic activity is a kind of education for the young people to enhance its awareness toward peace.

We have an inter-center effort. The republican government and our city officials always are urged to work against nuclear weapons. Solidarity is not just a word but it is a very familiar term which is put into practice on a day-to-day basis in every household and in every family.

And on the 6th August the library shows the cinema that accuses the foolishness of nuclear violence. On the 9th August we have a large picnic for peace. Children and city officials and citizens get together in the park named after Pablo Neruda, a great protector and advocate of peace and justice.

And we think about the children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order not to repeat their mistakes of sacrificing children all over the world. Five hundred balloons are flown to the sky and at the same time all churches in the city toll their bells never to repeat their mistakes. Villejiuf is a Peace Messenger City for peace and peace culture we believe is an important future of our society.

On Oct. 6, 1999, the declaration and action program for the culture of peace at the United States UN resolution was adopted. In line with that the city's mayor and councilors focus on education for the promotion of a culture of peace. We have a children's live festival, we also have an event to eliminate racial discrimination. Through these we promote our cause. We try to enhance the culture of peace. We try to prevent conflicts. We try to have a consensus, and we also educate people with non-violence cause.

We also promote international peace and security, the peaceful resolution of conflict. And what we call for, we call for total disarmament and a comprehensive alternate

abolition of nuclear weapons, 50 per cent reduction of major expenses are what we are calling for.

France and other countries and with other local governments, we are working together seeking a country and a nation and a world different from what we have now, where we have no violence. We want to share wealth and knowledge. We want to have a mutual benefit and fair allocation of wealth.

But it's important that we need to find the root causes of war which are poverty and injustice, the imbalance of development that causes confusion. The future of the peaceful world can be realized through the solidarity of all races. But we can do more than that. Our belief and our confidence should be built upon to realize peace on an eternal basis. Let us keep Vision 2020. Thank you.

CHAIR MOGAMI: Thank you very much. Please allow me to announce to you that we will finish this session at 2:00 flat, and I do not make my own comments and I will basically accept your comments in tomorrow's plenary, but in order to make the best of the remaining three minutes, if you have any burning desire to make a comment immediately, I can take one or two during this session. Is there any who wants to make a comment on the spot? No? Yes, please.

Peter Chan, Councilor, Waitakere, New Zealand: To the Chair, I am Councilor Chan from Waitakere City, New Zealand. Well, there are some comments.

War can never end war. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 60 years ago was just one of the many consequences of the war. Sixty years after the war, the world is not getting better. So many people in the world are still suffering from poverty, injustice, starvation, social discrimination, international terrorism, racial conflicts, political and religious persecution. Yes, nuclear weapons must be outlawed and destroyed and this is a pitiful step towards world peace, but there are some other issues that we need to address apart from the atomic weapons itself.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an historic time and an historic place. We must learn from history and respect history. Let us make our point. Let us have our voice everywhere. Let us carry the message of peace from people to people, mayor to mayor, cities to cities, and generation to generation. Together we can make a difference. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else? If so, the meeting will be adjourned now. Thank you very much for your patience and please accept my apologies for having extended this session for such a long, long time. Thank you very much.

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Section Meeting I

*International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapon
-Partnership with NGOs and National Governments-*

15:00-17:30, Friday, August 5, 2005

Himawari

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Alyn Ware**

Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

Speaker:

Chantal Bourvic

Counselor, Val de Marne, France

Gisela Kallenbach

Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany

Alain Audoubert

Mayor, Vitry-sur-Seine, France

Ellen Woodsworth

Councilor, Vancouver, Canada

Ana Vicente

Mayor, Palmela, Portugal

Heinrich Niemann

District Councilor for Urban Development and elder Deputy Mayor,
Marzahn-Hellersdorf von Berlin, Germany

Pierre Villard

Co-Chair, Mouvement de la Paix, France

Yannik Hake

International Law Campaign, Germany

George Regan

National Chairman, Nuclear-Free Local Authorities U.K.

Asin Marika Abdul Karim

Councilor, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Mary Ellen McNish

Secretary General, American Friends Service Committee, U.S.A

Masayoshi Naito

Representative, Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Japan

Keiko Nakamura

Acting Secretary General, Peace Depot, Japan

Johnanne Winchester

Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA

Douglas Roche, O.C.

Chair of Middle Power Initiative

Former Canadian Senator and Ambassador for Disarmament to the UN

Teruo Takemoto, Director General, Citizens' Affairs Bureau, Hiroshima, Japan:

Hello, ladies and gentlemen. I am Takemoto for Hiroshima City Hall, in charge of civic affairs. We would now like to begin the Section Meeting 1. Please allow me to introduce our chairperson. This is Mr. Alyn Ware, consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms and he was the Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and UN Coordinator for the World Court Project which led to the advisory opinion. He is currently a consultant at large for the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, outreach educator for the Aotearoa New Zealand Foundation for Peace Studies. Now, Mr. Ayn Ware, please.

Chairperson, Alyn Ware, Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms: Thank you very much and welcome to the afternoon meeting, Section 1, on International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons: Partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations and National Governments. Along with our mayors and other city representatives, we have participating in the section government representatives, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society. So this should assist in our consideration of this aspect of the Mayors for Peace campaign, the collaboration and cooperation with other members of civil society.

I propose to conduct the meeting in the following way. Firstly, I will make some opening comments on the topic. Secondly, I have a list of participants who have already requested the floor to speak. We have a list of I think 15, so we will then allow them to take the floor for up to five minutes for initial remarks. Then we'll take a break for coffee and refreshments, and then when we come back we'll open up the floor for questions, ideas, proposals, discussions, questions, et cetera.

So with regards to the focus of this section, it's to discuss ways in which means for peace can effectively cooperate and engage with key non-governmental organizations, national governments and other sectors of civil society in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, and in particular, in the achievement of nuclear weapons abolition by the year 2010, with the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020, the Vision 2020.

One of the aspects of the Mayors for Peace campaign, which has led to its high profile and its influence, is that it shapes its campaign activities very strategically, so although the campaign is quite simple and idealistic, a nuclear weapons-free world, the form and program is quite sophisticated, taking into consideration specific roles that mayors and cities can play within the current international political environment. There will be times when mayors for peace should work as mayors, by themselves, to maximum the attention of the unique roles that mayors and cities have, and to promote and generate increased awareness of the responsibilities of cities and mayors. However, there will be other times when Mayors for Peace should collaborate with specific groups or with specific constituencies, building on existing or potential links between mayors and that constituency. An example of this is the relationship that's been built between Mayors for Peace and The Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament which highlights the mutually reinforcing roles of mayors and parliamentarians in promoting nuclear disarmament. And then there will be other times when Mayors for Peace should collaborate in a much wider and more general sense with a cross-section of the abolition movement.

So in our discussions today, it will be useful to think about the strategic value of these different types of actions and collaborations. But also it would be valuable in our discussions today to examine some of the examples of collaboration and cooperation that have already occurred between Mayors for Peace and other sectors so that we can learn from these and build upon them. I will just mention a few of those but I'm sure many of our speakers will mention others.

One example is the relationship between Mayors for Peace, the Abolition Now Campaign, the International Peace Bureau and the wider abolition movement which has helped to encourage mayors around the world to join the Mayors for Peace emergency campaign.

Another is the strategic work which Middle Powers Initiative and Abolition Now Campaign have helped in order to shape the nuclear abolition strategy which Mayors for Peace is advancing. That includes, for example, looking at how best to engage with international disarmament fora, like the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the United Nations General Assembly.

Another example, which I mentioned briefly before, the relationship between Mayors for Peace and the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament. A good example of this was the Joint Statement by mayors and parliamentarians which was released at the 2005 NPT Review Conference, but which is still significant and politically useful because it talks about the role that governments should take in the current political context, and there are copies of that Joint Statement available for those who have not endorsed it at the front door. Most of you probably have already picked one up, in Japanese and English.

Another example, and this is a collaboration between Mayors for Peace and governments. We've got a number of governments at the 2005 NPT Review Conference that have collaborated with Mayors for Peace, including sponsoring press conferences and fora. That included countries like Canada and New Zealand.

Another example of collaboration with government, again this is New Zealand, just recently the New Zealand Minister for Disarmament contacted every mayor in New Zealand to encourage those not already members of Mayors for Peace to join.

So those are just a few examples of collaboration that's already happened and has had some considerable success.

And finally, it would be useful in our discussions this afternoon to think about collaborative strategies for Mayors for Peace, working with like-minded governments in non-governmental organizations to advance nuclear abolition in light of the disappointing 2005 NPT Review Conference. In this respect, it would be useful to consider, for example, how we could collaborate on promoting such initiatives as the Article VI Forum, which Senator Douglas Roche launched yesterday, and also the proposal to encourage the United Nations General Assembly to establish a sub-committee to commence nuclear disarmament deliberations and negotiations, which was in the Mayors for Peace program announced yesterday. So that's a few thoughts to start the discussion going.

It's now my honor to introduce Ms. Chantal Bourvic, the County Councilor of Val de Marne, France, to give some comments. Following Ms. Chantal Bourvic, I'll be inviting Ms. Gisela Kallenbach to give comments. Thank you. Is Ms. Chantal Bourvic available?

Chantal Bourvic, Counselor, Val de Marne, France: Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, dear colleagues, we feel that we would need to proceed with our actions in the most effective manner, and for the sake of the abolition of nuclear weapons we would need to gather our forces and strengths and gather as many people as possible.

And the local governments are very close to the citizens and therefore they play a very important role in serving our citizens. And therefore we should be cooperating closely with the NGOs and various associations and always the local governments as well as national agencies.

The provincial assembly of Val de Marne and the regional local authorities are cooperating together to send the delegation here to Hiroshima, which is now experiencing the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing. We have also brought about 30 young people and they belong to different organizations as well. The third encounter among international youth will be held and they will be participating in this international conference, as well as participating in other events that are held during this week. These young people are uniting to fight against various problems in the world, including poverty and hunger, as well as peace.

Of course there are many citizens wishing to participate in activities, not only limited to nuclear disarmament, and by disarmament we are not only focusing on nuclear arms but this involves issues that are related to other inequalities in the world and includes the issue of poverty as well.

So now that we are gathered here in Hiroshima, it shows us how important nuclear abolition is for the sake of securing peace in the world. They are able to have a first-hand experience by coming to Hiroshima, and by doing so they would be able to learn that their activities cannot be effective in reducing poverty unless there is peace in the world and wars cannot be gotten rid of if there is no solution brought to inequality. So we should gather our wisdom.

We have been looking at Vietnam, which has been going through many years of civil strife, South Africa, El Salvador, have also gone through conflicts. And also Palestine, which is occupied by a nuclear weapons State, we are partnering with these four countries to fight for peace. Israel is receiving support from the United States in an unconditional manner and it creates much discord in the Middle East because of this. And therefore, we are fighting to bring about peace in the region. Niger is also one of the poorest of the countries in Africa. Since they have been fighting for many years, Niger has not been able to come out of poverty so readily. The natural conditions are very harsh. There is much hunger or damage from locusts and grasshoppers.

The nuclear weapons are now in the hands of human beings, which can annihilate the lives on earth in an instant. So we should also know that mankind also has the possibility of turning this around, to utilize the technology in a more fruitful way, to

save the people from poverty and hunger instead. As I have mentioned, we have been partnering with these four countries that I've mentioned before, and by doing so we hope to abolish nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. And based on this, the funds that are made available could be utilized for the welfare of citizens and for the sake of building friendship among the people of different countries.

So as local governments or municipalities like us or in the provinces or in the regional sense, different local authorities and NGOs are trying to work together to provide peace. And the local government should play the important role of getting that peace to their citizens and we should carry their message. There is a writer who has written on peace, Bertolt Brecht. Well, nature is harsh, it brings wind and rain, but wars are not nature-made, they are man-made, and in the spring, May Day, human beings breathe. Peace cannot bloom flowers immediately. It is human beings that bring about the flowers.

Chairperson: - France, for her comment. And now I'd like to invite Ms. Gisela Kallenbach, a Member of the European Parliament. Thank you.

Gisela Kallenbach, Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor Akiba, honorable participants, ladies and gentlemen, the collapse of the NPT must have been a shocking realization for the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki who are still suffering from the effects of the dreadful events of 60 years ago. Manifestly, there is still no real understanding of the principle of guilt and atonement. This makes our voice more important than ever, and this is why I deliver to you today an appeal from the Members of the European Parliament. You might find a copy at the table at the end of the room.

We, the Signatories, we, who have signed this, have resolved to speak up for nuclear disarmament and call on the European Union to do everything in its power to ensure that nuclear weapons are never deployed again. By means of this Statement, we want to encourage mayors in our own cities to join the Mayors for Peace movement. I have successfully achieved this in my home City of Leipzig,, and I'm happy to announce again that our Lord Mayor Mr. Wolfgang Tiefensee has become a member of this organization with the agreement of the Council of Elders of Leipzig City Council. Please allow me to pass on the personal greetings of Mr. Tiefensee and to you, to you all at this point.

In his Message of Greeting, which I handed over yesterday evening to Mr. Akiba, he remembers the demand of the East German peace movement in times of worldwide armament to turn words into plowshares. He calls on us to talk about antipathy and depression as a consequence of violent conflict, and not to conceal the opportunities that are lost in life when government expenditure is devoted to armaments instead of education, youth or health care.

However, it is not enough to just collect signatures for the demands of Mayors for Peace. I think all of us, we agree on this. There must be more. A true movement will be created from this initiative should we succeed in convincing our citizens that nuclear weapons must be banned worldwide and that a deep commitment to peace and

disarmament is ultimately the most important legacy that we can leave our children and grandchildren.

This commitment also includes the reconditioning and reparation process. I notice only too well from my own experience in Germany. I am listening very closely throughout the conference to what mechanisms you use in your various cities to achieve this aim, and how we can ensure that the yesterday- announced one year campaigning gains the full support of the civil society.

Also, this year's Review Conference of NPT represents a common standpoint for EU countries on fundamental questions, which is an enormous step forward. As a Member of the European Parliament, it is not only important to me that the European Union worked for nuclear disarmament and against the further proliferation of nuclear technology, we Europeans must clarify whether and how Europe will become involved in measures to counter the further proliferation of nuclear weapons as part of the European Security and Defense Policy within NATO or under the guise of the European Union.

As a member of the Green faction of the European Parliament, I am convinced that multilaterality and diplomacy must be given priority over bilateral agreements and military intervention. The additional protocols to the NPT must form the basis for monitoring obligations. The treaty relating to the comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons testing must ultimately be ratified by the remaining countries. In order for it to come into force, nuclear countries themselves must take their obligation seriously with regards to nuclear disarmament pursuant to Article VI of the NPT.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, with today's presentation of the call from the Members of the European Parliament, we would like to show the people of Japan that they are not alone in their commemoration of the victims and political efforts to stop any repetition of this tragedy. Let's stand together and let's take up the proposals contained in Mr. Akiba's letter to the Review Conference and support other activities, like those proposed by the Middle Power Initiative or by yesterday's keynote speaker, Mrs. Prof. Inoguchi, in order to create a new negotiation platform for the ban of nuclear weapons. Thank you for your attention.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Ms. Gisela Kallenbach, a Member of the European Parliament, for her comments. I'll now take the opportunity to invite Mr. Alain Audoubert, the Mayor of Vitry-sur-Seine, to make some comments. And then following Mr. Alain Audoubert will be Ms. Ellen Woodsworth, Councilor of Vancouver. Thank you.

Alain Audoubert, Mayor, Vitry-sur-Seine, France: So now that globalization is proceeding, I think that there is a recognition that a solution to peace and global environmental issues are of the same nature. Let me repeat. As we see the progress of globalization in the world, there is a widened recognition that the solution to peace and global environmental issues are the same battle. And many NGOs of my town are participating in the campaign Vision 2020, which I can report to you with great satisfaction. Thanks to the initiatives taken by our city, we have many events taking place and various NGOs are expressing their own concerns as well as their own topics of interest, and they are expressing various desires for disarmament.

Currently 25 residents of Vitry-sur-Seine are in Hiroshima now and some have joined the Mouvement de la Paix or they are staying under the planned program of our city, So whether they be direct peace movements or humanitarian movements or movements for the sake of assistance or cooperation or for cohabitation or co-development or for the sustainable development or for the environmental protection, the local organizations and NGO activists have this strong awareness that they need to deal with the evil on the earth that is produced because of actions and behaviors closely related to power relationships.

Now \$875 billion of the world military expenses is immense, and it is three times the amount of the budget that is spent by the UN for hunger, literacy and medicine or potable water and environment, and so such recognitions are leading people to stand up for Vision 2020.

With more and more population being concentrated in large city centers, the local governments are expected to play an international role together with the United Nations. I believe we need three types of effort. First, we need a peace movement, such as Mouvement de la Paix, and also we need to deepen our exchanges with appropriate organizations to promote the participation of citizens.

Secondly, many NGO activists should exchange with other NGOs, for example, under the World Social Forum. The World Social Forum for 2006 will be held in Caracas in the Americas, Karachi in Asia, Bamako in Africa, and the European Social Forum will be held in Athens. And therefore there will be events taking place in different parts of the world. By respecting diversity of the World Social Forum, the Mayors for Peace perhaps could try to incorporate the Vision 2020's goals into the activities of these attempts that are being made to build another world.

And we should make further efforts to increase the number of participating cities in the Mayors for Peace in order to enhance our activities on a worldwide scale. We have two cities with which we have twinned with Vitry. And they are also participating actively in our peace initiatives, and we are urging them to participate in the Mayors for Peace meetings in 2006.

In France, we have 60 member cities but they are smaller-sized or middle-sized cities. Under the cooperation of Hiroshima City, Paris has contributed by planning the A-bomb Exhibition, but we need to involve such major cities like Lyons and Marseilles.

Under the same spirit, Mayors for Peace could perhaps deepen their relationship with United Cities, which was an organization borne by the joint efforts of IULA, and the World Sister City Union. I think we would need to make such further efforts in order to heighten the awareness on the part of the citizens for nuclear abolition. Thank you very much for your attention.

Chairperson: I would like to thank Mr. Alain Audoubert, Mayor of Vitry-sur-Seine, for his comments. I would now like to invite Ms. Ellen Woodsworth, the Councilor of Vancouver, to make some comments. Thank you. Following Ms. Woodsworth, I will be inviting Ms. Ana Vicente from the City of Palmela to make some comments.

Ellen Woodsworth, Councilor, Vancouver, Canada: Thank you very much. It's a pleasure and an honor to be at this conference, especially in Hiroshima at the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Dear friends, 60 years ago the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed by two atomic bombs that killed tens of thousands of civilians. It was a crime against humanity. We pay tribute to the victims and to the survivors whose efforts for redress and peace have played a foundational role in the peace movement in Japan and around the world. We mourn their passing. In November last, we in Vancouver lost a Hiroshima survivor and anti-nuclear activist, Kinoku Laskey. We must not forget the survivors or their message, Never Again.

We also pay tribute to the City of Hiroshima and their mayors past and present by establishing the worldwide organization Mayors for Peace. You have set an example of how cities must take up their responsibility to assure that peace and nuclear abolition are achieved. Vancouver is proud to be an active member of Mayors for Peace and the International Peace Messenger Cities.

The invasion of Iraq has created new problems and challenges. The City of Vancouver joins with millions of others around the world to say No to the invasion and the Canadian government declined to join in the "coalition of the willing." Inspired by the resurgence of the peace movement worldwide, we believe that we must work to abolish nuclear weapons and put an end to militarism and war. Global military expenditures are robbing cities of the funds necessary to assure healthy communities, education, housing and basic infrastructures, and are denying the world the resources to end poverty.

On March 31, 2005, the City of Vancouver Council voted unanimously to support, to help fund, and to actively participate in the World Peace Forum to be held from June 22 to June 28, 2006 in Vancouver immediately following the World Urban Forum, also being held in Vancouver. The City of Vancouver also agreed to contribute \$150,000, and then we had the endorsement of the Vancouver Parks Board, the Vancouver School Board and the Vancouver Public Library.

The idea of holding a World Peace Forum surfaced in March 2003 at a Vancouver conference, Preventing Crimes Against Humanity: Lessons from the Asia-Pacific War 1931 to 1945. This was a unique anti-war conference focused on issues of redress from World War II, including Asian victims of biological warfare, forced labor, sexual slavery and other human rights abuses, victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japanese-Canadians who were dispossessed and exiled by the Canadian government, as well as First Nations people, long the victims of crimes against humanity and genocide, most recently, the abuse they suffered in so-called residential schools.

It was during this conference that the United States administration began its bombing and invasion of Iraq. In the course of this conference, it became clear from many participants that it was necessary to wage a worldwide campaign against the invasion and war but that a campaign-based strategy alone was not sufficient. In order to achieve a balanced global perspective to guide us in the future, the peace movement needed to develop a better understanding of challenges to peace in the various regions

of the world, from the Middle East, to Asia, the Americas, and Africa. Without such a vision we may not have the capacity and flexibility to respond to future crises appropriately, i.e., on the Korean Peninsula. This was a contribution that reflected the multicultural nature of the conference.

The proposal for a World Peace Forum also drew on a number of other currents represented at the conference. Elders, who had participated in world peace meetings from the 1940s and 1950s, reminded us that such a thing is possible. Furthermore, a number of people had attended the anti-globalization meetings at the World Social Forum. And I attended these meetings to discuss with the World Social Forum the possibility and the necessity of holding such a forum, and was it appropriate to hold such a forum in North America, in Vancouver, at this time. There was overwhelming support for this proposal.

Inspired by the survivors of the crimes against humanity, hoping to grow a regionally-inclusive peace movement, and drawing on the history of previous world peace meetings and inspired by the World Social Forum, the proposal for a World Peace Forum saw the light of day.

The World Peace Forum, as I said earlier today, not knowing that I would actually be standing before you at this point, is growing at leaps and bounds as people arrange to have their conferences in Vancouver and others during the World Peace Forum, and others are planning to have their conferences during the World Urban Forum. We have developed a structure with an international advisory body, with a Canadian advisory body and with working groups, and these working groups, whether it's the youth working group, the women's working group, the sustainability working group, the anti-racism/anti-caste working group, are developing connections globally with their counterparts, and we encourage you, if you have an active youth component, to email us and let us connect our youth with your youth. And as I will be doing this evening, meeting with the women who have come here to discuss the impact of wars and nuclear war in particular on women and drawing those analogies.

We very much at this conference want to network with each other, we want to strengthen our existing movements, our existing organizations, learn from best practices around the world, and we want to ensure that there is a legacy that comes out of this conference. We want to solicit constructive summaries, case studies, active practices, which the youth have changed the name from "best practices" to "active practices" because they say active practices means you're doing it and best practices may be just intellectual models, and the youth want to get down and get things moving.

We want to make sure it's a civic community partnership, so it's neither the municipal governments nor the communities but both working in partnership, and we've developed an organizational model which reflects that. You might want to make sure that it's gender equal, that it reflects the diversity of people, and that First Nations people around the world show us the way forward and give us their examples of their resilience and their sustainability and their victories as they move forward.

We want, for example, case studies, such as we've heard this day, of the role, how was it that half of Belgium's mayors are members of the Mayors for Peace or how

was it that New Zealand's mayors were able to all support the initiatives that we're working on today? And what role have the NGOs or social movements played in achieving this high level of participation? There are lessons from these that we can learn from each other? We will use these summaries as a basis for discussion both before and during the World Peace Forum. Constructive summaries could mean positive or negative experiences but which emphasize ways we can work together in the future.

This project will involve three stages, one, soliciting examples from around the world, from individuals, as well as organizations civic and civil, using the central website as the depository for these reports, and we hope you will take a look at our website, www.worldpeaceforum.ca.

Two, the international advisory body will attempt in early 2006 to distill a summary of these experiences and present some proposals about future ways for local governments and communities to work together. This discussion paper will be circulated to all participating organizations and posted on the web for discussion prior to the conference. Feedback will be solicited and circulated by the web and other media.

And three, all sessions at the World Peace Forum will be expected to discuss and respond to the discussion paper and related materials. The international advisory board will meet one or two days before the forum convenes to further discuss the feedback and to make any recommendations they might consider appropriate. These will be circulated to all delegates as part of the discussion package. A broad civic civil group will convene and the workshop and forum will be expected to post the results of their deliberations on the topic immediately after their sessions are over. And a final summary will be prepared.

So this gives you a taste of how we are moving forward, how we have learned from the Mayors for Peace, and we hope that we will see you all in June 2006 in Vancouver. Thank you so much.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Ms. Ellen Woodsworth, Councilor of Vancouver, for her comments. I would now like to invite Ms. Ana Vicente, Mayor of the City of Palmela, to make some comments. Following Ms. Vicente, I'll be inviting Mr. Heinrich Niemann to make some comments. Thank you.

Ana Vicente, Mayor, Palmela, Portugal: First of all I would like to say that it's an honor to share this conference and these moments with you, especially at this time in Hiroshima.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, the great philosopher from Athens, Socrates, said that he was not only from Athens, he was a citizen of the world. We, mayors of the entire world, feel citizens of the martyr City of Hiroshima. Such a fact increases our responsibility facing people of Hiroshima and other cities.

Buildings are made from the bottom to the top. We mayors, know that our force comes from the bottom, from the citizens we represent, those who elected us. Our struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons depends on our capacity to globalize our

unity. We are very near to the people because we are the local power, the last chain of the power. This proximity allows us to have a real perception of their aspirations, but on the other hand, to answer directly to them.

This explains why in my country so many tens of municipalities have signed the petition to abolish the nuclear weapons. Different mayors with very different political and ideological orientations have signed the petition. The fact that we have local elections next October may be an explanation for the fact that I'm the only Portuguese mayor here in this conference.

Friends, the Hiroshima explosion became a hellfire for women, men, no matter their philosophy, and all the innocents, like children and old people. Nuclear weapons when used destroy everybody and everything. Nowadays they can destroy the planet and its life. The destructive power of the thermo-nuclear bomb is a thousand times more powerful than those that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We and our children and our towns, we are all enemies of those who try to support their power in nuclear weapons. That's the point we have to face and to make clear for our citizens and for the public opinion in general. Everybody must fight for the abolition for such powerful weapons now, immediately. I think that we, mayors of the world, we come here to claim our repulsion for crimes against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but we are conscious that it means a battle.

Unfortunately, the country which considers itself leader and powerful in the world, insists in this strategy and insists that nuclear weapons are to be used. Their strategy and the non-respect for the international treaty and the uninterrupted research and development of new experiences makes instability all over the world. And if we have other nuclear powers that also follow the same way, spending financial resources, we could feed millions of people, maybe stopping hunger.

Humankind cannot become a prisoner of the strategy of the bellicose countries nor are the prisoner of a casual accident which could simply make a holocaust. The nuclear weapons existing are enough to destroy life on our planet. What kind of dementia or sickness can explain that countries still run to increase their nuclear capacity, trying to be the first one. Nuclear weapons represent the instability factor in the world and avoid sustainable development. They must be banished now, also for the stability of international order.

We are in Hiroshima and a market town that saw, in the first second of the atomic explosion, to be killed tens of thousands of citizens and our fight gets more and more actually in since years.

The citizens we represent feel easily that war in general is an horror, but nuclear war is the worst one. They know that the enemy are all of us: politics, armies, simple people from left to the right, religious or not religious, workers and intellectuals, in the town or in the countryside.

In my municipality, an old small town called Palmela, there is a castle on a hill from where we can look at the sky, the rivers and the neighborhood cities, including Lisbon and its beautiful bridges. We all can see, and all we can see has been made by Mother

Nature or by the hard work of the people. I cannot imagine a nuclear mushroom growing up in the sky and coming down and destroying life and burning all history with centuries, menacing the future generations.

We realize the deep sorrow of Hiroshima and we don't want any more Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We want a world free from nuclear weapons. We want to be sure that it will not happen again in Washington, Moscow, Beijing, Tel Aviv, Palmela or any other town. There are no good or better nuclear weapons; all types make horror and pain.

In my municipality we get used to dedicating some of our energies to prove that peace must be a fight for all of us, when we talk about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but also when we talk about Iraq or Timor. We get used to the idea that people must know each other, must respect their difference, must be tolerant and must develop friendship and cooperation all over the planet. That's why we, the local government, practicing international cooperation can help the fight for peace in the world.

And in this spirit I think that we should globalize our cooperation and make contacts maybe with, for example, a recently formed organization last year in Paris which put together all the municipalities in the world. It's an organization which is called CGLU, Cité et Gouvernements Locaux Unis and which is close to the United Nations.

The political powers must listen to their citizens when millions have moved into the streets against war and for peace. Local power can feel and hear better citizens' claims. And citizens know that there are no developments without peace.

To finish, I want to share my feeling that Hiroshima is an example of suffering but also an example of hope. I want to congratulate the citizens and the local government for the beautiful town they have heartily rebuilt. Long live peace. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Ms. Ana Vicente, Mayor of the City of Palmela, for her comments. So now it's my honor to invite Mr. Heinrich Niemann, who's representing Marzahn-Hellersdorf, which one of the 12 districts of Berlin. Mr. Niemann. Is Mr. Niemann here? Ah, there, thank you, sir. Following Mr. Niemann, I will be inviting M. Pierre Villard, Mouvement de la Paix, to be speaking.

Heinrich Niemann, District Councilor for Urban Development and elder Deputy Mayor, Marzahn-Hellersdorf von Berlin, Germany: Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, my town Hellersdorf, a part of Berlin, is for the first time participating in a conference general of the Mayors for Peace. My first task therefore is to listen to all your ideas and experiences.

In the plenary session today, the President of the Berlin Parliament Mr. Momper spoke about general positions of the German capital. We think that in such a big city as Berlin it may be useful that the parts of the city take care of their own very concrete responsibility, not only in the usual aggressions of city administration, but in the global things too, and therefore we became a member of your movement.

I represent one of the 12 districts of Berlin, the youngest among them, only founded not 30 years ago because of the grading in this area, the large housing estates with about 100,000 flats. Now about 240 inhabitants live in my town, Hellersdorf. Other specialties of my city are, it is that part of Berlin where in 1945 the Soviet Army first crossed the border of Berlin to defeat the fascist Hitler state.

And two years ago, in my city a Japanese zen garden was opened called Garden of the Joining Water. It was created by the Japanese garden architect and priest, Shunmyo Masuno, a symbol for peace and humanity for the richness of our planet. This garden is part of the project Gardens of the World situated in our city. All that means, our young populations, its historical roots and obligations and the cultural eyes to the world are the challenges for our city, the authorities and the citizens, the young and the old, to do more and more substantially to keep peace.

First, we have the duty to inform the sensibility to educate the young generation, the children, and lately our grandchildren. I feel that is not only necessary but possible, and more than before. Young people are aware of the dangerous situation and they have a lot of ideas to bring forward their demands. I am very glad to inform about such activities in my town Hellersdorf. Those 16 years old pupil, Gislinde Böhringer, joined the youth peace group, took part in the peace activities in New York at the United Nations NPT Review Conference in this May. She was an actor of the protective wall for international law. Surely yesterday you have seen it around the dome. I gave up rather quickly my little stupid attempt to find out the line of Gislinde on one of the little wooden stones. Thousands and thousands and thousands of individual signatures form a wall. What a powerful symbol.

Other young people formed in the 90s as a reaction to the NATO bombing of the former Yugoslavia a big peace sign by stones and flowers in the public park and I allowed it as the Councilor. The name of this park is now Jelena Santic Peace Park. They organize their meetings, concerts and other events about themes of war and peace.

Please allow me some personal remarks. As a medical student, as a charity the Berlin Humboldt University, I heard lectures by a Professor, a renowned physician and biologist. He was a member of an international physicians group in the early 50s of the last century who researched the effects of atomic bombing in Hiroshima. He taught us, more than 40 years ago, not to be neutral as a physician in the case of nuclear weapons. This was and this is a heritage for my life. Later on, as a member of the IPPNW, in the national physicians movement for the prevention of nuclear war, I witnessed in 1988 during a scientific test of meeting near a Nevada test site, at this time a shocking news about many hidden nuclear tests by the USA ignoring the meanwhile accepted rules of international information.

In 1990, in Semipalantinsk there is a Soviet test site. The public got for the first time an impression of the impacts of the nuclear test to the population and the nature of Kazakhstan. And 16 years ago, in 1989, I participated here in Hiroshima and in Nagasaki, in the 9th World Congress of IPPNW. From the historical side this was a last congress in the world of the two superpowers and the Cold War, but even then the arguments for nuclear weapons were already out. The end of the Cold War brings the

elimination of nuclear weapons. That was the hope and the eligible demand. Today the reality is nuclear disarmament is not on the way as necessary.

Now, since more than a dozen years, I work as a councilor for the ecological and urban development in the very young city. Yesterday, I read in the museum a fatal sentence, that there will be no cause here in Hiroshima for 75 years, a man, a woman's lifetime. My city is only 26 years old. I declare here in Hiroshima on behalf of Marzahn-Hellersdorf of Berlin that its authorities and its citizens will do their part in the movement of the Mayors for Peace.

In the year 2020 Marzahn-Hellersdorf will celebrate its 41st birthday as a grown up and a blossoming city, part of Berlin, in a world free of nuclear weapons, in a peaceful community with every other city in each part of our unique planet. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Mr. Heinrich Niemann from Marzahn-Hellersdorf for his comments. And I'd now like to invite M. Pierre Villard from Mouvement de la Paix to give some comments. Following M. Pierre Villard I'll be inviting Mr. Yannik Hake from the International Law Campaign. Thank you.

Pierre Villard, Co-Chair, Mouvement de la Paix, France: Thank you. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, and mayors gathered from around the world, NGO representatives, I would like to express my appreciation first of all for inviting NGOs to this conference, and as one NGO representative, our NGO is called the Peace Movement which is one of the strongest movements for peace in France. The A-bomb and H-bomb ban in congress has also been held here in Hiroshima and I had the opportunity to attend the congress.

In order to avoid nuclear weapons we would need to oppose nuclear weapons, violence in general, but we see proliferation eroding the peace. I believe we can have many dreams for ourselves in this world but not all dreams would come true. At the May NPT Review Conference, we did not end up with a decision to abolish nuclear weapons after all. We had great expectations for this conference, but the nuclear weapons States tried to maintain their own positions and therefore the conference failed to bring about productive results. So we are seeing a negative trend in the current world. The United States won the war against Saddam Hussein but the United States has not won the fight against terrorism yet.

How can we stand up to fight against terrorism? For this, we would first of all need to deal with issues poverty, underdevelopment, and a lack of democracy and respect for rights. We would need to focus our attention on these fundamental issues, otherwise, we would not be able to fight an effective fight against terrorism. After 2001, the United States has been engaged in various forms of destruction and we have great concerns about this. American people, there was much opposition against the war in Iraq and this has isolated the United States in many ways. There was a division of views in the UN Security Council and there was no consensus even among the nuclear weapons States.

So given this situation how the United States has acted was a concern for all of us. Can we wait for the United States to take action? If we did so, we would have to wait

until the 22nd century perhaps to see nuclear disarmament, so we would need to start a new process for nuclear disarmament.

The majority of countries are against nuclear weapons and it is only a handful of countries which have nuclear weapons or are either nuclear weapons States or suspicious of having nuclear weapons. We should focus our attention more on countries who have had courage enough to abolish nuclear weapons. The citizens would have to engage in various activities and movements and such citizens movements can change the world and make a difference. The citizens should ask themselves what their roles are and what they can do. NGOs and local authorities would have to play their due roles, and we have the legitimate right to do so as NGOs, and NGOs' roles cannot be replaced by organizations or agencies. We should unite towards a single goal of nuclear abolition.

In order to achieve abolition, we need to have a power that replaces military power. Peace culture, I'm sure, is a possible alternative for military power. Peace Movement is engaged in such activities and for this we need a significant partnership. Regarding the NPT Treaty, we have tried to join forces with the Mayor of Hiroshima and many municipalities have created a network to support the Mayors for Peace. And the French network of Mayors for Peace was established to go hand in hand with Hiroshima City and the Mayors for Peace movement campaign, and this has borne fruit so that on the day of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we are carrying out various activities of our own.

Mayor Akiba has also met our youth representatives. Hibakusha and nuclear weapons should become something of the past and we should be liberated from nuclear weapons by successfully abolishing and eliminating nuclear weapons from the surface of the earth. We must muster our courage towards this end.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Pierre Villard for his comments. And I'd now like to invite Mr. Yannik Hake from the International Law Campaign. Following Mr. Hake, I will be inviting Mr. George Regan from the Nuclear-Free Local Authority. Thank you.

Yannik Hake, International Law Campaign, Germany: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dear Lord Mayor and mayors, ladies and gentlemen, dear guests, I'm very happy and deeply honored to be granted the opportunity to address all of you on behalf of those working for the International Law Campaign and as a representative of my generation.

We have come here today to let you know that you have inspired us with immense hope. In his speech during the conference on the revision of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Kofi Annan pointed out what an indispensable influence a society has exerted in the past. Had it not, there would be no ban on landmines and no Kyoto Protocol today. This is why we would like to express our gratitude to you, the Mayors for Peace, for your encouraging example which has triggered so much self-initiative with regard to political activities and civil societies.

It is a great honor for us to work side by side with you for our shared endeavor - the abolishment of all nuclear weapons. In doing so together with you, who has set an

example proving the political activities coming from within the civil society, to have their say. In other words, achieving that complete disarmament of nuclear weapons will start an irreversibility will at the same time strengthen the self-awareness in civil society and heighten their inspiration to find a clear position on equally-pressing issues similar to the one of nuclear weapons, in hand encourage them to substantively influence political affairs at the global scale.

As pupils working for the International Law Campaign and together with all young people from around the world with whom we have established contact, we have already found our position. We are no longer willing to mute witness while in spite of global implications and negative environmental, economic, humanitarian and social consequences, politicians slowly focus on the pros of national wealth, national security, national power and preserving that power when making decisions. Politicians take it for granted and presume that it is its natural right to apply military violence at any time and at any place on earth toward an existing or assumed threat to the security of their national well-being.

So we are no longer willing to vote for politicians who still consider the use of nuclear weapons as legitimate means of securing national interests. Also invisible, nuclear weapons are a constant threat for all of the six billion people living on this planet. This is why we call on everybody to assume their co-responsibility and their right to vote, to finally abolish this threat because nuclear weapons are a permanent threat to the life and culture of billions of people, do not target military facilities but civilians, require maintenance and further development, consume vast amounts of money, resources which could be used instead to achieve the millennium goal, in other words, the fight against poverty and global injustice with respect to living conditions for human beings. If used to this end, they would strengthen one of the most important prerequisites for the peaceful coexistence of all people.

In our opinion, the direct root cause turning one of the most significant development steps in human history, i.e. the illegitimacy of military force as enshrined in the charter of the United Nations into an issue of the past soon. The reason for this is that some nations already consider the potential danger of being attacked by such weapons sufficient justification to claim their right on self defense. In doing so they ignore the renunciation of the use of violence and take military steps, even up to the usage of nuclear weapons.

To avert the assumed threat, this means that weapons believed as existing to preserve peace, produce the biggest threat to it.

The only way out of this vicious circle of nuclear violence is open by all nations declaring the complete abolishment of the use of such weapons together with the global consensus of the illegitimacy of such weapons and the complete destruction of all existing weapons. This goal seems to be almost unreachable and too far away yet, and it's up to every single one of us that we keep it together. It is not enough that millions of us dream about it. We have to get up and do something to make this dream become reality.

This is why we together with all signators from around the globe stand up and requisite the politician decision-takers from all nations to do the following: Stand by

and fulfill the promise you gave unconditionally; Rid humankind from the scourge of war; Recognize the illegitimacy of military force as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations already 50 years ago without any exceptions; To the benefit of all human beings on this planet, finally fulfill your international law obligations and start the irreversible disarmament of all nuclear weapons.

Rest assured that we will not just remain passive and full of confidence until you, as the political decision-makers, will start this task. Rather, we will actively look for and take those paths which will help to support this immensely important step of a normal human development from civil society's side. And we will call on you and every single politician decision-taker individually to make a personal choice to practice hard together with us.

As a concrete step on this path, we'd like to invite you, as a member of the Mayors for Peace, to follow the example of Mayor Akiba, Mayor Itoh, Mayor Livingstone and Mayor Schmalstieg to take a small part of this symbolic protection wall for international law to your cities to use it as a seed for your local part of the worldwide growing people's memorial. Thank you very much. If you want to see the wall, it's around the atomic bomb dome. You can go there and watch it.

Chairperson: I want to thank Mr. Yannik Hake for talking about the International Law Campaign and for a voice for youth. Just to let people here know that there has been a large youth contingent engaged in the Hiroshima Day activities. In fact, there was a rally of 300 yesterday. And so it's very exciting to see youth engaged, and hopefully later on in our discussions one of the topics that people might like to talk more about is how to engage youth in Mayors for Peace activities and in peace activities in cities.

So now I invite Mr. George Regan from the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities UK to make some comments, and then following Mr. Regan will be Mr. Marika Akma, a Member of the Municipal Council of Kandy in Sri Lanka. Mr. Regan, thank you.

George Regan, National Chairman, Nuclear-Free Local Authorities U.K. :
Thank you, Chairman. Lord Mayor, mayors, councilors and delegates, I chair the Nuclear-Free Local Authorities in the United Kingdom, an organization with, at this time, 75 definite local authorities are represented in our organization, and we are at present extending our efforts into Ireland to hopefully achieve a liaison with the whole of Ireland group to become involved in the same thing. We work closely with Mayors for Peace and report regularly to our constituent groups on the progress and their enormously great work that the Mayors for Peace carry out.

It is an absolute honor to be here as an ordinary Councilor, just a person who works day-to-day with people in my area and doing these things, but I couldn't let the occasion pass without seeing the effect. Coming to Hiroshima is hard. I have never felt so saddened. I will never ever forget the sense of shame that I experienced after visiting the museum and listening to the things there.

I really wonder whether national politicians, whether Mr. Blair, could leave President Bush's coattails for a while and possibly visit Hiroshima. If these people are going to continue to support the use of these weapons, surely they should be aware of the

effects and what they actually do to human beings. Anyway, I haven't written a speech; I have been really quite deeply affected by this experience. I hope to take it back.

One thing I also know, however, and the young gentlemen, the last speaker alluded to it, and clearly it's true: if the world leaders could not be frightened of nuclear weapons, one thing they are certainly frightened of and that is the people who elect them. And our job, as well as working with organizations and assisting Mayors for Peace, is also to get back to the people who will go out, certainly, in the United Kingdom every four years, and elect people. No person in their right mind wishes to have nuclear weapons. Therefore, logically, you would say, no person in their right mind should be electing an individual who has no difficulty encountering such a thing.

We will be challenging, as it has just been recently stated, that the United Kingdom decided to replace Trident. We, as an organization in the United Kingdom, will be using all our political connections and we will challenge this. It's actually an appalling thought at this time that we could go a stage further. I thought Iraq had just about put the icing on the cake for me. But we move on. It's a terrifying thought.

But again, I've had some hope coming to this conference. I have heard people speak of the way forward. I have heard people who have discussed the wide range of activities and beliefs and ways of keeping the momentum going, of increasing the pressure for the abolition of nuclear weapons. This is something, hopefully, we can get back again, as I say, to people, to people who live and work and eat and sleep, and persuade them.

I honestly believe anyone who's had a visit, as I've had in the last few days, have seen and listened to what I've done, no one in their right mind, no person with a grain of humanity could possibly consider such a means of – I view this as, probably an unusual idea, as political experience. You have to work far harder for peace than you have not to. It's far easier to show a big stick. It's far easier to frighten someone than it is to persuade them by peaceful means. And hopefully that's something we can continue to work for. I won't keep you all afternoon and I thank you very much, Chairman, and everyone else for the opportunity to address this conference. Thank you.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Mr. Regan, Nuclear-Free Local Authorities, United Kingdom Chairman, for the comments. Now I'd like to invite Mr. Asmin, Member of the Municipal Council of Kandy, Sri Lanka, to make some comments. After Mr. Asmin, I'll be inviting Mary Ellen McNish from the American Friends Service Committee to make some comments. Thank you very much.

Asin Marika Abdul Karim, Councilor, Kandy, Sri Lanka: In the name of Allah, the most beneficial and merciful. Let me first of all greet you in Islam saying, *As-Salaam-Alaikum*, peace be unto you.

Mr. Chairman and in our place we say, in our part of Sri Lanka we say Worship the Mayors, that's what we say. If I say Worship the Mayors, distinguished guests, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and obviously my fellow brothers from Sri Lanka, it is indeed a great privilege for me to have got this opportunity to stand amongst you

and express my views of the 60th anniversary of commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima. Even though this is a privilege, I am sad and hurt when I look back to 60 years.

First of all, let me introduce myself. I am a Muslim living in Sri Lanka, an island known as a paradise of the Indian Ocean. It's a majority Buddhist country and my city is situated in the center known as Kandy, which is a holy place for Buddhists where the Temple of Tooth of Buddha, our host, is called Maligawa. Muslims, Hindus and Christians have built their religious places very close to this vicinity. In other words, within stones' throwing distance. We live in harmony. We actually, it's a beautiful place, a rare thing that is, because as I am a Muslim.

My personality, my name has been misunderstood by most of the people. So I have come here with my colleagues, friends, because we also experience this type of activities with diversifying situations where people have taken use, have put bombs on their bodies and exploded themselves in the city. So we fear these type of happenings in the world.

We have traveled a long way to this city, Hiroshima, to be with you and to be part of you and share your and our thoughts and strengthen the cause of Mayors for Peace.

On a quiet day when people were getting about their work 60 years ago the atomic bomb was dropped on this living city. The world was taken aback, and since then we have been discussing and trying to do something to stop the world from such destruction. I had not been born when this incident occurred, but it is in my memory. It is alive for us even though it happened 60 years ago, I feel it in me.

This day the scientists enjoy the glory of nuclear technology and for nations who possess it. But for us this day is not a day of glory but a day that we stand together condemning nations and scientists who are engaged in developing this deadly bomb. Hiroshima, where we stand, was 60 years ago the ground selected to test the nuclear weapon. Hiroshima was indeed the testing ground for America, to bomb a living city. We had been educated that this nuclear bomb was a clear message to stop the war. Had this message been put forth? Have the nations taken this message and stopped being aggressive?

In my books it is not the number of debts or the area of devastation. Even from a single grenade, if an individual is killed, it is murder. We saw Sep. 11 where two petrol bombs flew to New York and into the pride America's Twin Towers. The whole world witnesses this catastrophe and saw the mighty fire coming down. Once again the world was shocked. Innocent American people going about their usual daily routine, who believe in freedom and choices and believed in living for a better day, fell victim to these petrol bombs. They were innocent.

What happens to us? The politicians take positions. The civilians, the citizens suffer those issues. We have taken party policies to be a part of the religion or the political party has become a part of religion as such. We do not go deep into the policies of the party. We align to the political parties and these political parties, they have their own agenda as such. When they come to power they take visions and we become victims.

After the bomb, we saw the petrol bombs going into the Twin Towers. Why did this happen? We have been told by analysts that this was a message. Once again, a message. Due to this aggression the world witnessed the bombing of Afghanistan. Here again, it was a message they are sending by bombing nations. From there, we saw the rain of bombs falling to Iraq. This was another message to the new world order. In recent times we experienced the incident in Madrid. Here again, these people are sending a message. The British, living in London along with some property, took this message into their own hands to justify their doctrine.

So now people are believing in tying up bombs to their bodies or in a car and then exploding to give a message. And we are not here for that. We want a peaceful nation. We want a peaceful world to live in.

We wonder why nuclear weapons have not been used since 60 years ago. Nations are being bombed as a message. Nations are now in a race to find faster and accurate measures of destroying a country with a blink of an eyelid. This is what the world is heading for. It's very sad.

The bombing of Hiroshima and the message sent by it has been taken from the wrong side of the stick. What was the message at Hiroshima? It was to stop the war, and this method is now taken into the hands of individuals. It's very sad.

What one should dread is that individuals have taken the message sent by the bombing of Hiroshima into their own hands and advocate their beliefs. We stand here in this hall of Mayor for Peace as a nation. We have understood the word of living, condemning all forms of bombs, bombing industries to stop right now. We must, all of us, address this issue and stop. Given we have to come to a decision, even a bomb, it can be a grenade, if they are manufactured it is a disaster.

We should send a strong message and mayors alone are not enough. We should get our leaders to start condemning along with other nations who are involved in this deadly industry.

Last but not least, even though Japan was the land of nuclear experience, today it stands as a land of gifts and technology. We see Japan since the attack has gracefully gifted the world with presents and my country has almost everything made in Japan. Japan has faced its challenge and by that has set examples of non-violence. The great gift to the world by Japan is your advanced technology which every nation is today sharing.

As such, we peace-loving people should join hands with Japan to condemn the nations who have and are developing these nuclear bombs. Thank you.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Mr. Asmin, Member of the Municipal Council of Kandy, Sri Lanka for his comments. Now I'd like to invite Ms. Mary Ellen McNish from the American Friends Service Committee to address us.

Mary Ellen McNish, Secretary General, American Friends Service Committee, U.S.A. : Thank you. It is truly an honor to be here today, even though it is humbling for any American to be present at such an occasion that we will celebrate tomorrow.

It is humbling both because of the suffering caused 60 years ago by the United States government's use of nuclear weapons and because today the US foreign and military policy is once again leading the world into nuclear instability.

Two years ago, when the United States went to war on Iraq, the citizens of the United States and the people of the world were told that Saddam Hussein was a threat because he was close to having nuclear weapons.

Sadly, it has become clear that it is in fact the United States that is becoming the gravest nuclear threat to our world.

We have turned our back on more than 30 years of progress in nuclear reductions achieved under presidents of both political parties in the United States. We need only to look at the collapse of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in May to see the effect that current US policies are having on global security.

Too many nations around the world are taking their cues from the Bush Administration's nuclear policy. Inspiring nuclear escalation in other nations is not a sound defense policy; weapons of mass destruction can never create peace. They can only lead to fear, distrust and violence. Power is lethal without wisdom and restraint.

The people of the United States need others around the world to join with us to help us reverse US policy. Too many present here today know all too well that no nuclear weapon should ever be used again. The mere possession of nuclear weapons is unacceptable for us, our children, our nations and the world's future.

Let me assure that millions of people in the United States stand with you in opposition to these policies, and we continue to count on your courageous, moral and ethical voice.

The American Friends Service Committee, the Quakers, have always abhorred suffering and injustice of war. At the outbreak of World War II, in the United States we spoke out against the internment of Japanese-Americans. For decades, we have helped bring hibakusha to the United States to tell their stories. This year, in honor of their lifelong commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons, we have nominated the hibakusha for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The United States peace movement is doing everything within its power to confront our government and to show that peaceful policies are not only desirable, but practical.

But we cannot be successful alone. We need the moral pressure of the world to hold the US accountable and to force it to change its course. I ask all of you to continue to pressure your own governments to oppose the path of proliferation put before them by the United States.

Together, voices from within the United States joined with voices from around the world can pull us back from the brink of annihilation. Keep encouraging and challenging those of us living in the United States, even as we draw strength and encouragement from the courageous example set by so many of you.

May God, the author of life and the Spirit of peace, bless us all in the task ahead.
Thank you.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Ms. Mary Ellen McNish from the American Friends Service Committee for her comments. We have three more speakers for the session and then opening the floor to any comments or questions. I'd first like to invite Mr. Masayoshi Naito who is a Representative of the Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, and following Mr. Naito, I'll be inviting Ms. Keiko Nakamura from the Peace Depot. Mr. Naito.

Masayoshi Naito, Representative, Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Japan: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It seems like the coffee break isn't over but I'd like to begin. Thank you very much for everyone coming all the way to Hiroshima from various parts of the world.

I'd like to talk about the historic significance of the A-bomb experience and the 2020 Vision and Japan. First I'd like to talk about the A-bomb significance. I'd like to talk about the hibakusha experience and the role Japan is to play, and I'd like to talk about the 2020 Vision.

The Network For Nuclear Weapons Abolition is centering its activity as a network in Tokyo and its surrounding regions for nuclear weapon abolition. Hiroshima Mayor Akiba and Nagasaki Mayor Ito in February attended our rally for nuclear weapons abolition.

First, I'd like to once again confirm the historical significance of the A-bombing. The A-bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki I believe changed human history. Many atrocities took place in many different wars, but the cruelty of the A-bomb is clearly different from other histories of war because it showed us the possibility of the self-destruction of mankind. We never had such a possibility by any weapon in the past. So in that sense the A-bombing is different. After the A-bombs they dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki the crisis continues, or the crisis is even larger, and as many people pointed out, many countries now are trying to be nuclear-capable nations.

If nuclear weapons are ever used in the future, then there will be a chain of hatred, a chain of retaliation, and mankind could be destroyed. Einstein created nuclear energy and he said that everything was changed because of that, other than human thought. National interests and power politics should be set aside. We need to come up with a new principle and political system for human beings to coexist. That's point one that I would like to share with you.

Secondly, hibakusha is important as a witness and the testimony as a symbol for the possibility of the self-destruction of mankind. I've been listening to their testimonies over and over, and one thing that I can say is that they are the witness of the last scene on the globe. Sixty years ago, on the 6th August, in this direction that I point out, 500 to 600 meters above the sky, an A-bomb exploded. All people around here, I think, were killed.

One hibakusha has said as follows in the testimony, which is very strong in my mind as I remember, what would not have happened if things like that could happen again?

But he said he was shocked because the Korean War took place in a few years' time. He said that he felt that as a result of anything like this, there will never be a war again. This is an important testimony. We can really feel a sense of reality from this testimony. And he is a witness of the last day of earth, I could say. And he suffered for decades after that, and he also has anxiety about his future.

Nuclear weapons are an absolute evil. They should never be used under any circumstances. We should share this view. It's important that the Japanese government takes an important role in communicating this message of hibakusha, but there are many obstacles. One thing is the Japanese relations with Asia. When we talk about our experience of the A-bomb, some people say that it is a campaign of trying to deny Japanese responsibility for waging a war. When there was a survey in the 1980s in Korea, 80 per cent of the people of Korea said it was right to have the A-bomb dropped in Japan and this percentage is higher in Korea than in the USA.

One thing is that as long as the Japanese government is dependent on American nuclear weapons, it's hard for Japan to convince the need for nuclear elimination. So first of all we need to rectify the relationship between Japan and Asia, although the current situation is not favorable.

Another thing is the Japanese government doesn't say it was wrong to drop an A-bomb.

We need to change our relations with Asia and the United States. As many people mentioned, when the government policy is to be changed, it is important that public opinion and the campaign of grassroots efforts need to be strengthened. For Japan, the 2020 Vision is very important. Unfortunately, the Japanese peace campaign, the Japanese campaign for the abolition of the A-bomb and hydrogen bomb were not united. And because of this separation of the campaign efforts, there was a lack of pressure on the government.

One thing we can do is the Global Citizens Conference was held in Nagasaki. Mr. Alyn Ware took part in this conference. This is a conference held together by the City of Nagasaki and NGOs aiming for the elimination of nuclear weapons. When NGOs and local governments work together, then that would be a better venue for more people to take part. People who are unable to take part in previous campaigns, they would be able to take part in such undertakings.

We are at a very important point in history. Japan should play an important role at this important point in time, and the Vision 2020 that Mayors for Peace have started should be expanding to all over Japan and I'd like work together with you. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Mr. Masayoshi Naito for his comments. Now I'd like to ask Keiko Nakamura, the Acting Secretary General for Peace Depot.

Keiko Nakamura, Acting Secretary General, Peace Depot, Japan: Thank you, Chairman, and good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I think I'm going to switch to Japanese now. So, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor for me to be given this opportunity to speak as one Japanese NGO. I was planning to make some comments

based on what I heard in the discussion, but all of a sudden I was invited to speak here and I'm a bit nervous speaking in front of you.

The Japanese NGOs, not only in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they are active in this movement. We are located in Tokyo, mostly carrying out activities in the Tokyo metropolitan area. And we would like to create the heightening of our movement in Japan towards the achievement of the 2020 Vision.

At the General Conference yesterday, I think it was mentioned by the Mayor of Sapporo City, which still remains in our minds, we should not only depend on Hiroshima and Nagasaki alone, that we will need to spread the movement around Japan more widely. That is exactly what we are thinking of. As Mr. Naito has just mentioned in his speech, Japan plays a very important role, and the NGOs and local authorities in Japan should join hands to promote the 2020 Vision.

This morning I was attending and speaking at a different meeting. I do this regularly as part of my work, but I try to give them, the audience, the outline of the 2020 Vision. And there was an elderly hibakusha woman attending the meeting and when I talked about the 2020 Vision and what is taking place in the world where NGOs and local governments are joining hands to achieve the 2020 Vision together, she was very happy indeed to hear my comments. And she said that she was very disappointed with the failure of the NPT Review Conference and she hardly knew what to do about the future. But now that she learned about the 2020 Vision she said that she could look forward to a brighter future.

When I first heard the 2020 Vision term, I was told that 20/20 refers to perfect eyesight and that is the reason why 2020 was chosen. So that was at least what I was told.

And what I keenly feel today is that there seems to be a sense of stifling in the current movement in Japan. And so we need insight into the future by working under this 2020 Vision so that we gain the foresight in to the future. But what I wanted to talk about in this discussion today was when we try to spread this movement around in Japan, we need the involvement of the citizens, generally speaking, and the Japanese NGOs are ready to support such initiatives taken by the individual citizens.

Apart from ourselves, there are organizations called Hidankyo, which is a group of the A-bomb survivors, and in order to promote the 2020 Vision they are also taking up the challenge to speak about the 2020 Vision as they travel around Japan. And in a similar vein, we've been also lucky to carry our message to the Japanese citizens. And in order to do this, I have a request to the members of the Mayors for Peace.

Namely, I hope that the Mayors for Peace could work more closely with NGOs and I'm hoping that we have a mechanism for consultation between the two parties. That is something that I would like to promote specifically in Japan. I hear that in the UN First Committee in this autumn conference, I believe this sub-committee would be established, so I hope that we could remain in touch and to exchange views so that the representative NGOs will be given the place to become more active. May I propose that the Mayors for Peace have such a consultative body with the NGOs so that we are

able to have meetings, if not regularly, on some occasions to exchange views between the two parties.

And secondly, we heard from the example of Manchester, and there are also cities which have declared themselves non-nuclear in Japan, and there is the Council of Non-Nuclear Local Authorities in Japan headed by Mayor Iccho Ito of Nagasaki City, and we would like to cooperate more strongly with such organizations in promoting the 2020 Vision, not only simple cooperation but I think we should work together to create the future together. We support the mayors and their efforts as NGOs, so as Japanese NGOs we are very much interested in how deliberations are going on in your meetings. So perhaps we may have such an exchange session with the Mayors for Peace.

We would like to support the 2020 Vision that you are promoting, and therefore let us work together to step forward towards a nuclear-free world. Thank you very much for your invitation today.

Chairperson: I would like to thank Ms. Keiko Nakamura from the Peace Depot for her comments and for the very specific suggestions for Mayors for Peace, which seem to be very consistent with the Plan of Action that was adopted yesterday, and so I expect it would be considered quite favorably. I would now like to ask Ms. Johnanne Winchester, Director of the Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, to give some words. Thank you.

Johnanne Winchester, Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, U.S.A.: Distinguished ladies and gentlemen and global citizens, arigato gosaimasu, merci beaucoup, xie xie ni, thank you very much for your patience. To the Hiroshima Peace Foundation and Mayor Akiba and Mayor Ito and the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all the governmental and civil society participants and volunteers, thank you all for creating this special gathering in support of peace and reconciliation and a nuclear weapons-free world.

I often feel that I sit in my wheelchair in solidarity with the many millions of victims of violence in the world today. With apologies to our wonderful simultaneous translators, I would like to share with you some practical suggestions and strategies for global solutions. If anyone would like more information delivered electronically, please give me your cards later.

This is a brief overview of communications at work. This entire conference could be made available to the entire membership of the Mayors for Peace and their constituencies. Just a little something to think about, those of us who are still feeling jet-lagged. Also, it would mean that we could have translation in many languages at once.

So here are some questions, and I would like you to consider and provide some answers. We, your communications technologies colleagues, would like to be able to provide you platforms, and I believe we already have the funding available to do this.

So do you need a new sustainable communications platform, economically and efficiently built and managed? Maybe I should start asking for hands to be raised if

it's a yes. Do you need a new opportunity to learn to use technology easily at your own pace, where you want to learn, at your desk, from your wireless laptop, wherever? Do you need a capability to have meetings on demand with live human interactivity without travel but face to face? Do you need the ability to be on your own video network whereby you can communicate with any sized audience in any geography? More questions. You provide the answers. We provide your platforms.

Do you need interactive communications capability where you can gain instant feedback, even live, from your audiences? Do you need connectivity with others, even when there is no wired ability to communicate? Do you need a capability to be more productive with your time and that of others locally, regionally, nationally or internationally? Do you need to create a new set of recurring revenue, that's income, financing for your projects, opportunities that support your efforts continually? Do you need to utilize communications capability that actually *saves you expenses* while creating these revenue opportunities?

Three entities came together a few years ago with a combined 75 years of communications, media, distribution and production expertise. Having served the United Nations, NGOs, NPOs, governments, education and numerous commercial entities, the strategy credentials represent empowering principles. We want to help get our story on the air, on television, on computer desktops, on the cell phones. Global Solutions embodies vision and a mission of global cooperation through positive action encompassing effective and efficient communications, education and recurring revenue systems of self-support. I would repeat, *recurring revenue systems of self support* for all of us who are always looking for the budget to do our projects.

So at the heart of your strategy are what we call CORE competencies, in English it's C-O-R-E. So the "C" stands for core conduits: understand the totality and flexibility of communications and distribution systems available and in need of, and what is required for the key audiences. "O" stands for operating audits: understand your problem in its entirety before a solution is suggested. Audits are an objective way in which to baseline all data from all key perspectives, including constituencies, marketing, financial needs and revenue opportunities. "R" stands for recurring revenue: understand the opportunities, educate the leadership and integrate self-supporting best practices for continuous economic viability, including cost savings and new recurring revenue, that word again. "E" stands for exchange of ideas: understand from your constituencies what it takes to get them involved, committed and continually questioning the validities of today's actions. So interactivity, democratic process, is key to all of this. Now is the time to get to the CORE, C-O-R-E strategy.

I will just mention a couple of technology ideas for some of you who may be familiar with some of these things. There's something called I-C-U-II, ICUII, which is the L-I-V-E, live systems of live interactive video, it's a type of technology that's very inexpensive, available today. Totally software based, you don't have to buy any new equipment. Your solution to communicate from anywhere to anywhere. One on one, up to eight simultaneous locations can be brought in. You can see them all on your screen at once. Wired and wireless, live video communication.

We could be having live interactive video conferences once a week, town hall meeting to town hall meeting. Mayors to their constituencies, mayors to the NGO constituencies, any kind of combination of community that we wish to bring together.

Unlimited monthly use with 216K of bandwidth. You can conduct meetings, collaborate on projects, speak to constituencies, seek instant feedback and present plans. You can also do a certain amount of streaming on a dial-up line, which is what we often find in developing communities.

There's a tremendous training platform in real time which is a key part of what we're going to need, is how do we educate, train, finance for a nuclear weapons-free world and for sustainable security and a world culture of peace. And you can use it anywhere on any PC, any time. You can integrate it to large room gatherings like this that has a large screen and there's free audio conferencing included.

So these are platforms that exist today. We would like to be able to bring them to the mayors and to our other constituents. Hopefully, we'll be working with the City of Vancouver and other cities like Harbin in China, which I just visited which will be doing a preparation conference in planning for Vancouver next June.

So thank you all very much.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank Johnanne Winchester for that very interesting explanation of technology that's making it more possible to communicate across distances and more effectively.

Now I'd like to open up the floor for comments and questions. Many people who would like to add any ideas, proposals, suggestions, on the topic of cooperation between Mayors for Peace and other sectors of civil society, governments, parliamentarians, et cetera. Do I see any people who would like to make any comments? I see Senator Douglas Roche. We have a mobile microphone which – do we have the mobile microphone for Senator Roche? Thank you. It's on its way.

Senator Douglas Roche, OC., Chair of Middle Power Initiative, Former Canadian Senator and Ambassador for Disarmament to the UN: Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, yesterday I had the privilege of speaking to you so I will not repeat what I said or speak long now. I only wanted to congratulate the Mayors for Peace on assembling this gathering and bringing so many ideas to the forefront.

It's evident that Mayors for Peace is still in its early stages and that the organizing in order to be a stronger network is now taking place. A goal of doubling the membership of Mayors for Peace over the next year could be attained. I think that there is a gathering momentum for Mayors for Peace, and this conference is showing that.

In addition to broadening the base for Mayors for Peace, the work of electronic communication that has just been very effectively been described here ought to be utilized and that would set the stage, so to speak, for a way in which a manifestation of the attractiveness of Mayors for Peace in mobilizing civil society and pushing

governments, this attractiveness will grow and enable Mayors for Peace to speak to other organizations and to work with other organizations.

And this morning we heard from Susan Walker in her nine points, on point 5, to bring together our organizations, to work with other organizations. You've already started to work with parliamentarians, to the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament that Alyn Ware chairs, and the fusion of mayors and parliamentarians can lead to even more cooperation with other groups.

And thus, I conclude by pointing to next year with the World Peace Forum in Vancouver. That is a place where many, many organizations from around the world will gather. It will be a major event, and for Mayors for Peace to play and plan now to play a strong role in either holding workshops or having events, it's up to you to decide, but I think that the frustration that everyone has spoken about here so much coming out of the failed NPT Review is going to give way to a new kind of energy and creativity, and that Mayors for Peace is now poised to play a significant role.

So I urge you to strengthen the base of Mayors for Peace, to work electronically, and to have a stronger international manifestation of the attractiveness of Mayors for Peace, and to have as an immediate goal showing this to the world at the Vancouver World Peace Forum, that will then itself enable Mayors for Peace to go on to even greater things. Thank you.

Chairperson: I thank Senator Roche for his comments, and I wonder if there's anyone else who would like to make any comments or contributions. I don't see any hands. Since there's no other people wanting to make contributions I guess we can look at wrapping up the session.

I'd like to thank everyone who made comments and contributions this afternoon. There were a large number, a wide variety of very positive, informing, interesting, inspiring examples and ideas. Many of those, of course, will be of use to use in our own cities in developing our peace programs back home, but also many of these will be fit into the Mayors for Peace international campaign, and also some into the drafting of the Appeal or declaration which is going to be drafted tonight with the ideas that come from the plenaries and the two sections and then will be presented to the plenary tomorrow.

And I think that's about it for this afternoon. Thank you again very much for your participation, for the great contributions, and have a good evening, and I'm looking forward to the conclusions tomorrow. Thank you very much.

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Section Meeting II

Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts and the Atomic Bomb Survivor's Message

15:10-17:15, Friday, August 5, 2005

Dahlia

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Motofumi Asai**

President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University

Speaker:

Claire Pessin-Garric

Vice President, Seine St. Denis, France

Jean Prince

Mayor's Delegate, Chaville, France

Irene Michaud

Representing the Town of Leverett, U.S.A.

Batbold Tsevegmid

Mayor, Zuunmod, Mongolia

Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff

Mayor, Galle, Sri Lanka

Michel Cibot

City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France

Yahia Al-Shaibi

Mayor, Aden, Yemen

Daniel Fontaine

Mayor, Aubagne, France

Toshiki Mogami

Chairperson of Plenary Session I and II,

Professor, International Christian University, Japan

Hervé Brahmy

President, Seine St. Denis, France

Koichi Otani

Coordinator of Zuunmod, Japan

Tadaomi Saitoh, Chairman, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Hiroshima, Japan: Ladies and gentlemen, I am Saitoh, Chairman of the Hiroshima Peace and Culture Foundation. Because of the lively discussion during the morning, we are now starting this session with a 30-minute delay. May I now present the chairperson of this session, Hiroshima City University, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Prof. Asai.

Prof. Asai joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1963 in Australia. At the China Embassy he worked, and he worked as the head of the conventions and the treaties in China and Asia, and he acted as a professor at Japan Nihon University and Meiji Gakuin University. He was also the head of the Research Institute in Meiji Gakuin University. His expertise is Japanese diplomacy and peace studies. And this year he became the professor and head of the Hiroshima Peace Institute. Professor Asai, you can have the floor, please.

Chairperson, Motofumi Asai, President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University: Thanks very much for your kind introduction. Very frankly, I feel very strong pressure because this is my first time to preside over a multi-lingual meeting, so allow me to speak in Japanese instead of in English. First of all, allow me to talk about the uniqueness or the characteristics, as well as the purpose of this concurrent session.

About the characteristics attached to this concurrent session, I should give you the historical background. In 2001, there was the Fifth Mayors for Peace meeting. In the previous meeting there were two concurrent sessions: one is To Make an A-bomb Experience a Legacy Shared by All, and; the second concurrent session was Exploring Paths Towards the Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts. But at this time, they have decided to put them together in one concurrent session. That is the reason and the background that this concurrent session was founded.

Therefore, in this concurrent session, because they were separate concurrent sessions, we are going to put those two themes together to be discussed in this concurrent session. So our task is grave and very difficult.

Just for your information, in the concurrent Session 1, the theme is International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, which is exactly the same theme which was discussed in the earlier Mayors for Peace Conference. So after having understood the characteristics of the concurrent session, may I now share with you the purpose of having this concurrent session so that we will be able to have the common ground and understanding for the participants who are in this gathering.

The theme is the Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts and the A-bomb Survivors' Message. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, how can we link it with the A-bomb survivors' message? To be frank with you, as a chairperson, at the outset I was not able to understand exactly what the linkage was between the two. But I was briefed by the sponsoring Secretariat and I came to realize how we are able to link those two issues together. As a chairperson, since there were some difficulties for me in understanding the purpose of this meeting, therefore, in order for you, the participants, to fully understand the purpose of this concurrent session, probably it's better for me to share with you my understanding about the purpose of having this meeting.

To give you the exact theme of this conference is to ask ourselves, based on the A-bomb hibakusha messages as a legacy of the human beings, how can we tackle the peaceful resolution of conflicts? This is the question raised. If I say this you might wonder, how come hibakushas' message can be considered as a legacy which is common to human beings? Your question is valid.

In the concurrent session, in the previous meeting, there was the discussion to make the A-bomb experience a legacy shared by all. That was one of the themes. In other words, the discussion was centering on whether hibakushas' message is the legacy which is common to all human beings. Therefore that kind of question is quite valid if you have some questions of such.

Now whenever we talk about the hibakusha message which is common to every human being, what specifically is it? You might wonder. And also, according to the schedule of the conference, all the participants are requested to listen to the testimony by hibakusha sometime tomorrow. Therefore, before you listen to the testimony of hibakusha, it will be almost impossible to understand the hibakusha message. Some might think that way. Such questions are also reasonable and valid.

And on some personal note, I took this job as the head of the Hiroshima Peace Institute, as was introduced by Mr. Saitoh, in just April this year. Therefore, I have to say I am not fully confident to assert that I am fully understanding the meaning of the hibakusha message as a legacy common to all the people.

Then you may wonder how we can make any meaningful discussion in this Session Meeting No. 2. Because as a chairperson I found one solution. In other words, I'd like to first of all share with you some statements made by Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima City who has made extraordinary efforts to sustain hibakushas' message as a legacy shared by all and propose them as a temporarily common recognition of what hibakushas' message is for the purpose of discussion, and use them as a starting point for starting up discussion in this meeting. Of course some of you may have a different idea and understanding about what hibakushas' message is, and of course your opinions are quite welcome, and I'd like you to express your ideas of what you think as hibakushas' message in the subsequent discussion. And please request the floor by raising your hands.

Now Mayor Akiba, in his Peace Declaration of 1999, stressed three important contributions left by many hibakusha for the rest of the world.

At first they said that they were able to transcend the infernal pain and despair that the bombings sowed and to opt for life...their families, their schools, and their communities were destroyed in a flash. They hovered between life and death in a corpse-strewn sea of rubble and ruin circumstances under which none who would have blamed them had they chosen death. Yet they chose life. We should never forget the will and courage that made it possible for the hibakusha to continue to be human.

Their second accomplishment is that they effectively prevented a third use of nuclear weapons. Whenever conflict and war break out, there are those who advocate nuclear weapon's use...Yet the hibakusha's will that

evil not be repeated has prevented the unleashing of this lunacy. Their determination to tell their story to the world, to argue eloquently that to use nuclear weapons is to doom the human race, and to show the use of nuclear weapons to be the ultimate evil has brought about this result. We owe our future and our children's future to them.

Their third achievement lies in their representing the new worldview as engraved on the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims and articulated in the Japanese Constitution. They have rejected a path of revenge and animosity that leads to the extinction for all humankind. Instead, they have taken upon themselves not only the evil that Japan as a nation has perpetuated but also the evil of war itself. They have also chosen to put their 'trust in the justice and faith' of all humankind in order to create a future full of hope.

Those are the passages and excerpts from 1999 Peace Declaration by Mayor Akiba. And I believe that the third point is especially important, it has a very important bearing in our discussion in this room. So please allow me to quote some of the other statements by Mayor Akiba to delve into this point.

Now about this Cenotaph referred to by Mayor Akiba, it includes the following inscription which says, "Let all their souls rest in peace. For we shall never repeat the evil," According to Mayor Akiba, because the second sentence doesn't specify who shall not repeat the evil, it caused a great controversy in society and some people said should why citizens of Hiroshima or hibakusha apologize? Shouldn't the United States be made to offer an apology? However, at the end of the day, many hibakusha and citizens of Hiroshima chose to interpret the second sentence to mean that we, all humankind, shall not repeat this mistake and evil, and therefore this inscription remains unchanged.

After this story, Mayor Akiba also added as follows,

This presents a very important world view. The world is seen not as a place of hostilities and animosities. The relationship between the State and people to people are not considered as a fixed antagonistic relationship. Rather, people who chose those sentences for the inscription did so because they believed that the nuclear weapons are the product of human science and technology, and therefore it is the responsibility of the entire humankind to abolish nuclear weapons and construct a peaceful world. This view thus never breeds an idea of retaliation or revenge.

This is the understanding and the view presented by Mayor Akiba.

In a nutshell, this is captured very well in another passage of the 2000 Peace Declaration by Mayor Akiba which says, "to break the chain of hatred and violence, to set out bravely on the road to reconciliation," and also the title of Mayor Akiba's book, *Reconciliation Instead of Retaliation*. Those can be understood as hibakusha's message which needs to be shared as a legacy for all humankind.

I hope you have understood my understanding and this explanation. I'm sorry that I have taken such a long time. Now I would like to welcome the statements from all of you. Five persons have already requested the floor, and as the way to proceed with the discussion in this room, first let those five people to make statements and then we'd like to have a ten-minute intermission and then we'd like to open up the floor for further questions or statements or comments regarding your views about the theme of this Session Meeting No. 2 which is Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts or Hibakusha's Message as a Legacy Shared by All. So that is the way I propose that we proceed with our discussion.

We don't have many participants in this session meeting, so first I'd like to see, I'm not really sure whether all those five people who have request the floor are here. First is Ms. Claire Pessin-Garric from France. Are you here?

Claire Pessin-Garric, Vice President, Seine St. Denis, France: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, Mayor Akiba, I would like to express my appreciation for inviting us all here to Hiroshima. Together with your colleagues in Hiroshima we are gathered here. Together with the citizens of Hiroshima we are gathering, which gives us a great privilege.

The conflict which causes a lot of losses of death could have been avoided if we could have used the money for other purposes, such as development. The formidable amount of money which was invested in the military industry could have been utilized for other purposes. A quarter of the defense budget can be spent to satisfy the needs of people, such as housing, health and education. Sustainable development is the selection of ours.

AFCDRP believes that this is the significance of having this association. These political activities in our community, in Seine St. Denis, we believe the basic human rights, education, housing, health, the rights to have those basic needs, the right to listen to opinions, and rights to be listened to, and the assertion of the rights to be involved in the decisions are something we need to accomplish. We believe the basic rights related to culture are also important.

In such a framework, in order to eliminate regional and local conflicts, we are involved in various activities, and I would like to elaborate some of those activities we are engaged in . Especially among the local authorities overseas, we started the international cooperation movements. Gabon, Palestine, Portugal, Mozambique and those are the partners, and soon Vietnam, Algeria and Israel will be members of our counterparts.

Needless to say, peace and sustainable development can be achieved with those partnerships, especially when there is the common interest and we try and understand the identity of human beings in such movements. Together with the inhabitants of Seine St. Denis, we would like to offer our assistance and help by creating solidarity among the people who are suffering from poverty. For example, in Southeast Asia the tsunami in December, and in London, Iran and African continents there was a series of chaotic situations and terror.

In Seine St. Denis, for the past 30 years there has been a strong appeal for the protection of human rights, especially the rights to culture. Culture is inevitable in order for us to look at ourselves. Culture is the shortest distance to others. In that sense, it is necessary to understand different cultures to eradicate conflicts, to recognize the other's culture is necessary. If we do not do this, that will create terror and that will create hatred and create terrorist attacks. The rights to culture are necessary to be affirmative with its own culture and to assimilate with the other's culture, and by assimilating the other's culture we believe we will be able to get the good result. Diversification culture has to be accepted. In a globe of 6 billion people, I believe for the future this is a very good opportunity for us to understand others.

We now live in a world which is based on free trade. In such an institution, we are not able to rectify the problems lying between South and North because this is the organization which was created based on hegemony. Although Chagall says, if somebody likes me I have to express my appreciation. These are the words I'd like to quote on this occasion. I think it's time to create another road.

We have created the Cultural Agenda 21. This Agenda 21 was adopted in UNESCO and World Forum. Preparation for Agenda 20 was a good example of our activities, understanding the differences in culture. In spite of the differences in political regimes, we are able to be engaged in the common project, and this is one success. Cultural Agenda 21 is very important, not only in Europe but also in the other regions. This can create the energy for motivating people to be engaged in peace-making activities.

This is an urgent task for us to develop our next generation. There were a series of tragedies. One such example was seen in one town. There was a gangster gunshooting. An 11-year-old citizen, a boy, was killed in that gun accident which was impermissible. New violence was also witnessed. Guns were witnessed in the schools. Pistols and guns are used in communities. But the citizens of Seine St. Denis are very much diversified and we do have the sensitivity. And there are people who are living in this community with 150 different nationalities. We respect each other. That kind of respect has to be fully respected. Educational programs are also necessary in order to think about sustainable peace and we are understanding the different cultures. It is now a time to challenge those issues in the world.

Young people are the peace harbingers and we have brought these Peace Messengers together with us. They are engaged in peace activities. And those are the young generation who can become peace creators. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. In order not to create hatred and hostility, the importance of culture is something we should never ignore. I myself was confident about the importance of culture. As I was listening to Ms. Garric, you have talked about the importance of culture in our civilization. Thank you very much for your excellent comments. Thank you very much.

The next speaker who asked for an intervention is the mayor's delegate from Chaville City, Mr. Jean Prince.

Jean Prince, Mayor's Delegate, Chaville, France: Good afternoon. I am from the City of Chaville with a population of 18,000. The theme I'm going to talk about today might not be directly related to our main theme of this conference, which is the abolition of nuclear weapons, but allow me to talk about this subject.

I am a member of AFCDRP. What we are seeking is a sustainable, peaceful culture. Therefore, in that sense for the people living in our local authorities, abolition of nuclear weapons is not the ultimate objective. This is one of the methodologies to reach the sustainable peace culture. In that sense, in the very small town of Chaville, what can we do in this domain, in this area?

City Governors are very close to the citizens. The population is not very large. Group activities and community activities are very much energized, but the funds are limited. What can we do in the longer perspective? We have to make a plan for action. We have to offer information and we have to act upon the plan. Because of those reasons, the peace culture issue should be considered not only by adults but also by the children so that we will be able to create the peace culture in our community. And we have been starting that type of education.

Because the time given to me is very limited, I will just give you one action of ours. In the extra-curricular activities, we are providing education for children by using the city activity center. We have set an education program, sustainability in education, and for each change of scholastic year, we introduce the educational program, that's PAGARS, that's art, sports, environmental, education center.

The purpose of this educational program is as follows: We have hired instructors who are qualified and we motivate the children between 3 years and 16 years of age. Through education, children are able to know each other. They try to rectify their conflicts among themselves and try to understand differences with others and respect each other. The education is equivalent to peace culture, in sports to try and understand the control of his own body, as well as the others' bodies, as well as the handicapped people's situation. Sports leads us to peace culture. Art also leads us to peace culture. Other than that, I'm sure the other colleagues of mine will talk about peace. Therefore, on my part, if I may continue, based on the testimony of hibakusha of Hiroshima, I think it's possible to expand the scope of network of peace-making.

When it comes to the danger of nuclear weapons, for the children, especially in the elderly children, we were able to make them involved by using the game. We have the game which has the title of "The Road to Peace" in order live, to overcome the violence there is the package of the educational materials related to Palestine and Israel. I'm not going to talk about those educational programs more in detail, but, simply speaking, this project is quite effective. As one of the national programs under the auspices of AFCDRP, by giving thoughts to the different ages of children, under the appropriate guidance of the instructors, we are now implementing such educational programs for establishing the peace culture. This is what we can do in one small local authority in France. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, M. Jean Prince. Well, personally, as Mr. Prince said, nuclear weapons abolition itself is not the ultimate goal of the activities of non-nuclear authorities in France, but one of the important methods to construct world

peace. And this is truly an impressive idea for me. In Japan, nuclear weapons abolition is viewed as one very basic ultimate objective. It is more or less taken as such, so abolition of nuclear weapons is considered as one of the means to construct an eternal peace and a peace culture is truly an enlightening comment and view. And also, what he stated as the case with the statement by Ms. Garric seems to indicate the importance of culture and education.

Now then, may I ask the US Representative from the Town of Leverett of the United States of America. The Town of Leverett, Ms. Irene Michaud. Are you here?

Irene Michaud, Representing the Town of Leverett, U.S.A.: Konnichiwa. My name is Irene Michaud from Weston, Massachusetts, American Friends Service Committee in the United States, here representing the Town for Peace, Leverett. This presentation and prayers are a tribute to the hibakusha and the bomb survivors' message. Western Mass, AFSC, Nipponzan Myohoji and Traprock Peace Center, have been working with many hibakusha supporters to seek the Nobel Prize for Peace 2005 for the hibakusha and Hidonkyo organization which represents them.

Supporters of this effort have written letters of nomination and support to the Nobel Committee. We have received copies of some of these letters written to the Nobel Committee. We've put them together in this booklet. I want to share with you some of the statements about the bomb survivors and about their messages.

One letter of support, nomination, says "Their commitment to promote international peace and to campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons, demonstrates a courage and a zeal for humanity that is deeply humbling and is demanding of our support and recognition from the international community," end of quote. Another supporter wrote to the Nobel Committee stating, "As individuals and collectively, the hibakusha survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, have reflected the spirit of peace in turning their personal tragedies into an enduring plea to rid the world of these most terrible weapons of mass destruction." Another statement says, "I can think of no group that has done more for peace than the hibakusha through decades of hard work and volunteer commitment to move the world away from war, particularly nuclear war."

A history professor states of the hibakusha, "They have refused to be simply victims, but have dedicated themselves to the proposition that there shall be no more victims anywhere in the world." A law professor states, "The hibakusha, Hidonkyo organization, can truly be said to be living examples of the true force that Gandhi once represented in another more localized context." Professors have written many books about the use of atomic bombs. One professor and author states, "Hibakusha was a source of support to American scholars who were critical of the US use of force at the end of World War II, and they have carried the banner for the abolition of nuclear weapons for many years now."

The hibakusha's message is appreciated by another nominator who states, "They are living monuments to the necessity of never forgetting." Also, the nominator says, "I had drawn enormous strength and inspiration from the tireless efforts of members of Nihon Hidonkyo." Another nominator states of the hibakusha, "They have taken the horrors that they have experienced and used them as a moral basis to work for peace

around the world.” As one nominator states, “They have challenged the horror that was visited upon them and rejected revenge and bitterness and have called for peace and forgiveness and an end to the nuclear threat.”

Also, the hibakusha have been at the forefront of humanities efforts to save the world from nuclear annihilation. The Peace Abby writes, “Their inspiration as wounded healers speaking out against the use of nuclear weapons, wherever and whenever, gives hope to the entire world.” A US Veteran for Peace states, “In this mad time of possible proliferation, their voice has been ringing throughout the world for peace.”

In summary, the bomb survivors’ messages are messages of courage, humanity and spirit of peace. The hibakusha’s message is a tremendous demonstration of hard work on their part. The hibakusha are a living demonstration of Gandhi’s true force. The hibakusha have educated the scholars and carried the banner. The hibakusha call for peace and reject revenge.

In conclusion, the hibakusha gives hope to the entire world. Let us honor them for their contribution. Arigato gosaimashita.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Thank you very much Ms. Irene Michaud. She presented their campaign to award the Nobel Peace Prize to hibakusha and Hidankyo association, the association of hibakusha A-bomb victims, and she quoted passages from various nomination letters to the Nobel Committee. And she also stated that those letters indicate that hibakusha’s efforts and contributions are the living symbols of the true force activities raised by Gandhi. And I personally also pay the highest tribute to the activities and efforts made by Hidankyo, the association of A-bomb survivors. And what Ms. Irene Michaud just stated also echoes hibakusha’s message interpreted by Mayor Akiba, which I quoted at the very beginning of this discussion. Thank you very much.

So before we move on, I would like to ask a representative from the City of Zuunmod of Mongolia, the Mayor of Zuunmod of Mongolia, Mr. Batbold Tsevegmid.

Batbold Tsevegmid, Mayor, Zuunmod, Mongolia: Good afternoon, my name is Batbold. I am the Mayor of Zuunmod of the Province of Tuv of Mongolia. On the occasion of the Conference of Mayors for Peace, on behalf of the City of Zuunmod of the Province of Tuv of Mongolia, I would like to offer some words of greetings. First and foremost, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to be given this precious opportunity to take part on this important conference and visit this beautiful city.

We, the Delegation from the City of Zuunmod, are extremely honored to be able to be part of such an historic conference. Today it is extremely meaningful that we participate in such a campaign together with cities from all over the world. This conference gives us another opportunity to deepen our friendly relationships between cities. May friendship and peace prevail on you. Let us work together.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the participants at this conference. Thank you.

CHAIR ASAI: Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor of the City of Zuunmod. Now the Mayor of Galle of Sri Lanka has rushed to this venue kindly, so may I have the Mayor at the podium, please.

Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Ariff, Mayor, Galle, Sri Lanka : Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great privilege to be here with you today at the commemorating ceremony of the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. As a Sri Lankan, I am very happy to be here with a small presentation to you all from Galle Municipality, as the Mayor of Galle, which was devastated by the tsunami last December 26. It is regarding the safer world today.

Today there is great unrest in the world. Why is this? There is an unrestricted expansion of nuclear power, expansion and the threat of experiments. The world's major powers, like America, China, who possess the nuclear power, they are in the process of experimenting in the further use of nuclear power generation. This has caused a serious threat to all of us, mankind. Nuclear power can be used both for peaceful purposes, as well as for destructive purposes.

At the same time, there is another threat too, and what it is, it is the threat of terrorism. It is all over the world, and even in my country terrorism is there for the last 20 years. Frequently, we hear of bomb attacks by terrorist groups to places like the USA, and recently in the UK, and in most of the countries like in Sri Lanka. This has caused untold suffering and embarrassment and this aspect needs our immediate attention.

When we think of the present day world, how the increasing use of nuclear power generation has caused unrest among nations. Powerful world powers already possess them and there are nations, for example, India, Pakistan and North Korea are also in the process of developing and expanding their resources on nuclear energy. It has led to controversial arguments about the safety of the world.

As we have experienced in the past, the expansion of nuclear power breeds fear and anxiety and unrest among us. Its expansion is a great threat to world peace if it is uncontrolled. Use will be a great danger, not only for the countries that experiment on it, but it will result in the total destruction and even annihilation of mankind from earth.

What is needed today is the need for a control of unrestricted expansion of nuclear power. The future program of work needs control, at the same time it is necessary to program for the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. It is a great regrettable fact that so far the methods adopted to control the nuclear program have not produced the desired results. Even after 60 years of the explosion of the atomic bomb, the after-effects of it are still being experienced; its effect of radiation is still being studied. It is our bound duty to adopt a resolution.

We hope and pray that the resolution by this body to request the world powers to think again and again before making use of their good offices, to make use of their good offices to control the use of nuclear power a success. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mayor Ariff. Today, if we look at the world, the peaceful use of nuclear energy, it does not stay only with the peaceful use, but sometimes that nuclear energy can be utilized for destructive purposes. That is the point raised by the mayor. In India, Pakistan and DPRK, they advocate the peaceful use of nuclear energy and they had aimed to utilize that nuclear energy for other purposes. As was pointed out by Mayor Ariff, I believe his comment is well taken.

Now then, is there anybody who would like to take the floor at this juncture. Since there are not many people, I would like to urge you to be very enthusiastic in giving your comments or asking the questions.

Michel Cibot, City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France: My name is Michel Cibot. I'm from France. I am from the peace local authorities association, AFCDRP, of France, and I once worked in the Peace Institute of Hiroshima.

The message of hibakusha and the message of the victims should be delivered to the next generation, which matches the theme of discussion. I have been involved in this task for the past 25 years.

Although what I am going to talk about might be different from the main subject, unlike the Japanese people, the hibakusha's message, the victims' messages are not known to French people. I believe the similar situation can be seen in many countries. Hibakusha is not very known to many people in the world because it's very difficult to remember this term or the names. Perhaps more efforts are needed. Their testimony has to be effectively utilized and we have to create such an environment to hear their voices. We have to rectify the problem of ignorance of many countries in the world. Hibakusha's message has to be informed through film or through the publication of books, and books were published by hibakusha or the victims in our case, and in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the French chapter head, who used to be the President of Hidankyo, has published a book.

I always said, how come Hidankyo is not awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize? That was a question I always had. In this year's Mayors for Peace, I sincerely hope that this organization would endorse the Hidankyo to be awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize. Hidankyo is the association of hibakusha A-bomb victims. We should support and endorse such a nomination. By so doing, we are able to deliver the message that hibakusha is still surviving and we can make our self-determination. In an international conference like this we have to have a very specific message to support the nomination of Hidankyo for the Nobel Laureate. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: As Ms. Irene Michaud said, victims, hibakusha's existence, has to be known, and Hidankyo, who has been making their best efforts to let the message be known to the world, has to be awarded with a Nobel Peace Prize.

Yes, personally, Japanese hibakusha information is not very well known to many people in the world. I believe this creates a very grave issue and concern. In Germany there was the Holocaust and this has now become the memory common to all human beings. On the other hand, what had happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki? It's not a memory, a recollection common to all the human beings. Indeed, that is a grave concern.

Probably, I would say the United States, who was the actor of dropping the A-bomb, did not admit that they committed a crime by dropping the A-bomb on Japan. If the United States does not admit its sin, we are not able to make this as a remembrance or the recollection common to all human beings.

Now Hidankyo, to be offered the Nobel Peace Prize, if that decision is made, in order to do that we have to overcome some of the impairments and obstacles we might face vis-à-vis the United States moves. Thank you.

Any other comments or any other people who would like to take the floor?

Jean-Pierre Brouhon, Official Delegation Representative, Ixelles, Belgium: I am from Brussels, Jean Pierre Brouhon. Brussels is one of the European capitals, and this year Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorate the 60th anniversary of the A-bombings.

In Europe, even today this atrocious tragedy committed on human beings is not well-known among Europeans. This is very shocking. Sixty years have passed, but we have not really done a thorough soul-searching on the causes and reasons. So I suggest to the Chairman, and we have to make sure that we have the duty to remember what was done 60 years ago.

And in Europe, the true reason why these bombs were dropped is now being scrutinized by some Europeans with a level of high interest. They are trying to grope for the reasons but not enough people are making efforts to know the reasons why those cities were afflicted with those A-bombings, because, as we see from the activities of NATO or in the United States, we haven't really made serious efforts to understand who are the ones who committed this serious crime and why they did it.

And coming over to Japan I want to know whether Japanese people are making serious efforts to analyze the causes of why these A-bombs were dropped on these two cities.

From the moral perspective, the Japanese demanded an apology and compensation. However, I also hear that Japanese are trying to recommend hibakusha and the legacy of A-bombings to the world's heritage.

But of course, it is wonderful that hibakusha's message is not a message of retaliation. Hibakusha A-bomb survivors, I believe, have the right that they demand and claim for a memory and compensation. I do not read Japanese newspapers, but as far as I hear, sometimes I understand that those movements and campaigns by hibakusha are more or less isolated and limited to a certain extent. But I wonder if there are any movements to provide moral compensation to hibakusha and A-bomb survivors.

For Europeans who are trying to push for the cause of peace, we believe that hibakusha A-bomb survivors are the speakers of testimonies, and my question is, what are the Japanese and the Japanese government doing for the benefit of hibakusha?

Chairperson: Thank you very much for the intervention. So we have some Japanese participants on this floor, and I think that question is a very important and serious

question posed to us, the Japanese. We, the Japanese people, as regards the tragedy which was suffered by A-bomb survivors, hibakusha, are we doing anything as Japanese fellow country people to assist hibakusha people so that they are able to get moral compensation?

I have various personal observations regarding this point, but let me ask the Japanese participants on the floor who would like to respond to this very important question. Anyone? Any Japanese participant who would like to respond to this question? No one? Well, I am serving as the Chairperson of this session so I don't think it is appropriate for me to share with you my personal point of view, but as I believe this is indeed a very important question posed to us from a friend from Europe, please allow me to make some modest attempts to respond to this curious question posed.

To be quite honest and candid with you, with respect to the moral responsibility for A-bomb dropping, I don't think Japanese people have done enough to demand a moral responsibility to be taken by the perpetrator, the Americans. Of course there are Japanese people who are indignant and angry about what Americans did on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and this is clear from the opinion polls taken in Japan, however, the word "reconciliation" is also considered very important, and hibakusha A-bomb survivors deeply understand the importance of reconciliation. As a result, they are put in a position where they have difficulty demanding moral responsibility, and there is such a social atmosphere which makes such a demand very difficult.

However, including the A-bomb dropping on those two cities, some Japanese tend to believe that that was done and there's nothing we can do about those past events, as we have been so guided. We were guided to believe in that manner by the Japanese government policies. And I personally believe that those Japanese government policies, which have guided us or have misled us to believe in such a manner, are quite wrong. Putting aside whether we demand any material compensation for such a holocaust or tragedy, putting this question aside, I believe that we have to seriously demand and claim a moral responsibility to be fully taken by the United States. Unless we push this cause towards the United States, as Japanese we will keep having trouble in putting this atrocity in the right place in our history.

Now, so much for my intervention. I would now like to return to the floor. Any other comment or request from the floor, please? Just a moment, please. Yemen, I believe the Mayor of Aden is here to deliver his speech. Mayor Dr. Al-Shaibi, may I invite you to the podium, please?

Yahia Al-Shaibi, Mayor, Aden, Yemen: Sorry, I was enjoying the other session. I just found out I've been deficient. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. It is my pleasure and privilege to bring to you greetings from the Republic of Yemen and from the port city of Aden that I have the honor to be its governor.

This General Conference of Mayors for Peace marks the 60th anniversary of the events that changed the world and entered the name of Hiroshima into the world's history books. Whenever the name Hiroshima is mentioned, we recall the first use of a nuclear weapon in war and remember the vast suffering of this city and its people. The very name of the city urges to spare no effort to prevent such an event from ever happening again. The ability of one nation to use nuclear weapons on other members

of the human race has been a nightmare that the world has lived with ever since Hiroshima, and shortly afterwards Nagasaki, were devastated 60 years ago.

It is right that this event should only mark the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, but should also be a special venue for the work of governments and non-governmental organizations that seek to eliminate nuclear weapons from the world as one of its primary goals. Around the world today, the shadow of local, ethnic, national and regional tensions is very evident, and the fact that growing numbers of countries are acquiring the ability to make nuclear weapons tells us that the proliferation of such armaments is a present reality that we have to deal with as a matter of great urgency. The danger that these weapons could be used in a war, or even in an attack by a group seeking to harm a society or a city elsewhere, would affect the whole world, and would affect it in ways that we cannot forecast or imagine. The danger cannot and must not be ignored.

This conference provides us with an opportunity to express our concern that the threat that world faces is a very serious and real one. And therefore, we must express our united stance that weapons of mass destruction must be removed from the earth. At this time, we are confirming the views of the many millions of our fellow citizens around the world who wish only to live in peace and to show their mutual respect for other nations and peoples. We therefore see it as our duty to demand that research, development programs and other actions aimed at making nuclear armaments should be banned.

Mr. Chairman, the Republic of Yemen will play its part by standing united with the delegates to this conference to achieve the 2020 Vision in reminding the world and its leaders of the interdependence between nations. The globalization that has become an important factor in the world reminds us that we depend on each other for so many of the benefits that the world offers, and it is therefore sad that the threat of nuclear conflict is again something that we must regard as a clear and present danger.

Aden has been a strategically important port city for well over 2,000 years. It lies directly on one of the world's major east-west trading routes at the western end of the Gulf of Aden across the southern entrance to the Red Sea. Because of its location, ships from many parts of the world pass close to the harbor entrance, and increasing numbers of them call at Aden to deliver and to load national cargoes or to drop off containers for transshipment to other ports in the region.

In May this year, the government of Aden held a workshop for representatives of other ports and the key organizations in our region. The focus of the workshop was, how to trace the movement of weapons that might be carried in a container, for example, and pass through a port on the way to the final destination. We invited experts in a number of disciplines to share their knowledge and experience with those attending. This workshop helped people in key positions in our region to acquire a better insight into the potential dangers in which goods and materials of all types are constantly on the move from one container to another.

In closing, I would like to express my compliments to all of you who have invested your time and effort in order to take part in this important event. The world has changed in many ways during the ten years since the 50th anniversary of the bombing

of Hiroshima, and some of the changes have unfortunately been negative. Let us spare no effort to bring about positive changes over the coming ten years, so that we will be able to look back and be satisfied that we did all within our spheres of influence to achieve our goal of making the use of nuclear weapons in settling conflicts a thing of the past and will not be a part of the world that we share. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Mayor Shaibi, thank you very much. Listening to your comments I wonder whether I can invite more comments from the floor, including the comments on Mayor Shaibi's presentation. Please.

Unknown: Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Like other participants who made a contribution, I believe that to share the message and to keep the continuity by sharing the message from hibakusha is very important. As time goes by in the future, those message may completely disappear. I believe that the involvement of young people is going to be more important.

Yesterday I had a chance to meet with young people where they were talking with hibakusha A-bomb survivors. Such an encounter of sharing time together is essential, necessary indeed. In France, not just in France, but for us in France there was a very important commemoration, that is, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the French from Occupation and their liberation from the concentration camps, especially Auschwitz, the Auschwitz concentration camp.

The people who were detained in those concentration camps and researchers who had researched such an important theme have visited the schools to transfer the message of those people. They went to the outskirts of cities and those people themselves have taken the initiative to transfer down their surgeon experience to young people. They know that they have not so many years before they die and they feel the need and urgency to share what they experienced. And I believe that the same thing needs to be done vis-à-vis hibakusha A-bomb survivors. And that should take place not only in Japan, not just in Japan but in the rest of the world, in many local communities around the world.

We make it a rule to have an occasion to take our citizens to Nazi concentration camps. And hibakusha and A-bomb survivors and those people who were detained in concentration camps have been the victims of the deprivation of human dignity. I wouldn't say that all of them are heroes and heroines but they are going to be the heroes and heroines because they had such strong determination to continue to live. And their will to transfer and share the testimonies of experience to others is not at all easy, because when they tell their experience, they relive the suffering and tragedy they once suffered.

Hibakusha A-bomb survivors are not well-known in Europe. For many Europeans, the end of the war was August 5, 1945. August 5 is the end of World War II for many Europeans, but actually the war was drawn to an end in such a tragic manner when A-bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We need to work together to assist and help in such important campaigns and efforts by A-bomb survivors. That is why we are all here.

The Nobel Peace Prize I'm sure is going to be a very important tool to let the people around the world know the message of A-bomb survivors. They are the martyrs, and the people will know through the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a very important intervention. Auschwitz and the Holocaust, which took place in Europe, is now a shared memory for all humankind. However, if you look at the position of hibakusha A-bomb survivors, their experience has not become a shared memory of humankind, and that I believe is a very important and grave situation and a source of concern for all of us who are interested. In order for their experience to become a universal memory around the world, we have to take their experience as a very universal issue.

Daniel Fontaine, Mayor, Aubagne, France: I am the Mayor of Aubagne from France, the City of Aubagne from France. I am the President of AFCDRP, a French organization of Mayors for Peace.

I believe that the issue we are dealing with today in this session is extremely important. When we think about especially peaceful resolutions of conflicts, as a lesson to the discussion so far, for a peaceful resolution of conflicts, in Europe we try to bring this about through the work of memory and remembrance. The work of memory and remembrance of course has a lot to do with education. Some speakers have emphasized the importance of educational activities and campaigns. For instance, concentration camps, the work of memory and remembrance is emphasized in the school setting, as was mentioned by a previous speaker.

Recently, the French government has done a very important job of furthering this work of memorizing and the work of not forgetting. We have this duty of not letting experience fade away. This duty of remembering the past, of course, has an important bearing upon the nuclear weapons abolition. What happened in August 1945, by revisiting what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki we can execute our duty of remembrance and not forgetting.

And also, the NPT Review Conference ended up in failure in New York, as we know. Many of us went to New York on that occasion to support the cause pushed forward by the mayors of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, but again, in New York the United Nations was found to be under the total control of the United States. They let the United States control the whole discussion and debate, and on the final day the United States imposed their opinions and agenda on the rest of the world.

Therefore, I would like to applaud the proposal and suggestion, that is to nominate Hidankyo as a Nobel Peace Prize winner. We should not wait for any approval from the American government. We don't need to do that. Education and the memory of A-bomb survivors and to recognize what they all have gone through, if we recognize their dedication and their experience in this 60th anniversary of the A-bombing and if we recognize their dedication and their suffering, I think we need to pass a resolution at this General Conference to appeal to the rest of the world the need and the legitimacy of nominating hibakusha as a Nobel Peace Prize winner. And to have such a concrete action will let us remember what we are going to achieve in this General Conference. And this evening we are going to have a Drafting Committee Meeting to write up an Appeal out of the General Conference.

I believe that it is very important that with strong resolve we appeal and propose to the Drafting Committee that we insert a sentence that says that this General Conference would like to recommend and nominate hibakusha to the Nobel Peace Prize and I believe that that will allow the rest of the world to understand and share the experience. And I think we will be able to make a step further forward into the future for the nuclear weapons abolition.

On behalf of my French friends of AFCDRP, which has 60 local authority members in France, I would like to put forward this proposal.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Hidankyo should be nominated as a Nobel Laureate. That point should be included in the Appeal in the document of this conference. That should be put forward on the table to the Drafting Committee. That was the proposal raised.

Fortunately, the Chairperson of the plenary session, Prof. Mogami, is now attending this session. This message I am sure was taken by Prof. Mogami and I'm sure to the Drafting Committee which will be held this evening, we will give the thoughts to this proposal.

Unfortunately, I myself am not able to attend this Drafting Committee this evening because of my personal commitment, therefore I will deliver the proposal to Prof. Mogami because Prof. Mogami is with us. Is this acceptable, Prof. Mogami? Will you take this to the Drafting Committee? Prof. Mogami said in Japanese, it was taken note of, he said.

Any other intervention from the floor? To be frank with you it looks like there are a lot of interventions from people who are sitting in the front row, but no voices are heard from the people sitting in the back. I feel very lonely and I feel very unfortunate. Are there any interventions from the people sitting at the back?

Toshiki Mogami, Chairperson of Plenary Session I and II, Professor, International Christian University, Japan: To the French delegates, I have received a lot of wonderful comments from the French delegates and I'm obliged to make a comment, so allow me to make a few comments.

First of all, I forgot your name, sir. The A-bombing. The fact that we were A-bombed, what is the perception of the Japanese? Is there any moral responsibility we are feeling? And are we determined to make a claim or to make a demand? Your proposal is well taken. Unfortunately, few Japanese have taken this as a serious moral issue. This is the general response. There are various reasons for this. For one thing, after the war the perpetrators of the A-bombing became the biggest alliance with Japan, therefore accusing the perpetrator means accusing the United States, so we were no longer allowed to do that because of the alliance between the two countries.

And this was included in the nationwide censorship because of the US-Japan alliance. The fact that we were A-bombed was not able to be demanded for compensation. And we Japanese have discarded our rights to do so.

Unlike Auschwitz, the Nagasaki and Hiroshima issue did not become universal. What do I mean by, did not become universal? In other words, this kind of incident should not occur on anybody, in any place. What was seen in Auschwitz should not occur, not only on Jews, but also the Palestinians and also the other people in the world. So this is what I call universal. Now what about the incident in Hiroshima and Nagasaki? This should not happen in other places in the world, including the United States and France. But this kind of logic was not seen. In other words, Japanese discarded or Japanese were deprived of the right to do so.

We are very much appreciative of the kind words raised by the Japanese delegates. What was lacking was pointed out by the French delegates. After the war, many Japanese tend to forget whatever is inconvenient to them in order to build up our nation.

Who are the ones whom we forgot? People in Hiroshima, people in Nagasaki. And also people in Okinawa. Those are the people whom the Japanese forgot, their miserable environment, their miserable situation. For Japanese to forget what their experiences are, they try to protect their interest in Japan. Therefore, the experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not become as universal as Auschwitz. Many people, all the people talk and know about Auschwitz, but other than Hiroshima and Nagasaki people, few people talk about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, even in Japan. It was very difficult to universalize this incident.

On the other hand, with a very small number of people, friends of France, you are telling us this is the experience which should become universalized, this is the encouragement and we are very much appreciative. I believe this is the admonishment we received from French delegates, from French friends.

With those limitations and restrictions, there are some people who tried their best to universalize this incident. Hidankyo was one, as the Mayor of Aubagne said, nominating Hidankyo to become a Nobel Laureate. This was the encouragement and the further efforts for universalization. And we are very much appreciative for your credit.

To summarize my comments to the French colleagues, because this point was very important for us there are so many things we have to reflect upon in Japan. And to your encouragement I am very much appreciative and grateful. Thank you.

Chairperson: Prof. Mogami, thank you very much. Yes. I see the hand out. Once again, I would like to check the floor.

Brouhon: This discussion is becoming very interesting to me. The comment was made on the Japanese people's attitude vis-à-vis Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to the Holocaust. Belgium friends had to leave here, but he has prepared Mary Norton's documents. Mary Norton has written a lot of things about Japan. Mary Norton is known to many people. According to her book, she said no Japanese talk about Hiroshima, but Hiroshima is seen in many places in the world. Artistic masterpieces, artistic statement, Hiroshima is seen in many corners of the world, Mary Norton said. I believe this argument is very interesting, I said, but still I have to admit this is a

complex issue. Japanese culture and Japanese attributes, I have been studying what they are in the past 30 years.

There is something which is existing although it is not heard. I have started the psychiatric analysis of the human beings, how the human behavior is linked with the human psychology. What's not heard, what's not said, how the incident can have an influence on human behavior. This is the question I continue to seek. Once the A-bomb was used, but never after Nagasaki, but still the threat of nuclear weapons still exists and is very grave.

We have to again deliberate on the threat of nuclear weapons. The reason why there was no use of nuclear weapons after that is, German scholars said about the risk of society, the fact that there was no incident after something means something to us. In other words, although Hiroshima is not talked of a lot in Western society, unlike the Auschwitz case, but in Japan, although it is not voiced out, although it is not talked from mouth to mouth, people know Hiroshima. Once you hear the words Hiroshima and Nagasaki, everybody knows what that is. As one of the tasks of historians, Hiroshima is one instantaneous incident. The Napoleonic wars continued for several months and Napoleon was subjected to many studies. What about Hiroshima? Few publications were made on Hiroshima.

So the ways we try to understand things are so different. This subtle sensitive memory issue is very important, but more efforts should be exerted with the courage and bravery of all the local authorities. We continue to seek remembrance and memories of Hiroshima.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a very important comment and intervention. I saw a hand again. A gentleman.

Hervé Brahmy, President, Seine St. Denis, France: My name is Hervé Brahmy. I am Prefectural Council President of Seine St. Denis. Now the work of remembrance, about conflict as a whole, is part of my work and activities. Please allow me to say a few words about other armed conflicts which took place in Europe and also conflicts which have taken place in many other parts of the world.

Now the work to "remember." The work of remembrance and memory needs to be done in a continuous manner. City council members have a very important duty to execute. They have to be the vectors of orientation of such a memory and remembrance. We are in an advantageous position, perhaps the best position, to do this work because of the following reason. Like catalysts of energy, we can be engaged in many works. We can work as a catalyst to solicit energy and activities on the part of the citizens. This might be a discussion to be done in the other session, but putting together organizations and the energy of citizens, we can form a public forum of space or public space through which we disseminate the message of peace to the rest of the world. Then to disseminate the message for peace itself is extremely essential.

As I came to Hiroshima, I came with young people, actually members of the youth organizations, and young people in our city and province came to Hiroshima with me. And we hope that they will become the Peace Messengers. Especially when they

come to Hiroshima and meet with young people from other cities, I hope that they will have a very good encounter and meetings with young people from other cities around the world. I had a chance to attend a meeting nearby this conference hall. And young people from France and Japan and other countries were assembling in a very big room and they were having a very active discussion with each other.

So what we have to do, I believe, is as follows and that is to use the technology and tools of communication or information sharing. I say this because A-bomb survivors or those who were put in Nazi concentration camps can share their experience and testimonies with the rest of the world.

So we should ask engineers or mechanics to produce very good film or videotape as educational materials which can be used to enlighten young people around the world. And this is where we need to execute our duty. And that's exactly what I would like to do upon my return to Seine St. Denis. We would like to put a public place where we install personal computers and we of course can use various media, for instance videotape for computers. We would like to use such technologies and let young people use such information technology.

Already there are very good educational materials, such as cartoons and comic books, and of course they can be used as good educational materials effectively. By so doing, we might be able to make step forward from just remembering what happened but to awareness-raising. And such educational materials will be a very effective tool to shift from remembering to concrete action. Then there are still people who have survived the Nazi Holocaust and concentration camps, and I hope that young people will have little encounters and an opportunity to meet with those survivors. And I also believe that a lot of people can come to our city from the rest of the world.

Actually, we have residents from about 100 different countries living in our city. And those are people from different cultural backgrounds. Of course they can also use such information and engineering technology to disseminate new experience and information. As a Councilor, I suggest that each local authority use information and new technology to disseminate information and awareness about peace and disarmament needs, especially to young people.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for an intervention. Not just Japanese young people, but toward young people around the world, sharing experience of the A-bomb survivors is emphasized as a very important task to be done and continued.

When it comes to Japanese young people, except for those who live in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, those Japanese young people do not have many opportunities to know about hibakusha survivors unless they come and visit Hiroshima or Nagasaki as their school trips. So it is extremely important task for us to consider what other ways we can use to disseminate the experience among Japanese young people.

Now is there anyone who requests the floor now?

Koichi Otani, Coordinator of Zuunmod, Japan: About Mongolia, allow me to make an additional explanation because the presentation was made in Mongolian. I am a coordinator. My name is Otani. The document is translated into Japanese. We

are very sorry we are not able to prepare the English version for the presentation. From Zuunmod of Mongolia, we have the Mayor attending here. Three cities are the members of this organization. Since 1993, two cities have joined as members. And for this year, Zuunmod, one city, has become a participant in this conference, in this 6th Mayors for Peace General Conference.

And also, in the series of the conferences of Mayors for Peace, this is the very first time for a Mongolian delegate to take the floor. Usually, they use the Mongolian language, and for the local authority of Mayors it is very difficult to speak in either English or French. That's why he has delivered in Mongolian.

An A-bomb in August 1945, Mongolia was the government which had given the quick assistance to orphans. Because the country is a socialist nation there was no international relationship with Japan, and when there was the A-bombing convention in 1957 in August, Mongolian attended that meeting to communicate the A-bomb message.

The size of the Mongolia is four times larger than that of Japan and the population is 2.5 million, and we have as many as 25 million heads of animals, such as cows and sheep. If there is any relation to weapons, not only human beings but also the animals are not able to live.

From Russia in the northern part and China in the southern part, it is surrounded. If there is the use of a nuclear weapon there is the threat of irradiation. And we have appealed for the nuclear-free zone in Central Asia to the United Nations. It is very important to secure the security in Northeast Asia in this Central Asia, so having the delegates from Mongolia is quite important for this conference. Thank you very much for listening.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Mongolia is situated in a very important position and a nuclear weapons-free zone is very important to be created in this region. Is there any other person who would like to take the floor at this juncture? If not, allow me to make some wrap-up for a few minutes.

This concurrent session was titled as Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts, and I thought that the discussion might concentrate on peaceful resolutions of conflicts among the participants. Therefore, the latter part, A-bomb Survivors' Message, I wasn't quite sure how much interest we would be able to draw from the participants.

But to give you the conclusion, most of the statements were focused on the A-bomb activities and messages surrounding Hidankyo. And also, there was the proposal to make the recommendation to nominate Hidankyo for the Nobel Laureate, because by doing so, A-bombing facts can be shared as the memory common to all human beings. And this can be accepted and received as the legacy of all humankind.

And those are some of the important points. I did not give thoughts during the past. As one of the scholars who is engaged in peace studies, I will continue to be engaged in the peace movement.

About the proposal on the recommendation of Hidankyo to become the Nobel Laureate, I will be announcing this publicly in Japan so that we will be able to do so in the future.

I don't know whether my summation was sufficient. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this conference. Thank you very much. The meeting is adjourned.

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Exchange with Hiroshima Residents
What We Can Do to Abolish Nuclear Weapons by 2020

18:30-21:00, Friday, August 5, 2005

Himawari

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Nobuo Kazashi**

Professor, Kobe University

Speaker: **André Baraglioli**

Deputy Mayor, Bagnolet, France

André Hédiger

Mayor, Geneva, Switzerland

Stewart Kemp

Principal Policy Officer, Manchester, U.K.

Steve Freedkin

Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, U.S.A

Raul Corro

Councilor, Muntinlupa, Philippines

Delphine Brilland

Councilor, Bobigny, France

Pastor Pier Luigi

Representative, Balducci Support Center, Italy

Bozidar Stanisi

Refugee of Yugoslavia, Italy

Hitoshi Shinmoto

Representative, Hiroshima Branch of Asia Pacific Forum, Japan

Ritsunori Doi

COOP, Japan

Akiko Awa

World Friendship Center, Japan

Fujiwara

No-DU Project Hiroshima, Japan

Steve Leeper

U. S. Representative of Mayors for Peace Secretariat, U.S.A.

Susan Walker

Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant

Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer, U.S.A.

Chantal Bourvic

Councilor, Val de Marne, France

Johnanne Winchester

Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA

Shinichiro Tsukada

Peace Depo, Japan

Yoshimitsu, Arakawa

Marine Animal Institute, Japan

Osamu Kimura, Japan

Tadaomi Saitoh, Chairman, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation: Good evening, everybody. My name is Saitoh from the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. The discussion was quite active and the previous meeting was delayed, and therefore this meeting was also delayed from the scheduled time. This year, Mayors for Peace is now trying to establish the nuclear weapons ban treaty through the emergency activities for nuclear weapons abolishment. However, this year's May NPT Review Conference failed to narrow the gap between the nuclear powers and non-nuclear powers, and therefore, the NPT system is on the verge of collapse.

Therefore, the 6th Mayors for Peace General Conference is going to assess the result of the NPT review meeting, and we want to discuss what kind of initiatives we should do in order to enact the nuclear weapons ban treaty. So this exchange with Hiroshima residents is also designed to discuss with the citizens of Hiroshima in order to abolish the nuclear weapons by 2020. And there are also participants for the General Conference and the Hiroshima residents who are expected to exchange. I hope that the discussion will be very active today.

Now I would like to introduce the Chairperson, Prof. Kazashi, from Kobe University, Department of Letters. Prof. Kazashi graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, and he got a doctorate in philosophy from Yale University, and his specialty is contemporary philosophy and modern Japanese thought. After serving as an assistant professor in Hiroshima City University, he has been a professor in Kobe University since 2001. He used to be a member of the Preparatory Committee to establish the Hiroshima Peace Institute and an Executive Advisor to Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. He is now a member of the Committee of the Hiroshima Association for Nuclear Weapons Abolition and also a representative of Non-Depleted Uranium Hiroshima Project. Now I would like to give the floor to Prof. Kazashi.

Chairperson, Nobuo Kazashi, Professor, Kobe University: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for your kind introduction, Mr. Saito. Since this is in Hiroshima I thought maybe I should speak in Japanese, but since this is an international conference, I assume that speaking in English would be more suitable, so I would like to switch into English.

This conference is very unique in several regards. And one of its reasons comes from the fact that this Mayors for Peace conference is an attempt from the side of the level of municipalities to exert influence on the international politics in order to orient the future of the earth which affects all of us. However, as you know and everybody knows, there is a huge gap between most people's wish around the world for nuclear abolition on the one hand, and the reality of international politics on the other hand. For example, Senator Roche quoted the number about the opinion poll, and that is to say, worldwide about 87 per cent of people are for banning nuclear weapons, and even in the United States the number is quite high; I think it was 76 per cent of the American people are for banning nuclear weapons.

I felt this huge gap existing between the people's wish and the reality of international politics when I participated in the NPT Review Conference personally as a member of HANWA, the Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, and also as a member of Non-DU, Non-Depleted Uranium Hiroshima Project. So in this sense, I think that this Mayors for Peace Conference has an extremely important and urgent role to play, that is to say, mediate between the people's hope and wishes and what's going on in international politics. In this sense, needless to say, the meeting for

exchange between the mayors coming from all over the world and the people here in Hiroshima and Japan, has a very important meaning in the sense that this is a very unique occasion between the municipalities' leaders working for nuclear weapons abolition and the people of Hiroshima and Japan, because in a word, I think that this unique endeavor by Mayors for Peace would not be able to succeed without the support coming from the citizens, needless to say.

So I think I'd like to, without further explanation, in order to have time for exchange among us as much as possible, I'd like to immediately ask the representatives from abroad to present each view. And the way we are going to proceed this evening is as follows. First, we are going to listen to the presentations by the, I believe, eight representatives of Mayors for Peace, from Bagnolet, France, and Geneva, Switzerland, and Manchester, England, and Varanasi, India, and Hambantota, Sri Lanka, and also Berkeley, California, USA, and Muntinlupa, Philippines, and also Bobigny, France. And actually, is there any other representative who is supposed to give a talk here but I didn't mention, because actually I have a rather different list of presenters in Japanese? I'm personally, I myself am confused a little bit, so please let me know if I missed some representatives. And actually there is one representative from Italy and we'd like to ask him after these presentations.

And hopefully, we can finish these initial presentations by the representatives from the Mayors for Peace Conference within an hour, less than an hour, so that we can have more than one hour for exchange among us. I hope that is the way we can proceed. And so may I ask first the Deputy Mayor of the City of Bagnolet, France, Mr. André Baraglioli, to come over?

André Baraglioli, Deputy Mayor, Bagnolet, France: Bonjour. Merci. Thank you very much. Mayor Akiba and the participants of this conference and participants of this meeting today, I think if we could get together, although the number may be few, we will be able to really achieve true peace. It's a part of the problem that I am coaching from. The nuclear weapons abolition is a very large and high target for a part of the people and for a utopia for the safety of the world. This abolition of nuclear weapons is very important and it is a very realistic target as well.

We have to develop this nuclear weapons-free world along with the development of the world peace culture. Peace culture is being promoted by our city, Bagnolet City, and we do this through establishing sister relationships with various cities throughout the world. One is with Shatila in Lebanon and also Oranienburg in Germany. Old and young and men and women were killed in these cities, and the reason why we have a sister relationship with Shatila is because the citizens and the organization are to have an exchange with our city's organizations and also our ultimate goal is to establish true peace.

The issue of peace is not just an issue in the Middle East but also an issue for our city as well. This is because the Jews and the Islam people live in our city and there is much violence towards these people. In Lebanon, in Shatila, through the sister relationship with Shatila we want to abolish this kind of violence.

With regard to Oranienburg, the Oranienburg sister relationship, we have conducted various things together and we have had a communiqué declared jointly in order to oppose jointly against war in Iraq. And also 100 people participated in our city in liberalizing the people.

In Hiroshima I understand that there are many survivors of the A-bomb that are passing away. But also in other cities there are people who have experienced the large disaster passing away and there are less people who have had this kind of experience. And between Germany and the French we have had three wars in our history, however, our countries have a very good relationship now and this has been proven by the sister city relationship between the two cities.

The survivors of the war and the survivors of the A-bomb, the survivors of the Nazi disaster exist. As the third generation today, we should make an effort so that we will never forget the tragedy of the past. The memory of the past makes present days something that is humane. And in addition to that, there is discrimination which is causing war and also this leads to the threat of nuclear weapons. So we want to convey the target of peace and of the abolishment of nuclear war or nuclear weapons to the citizens of our city. Thank you.

Chairperson: That's very sad. I think Mr. André Baraglioli very kindly finished his speech I think within five minutes, so I think I'd like to ask the following speakers to follow his model. So now I'd like to ask the Mayor of Geneva, Switzerland, Mr. André Hédiger to come over to the podium.

André Hédiger, Mayor, Geneva, Switzerland: Ladies and Gentlemen, and then the residents of Hiroshima. First of all, I would like to say that the City of Geneva is fighting now. Switzerland has 700 years of history, and during that time we have never fought a war with a foreign country, with other wars overseas, we didn't participate in them, and there was a civil war in Switzerland when we were making Switzerland, the republic of Switzerland a country, so in terms of wars, we have never been really dynamic in the past. So Geneva is the place where the humanitarian spirit is living.

You know that international organizations are in Switzerland. There is a United Nations, there is the WHO, and various international institutes operate in Switzerland. The Red Cross also exists in Switzerland. So these international institutes are important elements for residents of Hiroshima, of people of Hiroshima. The Red Cross, Dr. Marcel's city's doctors are actually having sent the food aid and relief aid to the people of Hiroshima right after the atomic bombs, and in September we are organizing an event for Hiroshima and we are also going to publish a book about Hiroshima.

Please pay a visit to Geneva. Geneva is a good place where people are well accepted, and we are pursuing peace. Two years ago we had an opinion poll and we learnt that there are 130 different nationalities or 130 different people with different backgrounds who are living in Switzerland, so 130 different nationalities coexist and are living in Switzerland. So of course all European people come to Switzerland and live there, and because of the political reasons sometimes people come to Switzerland. So we respect ethnic groups and differences. In some schools, the people from 40 or 50 different countries are learning together. Educational institutions are still having a hard time. The children are coming from different 40, 50 cultures and countries and languages, so the diets are also different among the children. So multiculturalism is what we have in Geneva. And it's been going on for several centuries. So from West to East and from South to North, lots of people are coming to Geneva, even from Albania.

And in Europe, various developments occurred and a some time in the past there was fascism in Spain. For example, in Portugal, we had fascism even in Greece, and some people who were persecuted there and then have fled to Switzerland, and we have accepted them and then provided jobs to them. So in many sense, we didn't build a block or wall to send off these Spanish people.

So the people living in Geneva are living in harmony, so everybody living in Geneva are the people of Geneva. So what I'm trying to say is actually the peace culture is already existing in Geneva. This is what I wanted to say.

So the problem we have is the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal. We agree to it, and that Appeal was made in the keynote speech in the beginning, and we also respond to the United Nations Peace Appeal. And how can we make peace is the question. We have a peace culture and peace education in Geneva, so we are incorporating the peace culture in education and we have a peace school in Geneva, so faculties are teaching peace. They are giving the education for the sake of peace, the children. So they are teaching the teachers about how to teach peace to children. So a big amount of budget is spent for education, and also a big amount of money is spent for cooperation.

And cooperation with other countries is a very important issue. So the developing countries, for example, Africa, Latin America, and East European country people, to them we provide support and cooperation and the women in Africa. And also we are spending money to develop the firefighters. We also provide support to a lot of people. So we have to help other people. We have this strong determination. Some people are starving. To them as well we are making a lot of initiatives. So those people who are suffering, we are lending a hand.

And then, we have had the Peace Appeal so that the reconciliation between the Palestinians and Israelis will be made. So now we have to make an effort so that Palestine and Israel will make peace, will reach an agreement, so that they will meet each other so that they can sit at the discussion table, the negotiation table.

A couple of years ago, we made this kind of appeal in Salavie, and in Morocco there are two ethnic groups, and against them, to them as well we have asked them to have a negotiation and discussion and we are cooperating with the UN so we are making cooperation with all the other countries. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a very unique history of Switzerland with many ethnic groups, which is very encouraging for us too. And I'd like to listen to more of it, but this exchange meeting is multicultural itself so I think we have to try to make as much time as possible for the exchange too. So next I'd like to ask the Principal Policy Officer from Manchester, England, Mr. Stewart Kemp.

Stewart Kemp, Principal Policy Officer, Manchester, U.K.: Thank you very much, Chairman, and thank you for the invitation to speak at this session. An apology first of all because I was hoping that our Lord Mayor Afzal Khan would be able to speak at this session but he has another engagement and so I've undertaken to step into his shoes. I'll speak slowly because I haven't pre-prepared text that I've passed to the interpreters, to the translators, and so I don't want to run ahead too quickly for them. But I'm very conscious of time, Chairman, so I'll be as concise as possible. And I think the easiest way for me to be concise is perhaps to headline a few issues that we can come back to and perhaps discuss in the question-answer session after these presentations are completed.

Manchester is a very diverse city. It has a very large Muslim community, as represented by our present Lord Mayor Afzal Khan, a very large Jewish community, as represented in fact by the Chief Officer of our local authority, a very large Chinese community, and many Chinese people work within the local authority, and indeed many other groups and nationalities represented in the city. A very large Afro-Caribbean community, I should more correctly say of Afro-Caribbean origin, now a Black-British community. And we try to reach the whole spectrum of the community through the council's peace policy and its anti-nuclear policy to promote those policies for all the citizens.

This year, and now Mayor Afzal Khan referred to this at the presentation earlier today, the city carried a new policy that I would just like to read to you just by way of introduction:

The Council recognizes the contribution that it can make through the provision and delivery of its services towards promoting social inclusion, social justice, good citizenship and peace between peoples, cultures, the faith communities that it serves. The Council will cooperate with community-based and faith-based organizations, with other local authorities, with statutory agencies, government departments, and international bodies in the pursuance of the safety, security and development of its richly diverse communities and their extended families.

And I lay emphasis on "their extended families" because when there is, for example, tension in Kashmir between Pakistan and India, which has the potential to develop into a nuclear weapons crisis, then the ripples from that tension radiate across the globe, and radiate into the community in Manchester and it raises tensions within the community.

When there is ongoing inter-community conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, these are issues that are picked on the streets of Manchester, they are issues that affect the citizens of Manchester. They have extended families in Israel. They have extended families in Palestine, and they have extended families, as I say, in Pakistan and on the Indian sub-continent. And so we're conscious of the need to promote policy not only in the city, but nationally and internationally.

As we speak, we are conscious of the anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the 60th anniversary. In the city, one of our initiatives has been to, through one of the local cinemas, promote a season of films around a nuclear theme and it's under the umbrella title "Project and Survive." For anyone from the UK, they may see the resonance there because back in the early 1980s the government led a civil defense campaign to try and persuade the British people that they would survive a nuclear war if that was to occur on the European continent, which back in the early 1980s it seemed a very strong possibility. It certainly didn't feel a remote possibility. As I say, that campaign of civil defense was called "Protect and Survive."

We have a commemoration now called "Project and Survive." And through a series of films it will hopefully bring citizens in and to get them to think about this issue, because I think something that we all need to understand is that here in Hiroshima there can not be any more important issue, and there is not a more important issue in any city in my view. But the issue simply does not have the same level of priority in

other countries. Britain is a nuclear weapons state. The press is very largely pro Britain's nuclear weapons stance, and that feeds through to the opinions of people in the country, and so tackling those opinions is extremely difficult.

There are many other points that I was hoping I might have time to draw out but we're under a lot of pressure with time so I need to stop here, but I'll certainly be happy to take any questions about Manchester's policy. All the work we do nationally we have a local authority. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for another very concrete, very encouraging example, and we really hope that we have time to listen to more concrete examples from Manchester.

Now I'd like to ask to come over, the Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, California, USA, Mr. Steve Freedkin.

Steve Freedkin, Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, U.S.A.: Konbanwa, honored Mayor of Hiroshima Akiba, distinguished members of Mayors for Peace and guests. My name is Steve Freedkin, I am the Chairman of the Berkeley City Peace Justice Commission. I thank you for your dedication to creating a world in which the destruction of the atomic bomb remains a terrible fact of history, but only of history, never to occur again.

Berkeley stands with the peace-loving people of Hiroshima in many ways. On Aug. 6 at 8:15 a.m. and again on Aug. 9 at 11:02 a.m. the city's peace bell will be rung in remembrance of the two atomic bombings. This is in response to a request by a hibakusha from Hiroshima who visited our city in May. On the night of Aug. 6, Berkeley will also hold its Fourth Annual Peace Lantern Ceremony modeled after Hiroshima's event.

The City of Berkeley has a process in which citizens can directly create laws. In 1986, the voters of Berkeley adopted the Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act. This law declares nuclear weapons to be illegal. It requires the city to avoid conducting business with any organization involved in nuclear weapons. The University of California operates three nuclear research laboratories for the US government. Therefore, the City of Berkeley is required to avoid doing business with the university. Now in practice, of course, this is difficult as the university's Berkeley campus is by far the largest institution in our city. However, when it is possible, the city will work with other organizations and not with the university.

The Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act is an example of a community taking direct action to withdraw support from the nuclear weapons industry. If these efforts spread, perhaps they will be as effective as the boycott of South Africa, which was started in Berkeley, and helped end the system of apartheid.

We must continue to push national leaders to adopt policies leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons, and perhaps it's also time for cities to take direct action. For example, the Hoya Glass Company in Japan makes lenses for laser equipment that is used in manufacturing nuclear bombs. Does the City of Hiroshima purchase any equipment or supplies that contain glass contained by Hoya? Perhaps cities like Hiroshima may wish to draw up a list of companies to boycott to make sure that no city resources support any organization involved in nuclear weapons. Our city has

created that kind of a list under the Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act, and I'd be happy to share our research.

My city can learn from the spirit of reconciliation exemplified by the hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Increasingly, I think about peace activism as an effort to promote healing. In Berkeley and other places, including, I know, people in Hiroshima, people are working towards this kind of healing approach to social change.

When I was offered the chance to speak to this gathering, I was grateful for the opportunity, but in a way it didn't quite make sense because I know I have very much more to learn from you in Hiroshima than I ever could share with you. So I will just say one more thing and then I'll stop talking and be ready to listen to you, and that one more thing is *domo arigato gosaimashita*.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. It was a rather challenging request for us too. And now I'd like to ask the City Councilor of Muntinlupa in the Philippines, Mr. Raul Corro.

Raul Corro, Councilor, Muntinlupa, Philippines: Thank you, Professor. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Mayor Akiba, honorable mayors, representatives from the civil society and our residents of Hiroshima, I intentionally did not speak in this afternoon's session because I was waiting for the opportunity to be with the residents of Hiroshima in the exchange program tonight. When I was asked to choose whether I would like to speak in Session 1 or Session 2, I said I don't like to speak because there are already several speakers that we have as I wanted to meet with the residents of Hiroshima because I have a special message for you.

As you know, the Philippines was one of the countries occupied by the Japanese Imperial Army in World War II, and the Philippines, as you know, was one of the countries which suffered the scars of the Japanese occupation in World War II. My father, who was a soldier of the United States Armed Forces in the Far East, or USAFFE, was one of the Filipino and American soldiers who endured the infamous "death march," as we call it, where they were made to march for hundred of kilometers by the Japanese Imperial Army, and my father miraculously survived.

But tonight I'd like to convey my message to the residents of Hiroshima and to the nation of Japan that I am here tonight, not because of retaliation, but because of reconciliation. We cannot achieve peace if we have hatred in our hearts, so I am here today to convey my message to the residents of Hiroshima that our message from the Philippines is reconciliation, not retaliation, and we condemn, in the strongest terms possible, the use of atomic bombs and the use of nuclear weapons against humanity.

Tonight we would like to express our support to the 2020 Vision of eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2020. We firmly believe that weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world. For our part, in the City of Muntinlupa, we firmly believe that knowledge is power. This was made very clear in the presentation yesterday by the lady professor. What we mean by "knowledge is power" is that we have at the local level to create awareness of the horrors of the use of atomic bombs, and by creating awareness at the local level, we will be able to inform our respective constituencies about the horrors of the use of atomic bombs and be able in the process to get their support to raise their voices and join us in the Mayors for Peace to campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

Tonight I am happy to be with you and I'd like to convey to the residents of Hiroshima and the people to Japan that the Philippines and Japan have seen some very healthy and normal diplomatic relations. We must forget the past, but we must look forward to the future, a future that is free from nuclear weapons. Thank you.
Malami-salama-to

Chairperson: Thank you very much indeed. And thank you very much in the first place to choose to participate in this exchange with the people of Hiroshima, and also thank you very much for the very great history which we have to really take into consideration and face seriously. Nevertheless, thank you very much for giving us a very hopeful future-oriented presentation. Thank you very much.

And now I'd like to ask the Councilor of the City of Bobigny France, Ms. Delphine Brilland, to come over.

Delphine Brilland, Councilor, Bobigny, France: Hello everybody. I'm very impressed to be here. I'm so happy to be able to meet the people of Hiroshima. I would like to talk a lot with you. My name is Delphine Brilland. I am the council member of the City of Bobigny.

In New York, the United Nations, there was an NPT Review Conference and it failed to come up with progress, so the premiers of the nuclear powers now have a very serious responsibility because they have rejected the possibility to abolish nuclear weapons. However, the threat of collapse of the treaty was avoided. This was good progress. Our fight is continuing and this nuclear weapons abolishment, to accomplish that we have to make more effort, however, the nuclear powers, they don't choose to abolish the nuclear weapons in the near future. However, we shouldn't just be waiting. A lot of countries are now taking action and France is very proactive in this area.

The City of Bobigny is putting peace culture as a priority and the City of Bobigny is trying to listen to the voice of the citizens, and we are also trying to implement the participation with democracy so that we can come up with collective profits.

From a couple of years ago we are promoting peace education, and the Council of Bobigny has adopted a motion in order to contribute to the NPT, and at every opportunity we are announcing our standpoint and also announcing the purpose of our activities. And AFCDRP is the association that Bobigny is participating in and then we are making contributions to promote the NPT. And on Sep. 11, that is when it is Peace Day in UNESCO, and then they are going to show the movie called *Sadako* and they are also making origami. The children are sent to this institution, so those people involved are going to attend tomorrow's ceremony and AFCDRP, I think you know this organization, the France Peace Municipality Association, and Bobigny is a member of this group and they are now in Hiroshima, and then we are communicating what kind of peace initiatives we are taking. And I think I couldn't complete my speech within the given time. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: That was very fit for this occasion and I think we can have much time for exchange afterwards, so including the first speakers, I think we can have lots of occasions to talk more.

And now, actually we have come to the list of the presenters, but as I've said at the beginning, actually yesterday I happened to encounter people from Italy and I came to

know that they actually want to participate in this exchange meeting, but they were told that they must have registered in advance, and I said, no, no, please come. And it's okay. So now I'd like to ask the Pastor Pier Luigi from the Balducci Support Center. So first Pastor Pier Luigi is going to talk in Italian and Miss Yamada is going to translate for us.

Pastor Pier Luigi, Representative, Balducci Support Center, Italy: Hello. I would like to greet all of you. I came from Italy. I am a member of the peace exchange association and I am a member of the delegation visiting Hiroshima. The Balducci Support Center is the name of our organization for refugees. We support refugees and also immigrants. Balducci is the name of the association. Balducci is actually the name of the priest who is engaged in peace activities and our organization is also engaged in peace activities. We are from a place in the northeastern part of Italy, it's a province in the northeast part of Italy.

The peace issue is something that is essential for people to live. For long years, we have always thought about Hiroshima and Nagasaki deep in our minds. In that sense, several times we have talked with Ms. Numata and other survivors of the A-bomb, and we have invited these people from Nagasaki and Hiroshima and talked with them. This kind of activity, that is, exchange with the citizens, is very important, and also through these exchanges the school students visit our support center to hear about these stories and experience.

The visit to Hiroshima this time is very impressive to me and I am very touched and hit by this occasion of participating in this conference. The A-bomb is very powerful in terms of its massacre power, and it is something that we shall not forget as part of our history of mankind. It also expresses the craziness of violence and politics. It totally changed the history of human history.

Today we exist because we need to advocate the voice of humankind. We never shall repeat Hiroshima or Nagasaki. We shall not do war. We shall not hold weapons, and war shall never occur in any part of the world. And injustice in the world shall not be admitted. Racial discrimination shall be abolished. And environmental destruction shall be discontinued. These things need to be understood by each individual with a sense of responsibility.

And in the community, as a citizen, and within Europe as well, and in each organization of the world we should revise and improve the United Nations. The political flow or stream needs to be changed or else world peace will never be achieved. With our power, politics, religion, in various fields there are many things that we can do and we need to do. What is important is not just to say no. Every day we have to say yes. We have to say yes to the life of humankind.

Priest Balducci's tomb carves the following words: The people of the future need to be the people of peace or else they are not people. When you say you are not people, you are not human. Humans will be destroyed like in the case of Hiroshima.

Another meaning of not being a human is that you are not human to be respected as a human. This memorial of peace said, lie in peace and we will never repeat the mistake. There is no subject to this sentence but we ourselves must be the subject, the actor of peace. We must seek peace for the global family, global peace. Thank you.

His name is Bozidar. He actually came to our center, Balducci Support Center, in 1992 as a refugee of Yugoslavia. He has received support from our center and he is still living in a city in Italy. He is a poet and he is also a novelist, he is also a teacher. From the standpoint of a poet he would like to say a few words to you.

Bozidar Stanisi, Refugee of Yugoslavia, Italy: Good evening. I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you. I refuse the war and from my perspective I would like to say a few things. I also write books and I can say that war is totally useless. Sixty years ago Hiroshima had a tragedy about that. I have been also talking about Hiroshima, but I also would like to talk about depleted uranium bombs as well. I'm wishing that nuclear weapons would be completely abolished, and with this I would like to conclude my speech. Thank you.

Chairperson: Actually, if we had more time I wanted to ask Mr. Pastor and Mr. Bozidar, to talk more but because of the time we have to really limit our wishes to that. So thank you very much for the presenters.

Now we have, it is about 7:32 I think, so we're just about on time, so we have about one hour for exchange of views among us. So now I'd like to invite the people of Hiroshima, not only of Hiroshima but people from Japan, to express their opinions, questions, comments to the presentations just made or and some other personal opinions. So could you raise your hand, those people who would like to speak? Please.

Hitoshi Shinmoto, Representative, Hiroshima Branch of Asia Pacific Forum, Japan: Thank you very much. I was born in Hiroshima in 1954 after the war. There was a statement from Berkeley and I think what he said was very important and I was very impressed by his statement.

With regard to nuclear weapons, with regard to the abolishment of nuclear weapons, it is often said that people agree to the abolishment of nuclear weapons in general, but in specifics there are some vagueness. So in making nuclear weapons there are various companies that are involved and there are profits made by different companies in the manufacturing or in the making of nuclear weapons, and this must be clarified and we must look at the balance sheets and the financial statements of these companies which contribute to the manufacturing of nuclear weapons. So I think it is very important that these corporations and companies that are involved disclose their statements, their financial statements. And I think we need to also look at that aspect. I think that is a very important thing.

And with regard to the matter of peace, the issue of peace, unfortunately, in Japan we do not know very much about how World War II occurred and we do not reflect upon ourselves very much. There's this Constitution Article IX, which is very important for Japan, and we should, in Japan, and within Japan as well, we have to study more about Article IX of our Constitution, and Japanese scholars, as well as the world scholars, must study why Japan was involved in the Second World War and I would like to ask the professors to study further with regard to this matter.

And Hiroshima is considered to be the City of Peace, but at the same time, actually it is a city of militarism. For the past 100 years, Hiroshima was the basis of aggression in Asian countries and Hiroshima was the center of militarism in Western Japan and Tokyo, of Eastern Japan, and for three years the Emperor lived in Hiroshima and also

the Diet was held in Hiroshima for three years. Therefore, Hiroshima is not really a City of Peace. It was a military city prior to that and we have to be aware of that.

There were many facilities related to the military in Hiroshima, and I think that is why the Americans decided to drop the atomic bomb to Hiroshima. Thank you.

Chairperson: There was not really a question included, but it was a very positive reaction to what Mr. Freedkin, said so I wonder if Mr. Freedkin, would you like to add something to his remark? Your presentation was rather short.

Freedkin: All I want to say is domo arigato gozaimashita. I was very honored by Shinmoto-san's comments and look forward to working with him and anyone else who would like to work together on these kinds of approaches.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Are there any other persons who would like to respond to what he said or some other new questions? Please? Your name and group?

Ritsunori Doi, COOP, Japan: My name is Doi from the coop. The coop provides a safe and comfortable life, and then we provide food products to the members of the coop, so it's a safe life. A precondition of the coop is a world without starvation and wars. So one of the problems with life is peace. That's why we are involved in peace activities. So according to Japanese law, coops cannot do business operations beyond prefectural borderlines, however, we now have 330,000 members across the nation. So I would like to talk a bit about our peace initiatives.

First, the Mayors for Peace are now promoting the emergency action for the nuclear weapons abolition, and then actually the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Akiba, has come to our meeting to make a speech. And Japan coop groups and the Hiroshima Prefecture coops have got together and he has asked us to cooperate with him too to establish the nuclear ban treaty by 2020. And 1,200 people have gathered and have reached a consensus on that. We cannot make any big action. The majority of the members are actually women and they are mothers. And the mothers care about the children and grandchildren. They don't want them to experience the miserable experience which took place 60 years ago, so there is a very limited amount of money. However, they make some contribution, not only monetary contribution but their actions are contributed.

And what we mainly do is as follows. Actually I have been listening to the comments from the speakers and it's been 60 years since the end of the war and the experience of the A-bomb is now being forgotten. We have to make efforts to succeed and to hand down this experience, so in our coop organizations at every opportunity we invite the A-bomb survivors so that we can share what they have to say about their experiences. And then we are also trying to disseminate that information across all the children and this initiative will be able to prevent the nuclear weapons war.

And every year we are making an appeal to the Japanese government to make the nuclear weapons ban, a nuclear weapons convention, and then we actually gathered a petition. About 30,000 people's petition was gathered and we submitted that to the Diet. It's hard to have our voices be heard to the politicians. However, we are making efforts so that our voice will reach the Diet.

And within this Peace Park, there is the cenotaph for the A-bomb victims, so we visit those commemorative cenotaph, war memorial monuments, we are visiting them and then we also try to disseminate information about why these memorial monuments were built. And then we also make some sub group which can disseminate such information, which can serve as guides in this park.

And in May there was the NPT Review Conference and then we sent two representatives to that in order to let our voices be heard in the United Nations and also on the global basis. So I think each individual should work on their own municipalities and each government so that the nuclear weapons convention will be enacted. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. I think that kind of report the Mayor Akiba and the staff for the Mayors for Peace campaign must be very glad to hear, I think. I recognize the face of one of the staff for the Mayors for Peace conference. And if those who have already made presentations and if you also have something you'd like to say in response to Japanese people, please do not hesitate to raise your hands because already there are some very concrete serious points that have come up. I wonder if there is anyone who would like to respond to that report just made. Yes?

Akiko Awa, World Friendship Center, Japan: My name is Awa Akiko. I belong to the World Friendship Center. It was said that the experience of the war is being faded and I think that is true. And the war is occurring in Iraq and the children are forced to see these wars on the TV and Internet, and there are wars occurring all over the world and they are being broadcasted on TVs and the Internet. I am skeptical as to why the children should not learn about the war that is going on throughout the world right now and only forced to learn about the war that was held 60 years ago.

Chairperson: Your qualification, please. Affiliation, please.

Fujiwara, No-DU Project Hiroshima, Japan: My name is Fujiwara. No-DU Project Hiroshima, is what I belong to, we have a booth over there, so please drop by. With regard to the present war I think we should also focus on it and right now we are dealing with the depleted uranium weapons. And in Iraq a lot of depleted uranium weapons are being used, and not only in Iraq but in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina are other locations where these weapons are being used and there are a lot of disasters occurring, but such victims are not being brought up on the media.

And I think there was someone from Bosnia who made a statement but I would like to ask someone who knows about this victim of the depleted uranium weapons to speak up on this occasion. So what shall I do?

Chairperson: Was your request a concrete request? Yes. Could you stand up?

Stanisi : In 1995, the Bosnian war was over. And I think the intervention to the Kosovo civil war ended in 1999. In 1999, there was the intervention to the civil war in Kosovo. At that time a great amount of depleted uranium bombs were used. The outcome of that was quite miserable and quite disastrous. A lot of people are now having cancers, especially leukemia is now the outcome of those bombs. Nature and human beings, whatever has life was damaged. By just staying in Bosnia for a day, you get the same amount of radiation you receive in over a year in the other part of the world. We don't have the complete statistics because the government has its political reasons for not submitting such data.

So briefly, I would like to talk about it. In the north of Bosnia there is a little city. The children from one year old to ten years old, they have very serious cancers, very complicated cancers. In one city, which has a 5,000 population, in the past ten years 500 people died. Two-thirds were perfectly having cancers.

So these depleted uranium bombs can be abolished totally by activism. Concrete knowledge. Various wise knowledge is not the only thing we need. The philosopher Pascal said the reasoned mind has to be heard now. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Personally, I'd like to listen more about it, partly because I've been involved in the anti-DU campaign, but if I do I might be blamed for being partial later, so I think I'd like to go back to the Mayors for Peace related, directly related to the topic, and I have Steve Leeper, who has been working really hard for the Mayors for Peace conference. Would you like to say something? And actually as a staff player on the list of speakers for this exchange program?

Steve Leeper, U. S. Representative of Mayors for Peace Secretariat, U.S.A: I guess I have a very fundamental question that we are dealing with in the campaign, and that is that the world now seems to be moving very much the way it did before World War I and World War II. The gap between rich and poor is getting very large and the poorer people are getting very angry. And in the United States, we have the problem of a government that uses that anger and directs that anger and is riding on that anger. And that anger is coming into the peace movement so that the peace people themselves are angry at each other, angry at President Bush. There's a lot of intense hatred expressed, even among the peace people.

And I am wondering if any of the mayors in their cities or anybody has found some good way of addressing this anger and some way of sort of generating peace and kind of a more emotional, and he was talking, and the important thing is the heart and the mind of the people. How do we touch the people who are getting angrier and angrier? How do we change that anger and turn it toward love and peace and kind of coexistence, tolerance, cooperation, all of the things of peace culture? I think in our campaign we realize that this is an extremely important step and we do not have a good answer for it and I wish someone would help us with that.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a very important, fundamental question, I think which is addressed directly to all of us, but I think there were some mayors who mentioned about their attempts to sort of gear up towards the peace culture, so if there are some mayors who would like to add to what they have already said in more concrete terms, please do not hesitate, especially those who are the first speakers whom I'd like to ask to finish up quickly. Or, yes?

Unknown: I am not a mayor but I am an A-bomb survivor in Hiroshima and people are mentioning about the fading of the memory of the war, but I have high expectations of you.

In 1945, I was six years old and I was 1.3 kilometers away from ground zero. I was looking at the airplane that was sparkling and shining, and we A-bomb survivors don't want anyone to experience the tragedy we had. Somebody mentioned that the cenotaph at the Peace Park says that each one of us is the main player of making the peace. And also, the city, the Mayor of Hiroshima says that we have to have the reconciliation, and now my sister has come from Osaka. She is now 70 years old and

then she says that she might not be alive next year. This summer we thought that I might not be able to come here next year with the healthy body; that's why she came to visit me this year. That really touched my heart.

About ten years ago, I had the disorder in the thyroid gland and because of that the talking and walking capability and the hair, this was all lost in me and then I couldn't even stand up like this. And this thyroid gland is not the unique symptom for only the war A-bomb victims, but the health authority of Japan decided that it is the result of the atomic bomb.

I think nuclear weapons should not be used in any part of the world because nobody should experience the disaster we had. In order to make sure that will come true we have to abolish the nuclear weapons, that includes the depleted uranium bombs in Iraq and in Bosnia. Especially the small children and women are most damaged. Look at the disaster in Iraq. They don't have drugs and children are dying one after another. When I look at what they're going through my heart aches. Why in the world, why can't we help them? That's very painful. Our pain is not fading away.

There is a sister who was lost and my aunt who was pregnant passed away 500 meters away and the bones were her bones, and my sister who came back, her back was filled with maggots and the maggots went into her nerves and it gave her great pain, and on the 16th of the same month, August, she passed away. This sister, I was able to find her body, but there was another sister who has been lost. I was given life and therefore I came to this place and I came to hear the words of the mayors of the world and I came here to ask the mayors all over the world, including the Mayor of New York, to abolish nuclear weapons while people are still living. And I think we need to create such a world. We have to inherit, we have to provide a good and nice and clean world to our descendents.

It's not fading away. Our experience is never fading away. We have become old but we are not fading away. We A-bomb survivors are willing to visit anywhere as long as our health is maintained, as well as we are invited to share our experience. Although my thyroid gland disease is still prevalent, with medicine I am able to stand and speak like this today and I am able to travel. So as long as I have my medicine with me, I can visit anywhere and share my experience with the other people. So as long as the experiences of A-bomb survivors are effective, I am willing to visit anywhere.

And I certainly hope that nuclear weapons will be abolished from the world as soon as possible. I am sorry that I became a little emotional but I would like to stop here.

Chairpersopn: Thank you very much. Your talk is the kind of talk which it is quite difficult for us to respond to in words. I think we feel that we need to engage in concrete actions in order to respond to what has been just said. And actually, this Mayors for Peace conference is being held exactly for that purpose.

As you all know, as the future activities proposed by the Mayors for Peace campaign, as a final very concrete objective, I think this Mayors for Peace conference has already been trying to set goals, a set of activities that will press for a nuclear weapons convention treaty concluded by 2010 and the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020. And I think this is what we really need to achieve, but of course it will not be easy, so I think we try to come up with a concrete suggestions, proposals or requests directed to the Mayors for Peace campaign.

And so in that sense, I'd like to ask you to try to respond to what has been just said with that concrete objective in mind. And also I think I'd like to draw your attention to the fact of the very important question raised by Steve Leeper. Actually, the talk just given is a response to Steve Leeper's question, but are there any other people who'd like to continue in this line or respond to Steve Leeper's question? Okay, please go ahead.

Susan Walker, Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant, Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer, U.S.A.: Domo arigato gosaimasu. I just want to thank the woman who just spoke. My name is Susan Walker. I've been working in humanitarian work and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines for 26 years now. And your story is what brings the horrors of nuclear weapons to the world and they should be heard more.

I am very moved, very saddened, of course, the loss of your sister, your health problems, and your willingness to come here. I know, I work with landmine survivors. It is not easy to tell your story, and never apologize for getting emotional. This is a terrible situation that you have endured all your life, since 1945. And the world needs to hear that. You said yourself, you are getting older, and this will be lost to the world, so your stories must not only be heard like you've come tonight, and I thank you very, very much again for coming. I think I speak on behalf of all of us. I know I and the gentleman councilor from the Philippines, I think many people came here, ah, he is still there. Many people came here to speak with the people of Hiroshima, not to hear ourselves speak again, and also to hear from A-bomb survivors.

So it is very important, and as you've said, you're willing to travel even though you're not in good health as long as your stories are useful. You must know from the bottom of your heart that these stories are not only useful but very, very important. And I thank you for sharing that and for being willing to continue to discuss it. Thank you. Domo arigato gosaimasu.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for the very, it's hard to express, but very heartfelt response to what she just said. So please. Could you stand up?

Chantal Bourvic, Councilor, Val de Marne, France: I am the member of the province council in Val de Marne in France. And after the statement of a very moving A-bomb survivor, it is hard for me to speak, but in France, in our municipality, we are beginning various actions and one of them is, one of these days all of the A-bomb survivors may pass away in the future, but we feel it's very important that we maintain the experience, the voices of the experience and we must advocate "No More Hiroshima! No More Nagasaki!" And the world view, also we have to change the world view of people's mind and also we have to change the consciousness of power in people's minds.

And with the abolishment of nuclear weapons, true peace will come. In order to advance the human society forward, nuclear weapons are not the only way. Nuclear weapons are never the only way is what we need people to understand, what we need to have the people understand. And also, abolishment of nuclear weapons is very important but at the same time we must abolish poverty as well. Poverty is providing much pain to the people as well.

Maybe this isn't a specific proposal but our future depends upon this. The municipalities in France, 30 young participants are participating from my province in this conference, and I think it is very important that young people, the young generation participate in this kind of assembly.

Chairperson: I see some hands raised, and so let me ask her and let me go, move down this way. Pardon?

Johanne Winchester, Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, U.S.A.: Konbanwa. My name is Johanne Winchester, Director of the Communications, Coordination Committee for the United Nations. We're the oldest non-governmental organization founded when the UN was formed and we specialize in doing communications-related projects. So I wanted to respond directly to what Steve brought to the table and also to a few other points that have been raised.

It is my personal opinion that the way to build a world culture of peace, which is the mission of the United Nations system, to establish a world culture of peace, is to start in the imagination of everyone. And perhaps the Mayors for Peace and the other initiatives that are represented here tonight and around the world can really focus on what that imagination process is and begin to find creative ways of engaging people in designing what the future could look like if it weren't about conflict and violence, violence as a way of resolving conflict.

So part of it is about withdrawing our support - our dollars as consumers, our dollars with municipal funds - the economic approach from organizations, corporations that contribute to violence in many forms. Environmental violence is the big time bomb waiting to go off for all of us. So part of it is withdrawing funds.

The gentleman from the Philippines reminded me that knowledge is power and in our research, when we're looking at doing a divestment campaign, the way they did with South Africa, we're dealing with nuclear apartheid now, in South Africa when the world began to decide to withdraw its financial support from the regime in South Africa that was creating the violence of racial apartheid, it was very systematically done and big universities began to withdraw their funds and large pension funds began to withdraw their funds and then private investors withdrew their funds. And it brought that regime down. So I think that one approach is to look at what countries are insisting on maintaining their nuclear weapons arsenals, starting with my own country, and looking at how to withdraw funds from those Treasury Bonds and other things.

There are 13 major corporations, there are many corporations that contribute to the weapons cycle of just-in-time delivery in supply chains, but there are 13 major ones and the No. 1 happens to be Japanese. It has \$175 billion a year in gross income. And then the usual ones that we all know about in America and so on.

And in New York, two representatives spoke about having municipalities, this is from Belgium, decide to withdraw their funds from any bank that was invested in any way in weapons productions, and the City of Tacoma Park, Maryland, spoke about having a law on the book for 22 years that prohibited the local government from buying a paperclip or a piece of paper or anything from any company that was affiliated or engaged in weapons manufacture. So there are many creative ways to just say no to continuing this madness.

On the other side, we have to take all of those resources and look at how to invest them in building a positive future. And that's where the imagination of everyone can be engaged. So remember, you have a lot of power with your purchasing dollars and with organizing yourself with other organizations, individuals, alliances. So thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for bringing in another new proposal in terms of imagination. Yes, The lady in the back,

Unknown: Hello. Welcome to Hiroshima. I am working in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and I am trying to communicate peace to people. I'm trying to meet people from all around the world, peace-loving people, and I am shaking hands with all of them in order to abolish nuclear weapons.

Many people from many different countries have made comments and it was very encouraging for me, especially the comments from the City of Berkeley, and also the French people said that they are incorporating Sadako in their education. When I heard that I am very happy about that. And you have come to Hiroshima, We would like to know a more concrete explanation about what kind of initiatives they are doing.

Chairperson: Well, okay. I'm going to let the other people who raised their hands speak first and then try to have your question answered later. Thank you very much.

Shinichiro Tsukada, Peace Depo, Japan: Shinichiro Tsukada. I came from Tokyo. I am working as a volunteer at an NGO peace level and in Tokyo at Meiji University I am in the international department and I have actually many questions, but I actually wanted to know the concrete initiatives undertaken by the youngsters in other countries. As a student I wanted to know what the students in other countries are doing. But it seems like we don't have time for that. But I have a favor.

I actually attended the NPT Review Conference as an auditor or observer. And in general, people say it was a failure, and I think the Mayors for Peace has the main body which can inflict a very positive influence on the NPT like the abolition 2020. Also people were there in New York so I think people have high hopes and expectations for this body. And as Mr. Akiba says, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki process, we need to change to it and I was expecting maybe I will hear something quite overwhelming. However, it's been only three months since that meeting in New York, so unless you have a magic wand you cannot come up with a wonderful solution. So I guess there is some action plan, but there is not much concrete substance in it. So I think you are now mapping that out.

Now we have 15 years to accomplish the goal and I am now 22 years old, so in 15 years I will become 37 years old. So we will be the generation who are going to undertake that initiative, so the students I think should take the class of Hiroshima-Nagasaki lectures and those activists' information gave me a very good influence. That's why I'm here today. The mayors from various countries are here today and lectures of Hiroshima-Nagasaki maybe should be shared in other parts of the world. Please host them. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for that request for future action. And the next person?

The Marine Animal Institute is where I am from. More than half a century has passed since the A-bomb, but when Mayor of Hiroshima joins any NPT assembly he is forced to speak in front of an audience who are very few in lunch break. And so I feel that the A-bomb or nuclear A-bomb experience of Hiroshima is not well-accepted. The common sense of Hiroshima citizens and the common sense of the world has a very large gap between the two, so I think this needs to be revised and improved or else we will never be able to abolish nuclear weapons.

And Mayor Akiba, more than ten years ago, started the Akiba Project, and the local newspapers and other newspapers like the *New York Times*, global media, took it up and the press people of such influential media people were invited to Hiroshima to appeal to them on the 6th August. And I think this kind of approach is very important.

And also, the A-bomb survivors are separated into five organizations actually, depending on different political parties. And on the 6th August the socialist people look towards the east, the communist party looks to the west, and so there are other organizations looking in different directions during the ceremony. But when people from abroad come to Hiroshima, when they see the different organizations looking towards different directions they would not really appreciate the realism of such ceremonies. I think these organizations need to be unified. The A-bomb survivors now are separated and divided into different organizations, but they need to be unified in order to appeal more to the people from abroad and have their true understanding.

Chairperson: Thank you for your opinion, which I share personally very much. So, the next person please.

Unknown: I am not a Hiroshima citizen nor a Japanese citizen. Sixty years ago, Aug. 6, 8:15, more than 100,000 Koreans became the victims of the A-bomb at this location. Why were these Koreans in Hiroshima on that day? When I am asked where I belong, I only respond by saying that I am a poet. The reason is, with regard to the victims of Koreans of A-bomb, in the past 60 years the Japanese government has not clarified such victims, and South Korea and North Korea, which is developing nuclear, actually there were people from North Korea who became victims of the A-bomb in Hiroshima on that day. And the Korean victims were actually separated. And only five dollars was paid as compensation by the Japanese government to these Koreans. And for the 36 years Japan has colonized the Korean peninsula and there the responsibility of this colonization has not been compensated; the Japanese government is not taking any responsibility.

I bring a picture of Mr. Shin Yong who has already passed away. He was the victim of the Hiroshima A-bomb and he went back to his homeland but his parents said, "Oh, you're a ghost, you're not my son." And they tried to put him away. And he went through plastic surgery several times and he looked like this, but at that time he was blind. He could not hear and his nose was deformed and his mouth was deformed, so he did not look like any human being, therefore his parents said that he was a ghost or a monster. And he said, "Well, I *am* your son, my name is Shin Yong", he wrote it on a piece of paper, and reading that piece of paper his father for the first time recognized that he was his loving son.

So Mitsubishi in Japan and other companies, when there was an escalation of aggression towards the Chinese continent, this place became where the military industry expanded by four-fold in this location. And in order to collect the labor force they forced Korean people to come to this place and Toyo Kogyo and Mitsubishi were

the companies that they were forced to work for. And there were several hundred women students who also were supposed to come to this Western Japan. And the Nagasaki Mitsubishi military plant was another place where 700 or more or less of the Korean women were forced to come to Nagasaki.

However, they were prohibited to speak in their language, and also their names were forced to be pronounced in the Japanese way and their nationality was forced to be ignored and they were forced to pay the greatest respect and honor to the Japanese emperor. So because of the colonization policy of Japan, the Koreans were denied in terms of nationality, and Korean identity was fully denied because of the colonization policy of Japan.

After the World War II, Japan has been called the only A-bomb victimized nation. But with this they have become very silent to the fact that there has been a great aggression and invasion from Japan to the Korean peninsula. I think we are still under the colonization policy. Ninety per cent of the Koreans who returned to the Korean peninsula have passed away. And they have received no support with regard to treatment after being victimized by the A-bomb as well.

And these people, there are 44 people who were forced to come and work for Mitsubishi and became victims of the A-bomb and made a lawsuit, and for the first time in history they required full compensation from the Japanese government. And this court litigation is going on still for the past ten years. And to West Japan, the imperial headquarters of West Japan, towards them the Korean victims asked, required the compensation that is provided to the A-bomb survivors of Japanese and this also, the litigation started and we won the litigation, the Koreans won the litigation. But still it is taking ten years for the compensation from the Japanese government to pay compensation for the colonization policy.

So the Korean A-bomb victims, they are still colonized by the Japanese government. Even now they haven't been regarded as human beings. If Japan wants to walk on the path of peace, truly, then they have to recognize what they did in colonization. They have to do soul-searching and through that they can establish reconciliation with the Korean A-bomb victims and then we can see the light in the coexistence together. However, the Japanese government still has not clarified or identified the scope of the damage to the Korean A-bomb victims.

I came here but I wasn't allowed to speak out until the very last. I was very sad. Even in the international conference, the Korean A-bomb survivors are not fully recognized and we are not restored, so those people from France and Germany and Italy, please listen to me. There is another Hiroshima A-bomb story in Hiroshima.

Now I'm going to wrap up. So I actually have made a book compiling the testimonials of the Korean A-bomb survivors and then we've also made a movie about the Korean experiences, and I've brought the video. And then also there is the photo exhibition about the Korean experience in the A-bomb. The venue is pretty close from here, so please pay attention to that. Please understand another story of the Hiroshima A-bomb and then please bring this story back to your country. Thank you very much for sparing time for me.

Chairperson: Thank you. And I think I need to say the point just brought into focus is the reality we have to face anew, especially at this occasion. And I guess

everybody knows that because of this kind of problem, Japan has now, at this very moment, difficult times in its relationship with China, Korea and North Korea.

So actually that is also in the United States, there is a huge gap between the government and the American people.

And also, actually I would like to say only a few words, and being aware that it would not be sufficient, but I guess you know that looking at only Hiroshima there are all sorts of activities and lots of people are involved in all sorts of peace activities, not only anti-nuclear activities. Actually, my friends and some of the members in our group are involved in the attempt to work exactly for that purpose mentioned together with Korean people. And of course we are aware that this kind of attempt at the level of people has been far from enough in the sense that the Japanese government has been able to get away with its very pragmatic attitude towards its history.

But there is yet another point. I am really sorry that I did not give a chance to speak out in the beginning. Let me explain. Maybe you didn't see because you are sitting in the front, but there are so many people raising their hands in the back, so many people, so I didn't avoid you by design. Please understand that. I think I would like to first ask the very first person who raised his hand, yes, please.

Unknown: If possible the people in and outside of Hiroshima they should be provided more time and opportunity to speak their minds. That's all I wanted to say and then I would like to stop talking here. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Close. Then I would request to finish up. Yes?

Unknown: I am the mayor of a city in France. What we have heard is related to us. We ourselves have something to do with it. I understand that people had a very disastrous experience, but I hope that you keep talking about it. I hope that you keep sharing what you have experienced.

And Mayors for Peace believe that peace is necessary, however, even among us we have some differences, differences of opinion, and also what kind of actions we should make. To this we also have some differences. But we are now making arguments about abolishing nuclear weapons, but we can also solve other problems. The world has various problems now, the inequality issue, the inequality and then unequal development and the nuclear weapons problem is one of the problems as well. We shouldn't give up taking action. We have to take action in order to accomplish the nuclear weapons disarmament.

Disarmament is the issue, not just non-proliferation, because some people say that, actually yesterday, at the exit of the museum, there was a young lady who speaks French and she noticed that I was French so she just came to me and started talking in French trying to practice French. And then she said that Hiroshima's atomic bomb was dropped at 8:15 in the morning on the 6th August. And where are we in the history of human beings? I cannot imagine. I cannot imagine that we will ever have another atomic bomb or nuclear bomb blast, that's what she said. But I said, in Nagasaki and in Hiroshima the atomic bombs were dropped. And wherever you are in the world, there is the possibility and the risk of having the third atomic bomb blast, so we cannot bear that, we have to start taking action, we have to abolish and eliminate all the nuclear weapons.

So mayors are now gathering in Hiroshima. But what are we going to do? Right. The NPT Review Conference was a failure, however, the treaty is still living. And based on that, the signatory countries have to fulfill their tasks and nuclear powers are not fulfilling their tasks in the context of NPT. So we have to of course stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons. That's necessary. And the US is now trying to start the new nuclear arms race. We have to stop that as well. But I would like to say one thing.

We are gathering here as the mayors. If we don't have the citizens we cannot make any use, so wherever you are, in whichever cities you are, we have to work together with the citizens. And the government of the US, France, UK, Russia and other nuclear power governments, India, Pakistan and Israel as well, those nuclear weapons-owning countries like North Korea, so to those nuclear power governments we have to give pressure from the people, from citizens, and we have to force the government to stop nuclear development, have to put the pressure on the government to reduce the number of nuclear weapons. That's the goal of 2020, and we have to be true to this target. Sorry for speaking so long. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you for the very determined and powerful talk which was a response to the question made by the young Japanese man. I think I'd like to ask the other foreign participants to respond to his question, but I think we are really out of time. Yes, and may I ask the last speaker to give his talk?

Unknown: I am an A-bomb survivor in Hiroshima. I came here with great expectations, and what I want say is, in Japan the greatest concern is the nuclear issue of North Korea. And I have no time to go into details, but I am, however, wondering how much of the participants of the conference Mayors for Peace know about this nuclear weapon in North Korea. They agree to the abolishment of nuclear weapons but they still want to continue to use nuclear in a peaceful way. That is the information that I know from the newspapers.

And there is this abduction issue as well. And the six-nation talk. Japan is not very being taken much into serious consideration. And also I must mention the fact that Japan objects to the utilization of nuclear in a peaceful manner in North Korea. In Japan we have many, many nuclear power plants, and if we wanted to, we do have the technology and the capability of making nuclear weapons. And also in the Diet there are some Diet members who are for making nuclear weapons in Japan. So we must be also aware of that. I feel that this kind of issue is a very important issue which should be brought up in this conference of Mayors for Peace.

And so it is not true that Japan is really a peaceful nation, and there is this kind of danger within Japan as well. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for your very important point. Actually I've been feeling the same problem and people talk a lot about the so-called American double-standard. I think there is a Japanese double-standard in terms of nuclear policy.

Also, concerning the very fact that Japan is sending, has sent the so-called Self Defense armies to Iraq, just following America, the USA. So I think we are, in many regards, in a very dangerous situation and we have to focus on the Japanese government's problems if we would like to appeal to the international community for

the nuclear disarmament and a peaceful world. And I think we have to conclude. Very short?

Walker: Just two very short, the microphone again, but I just wanted to say to the gentleman in the back. I agree, I wish there had been more time and I know, I speak only for myself, but I know there is free time tomorrow morning after the ceremony and before the session starts, and I know I would be happy to meet with people, even though I'm not directly involved in the nuclear movement. And my guess is there would be a number of people from the Mayors for Peace conference that would be interested, because I think the point, it's really too bad that people have come and really not had time to talk. So thank you for your comments.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Of course I do not have something to round up this exchange meeting with. But just a very short thing. I have personally participated in lots of conferences, international conferences, not only in my specialty, which is philosophy, but also in the peace activities conferences, and I think every time I participate in this kind of conference meeting I feel again that this kind of meeting is not an end, it's just a starting point, and there will be lots of expecting developments coming out of this exchange. I think hoping for that, the kind of development which even we ourselves might not be able to foresee.

I think I'd like to conclude, but I'd like to ask for your pardon. I'm aware there must have been lots of points to be desired but I did my best to come up with the exchange between people as freely as possible.

Osamu Kimura, Japan: Sorry, a very short comment. I came from Osaka, my name is Kimura. I have a comment to Mr. Freedkin. I am a friend to Mr. Freedkin. Peace and the abolishment of nuclear weapons issue is an issue that is directly related to democratism. And Berkeley was opposed to the Iraqi war, and also they have adopted the convention to abolish any nuclear-related flying objects and also they are discussing with regard to the issue of dispatching soldiers from California. So all of these things are related to the citizens' movement.

There are more than 40 committees in the Council and all of the citizens participate in these commissions and I was very shocked for such participation of the citizens and the democratism that we see in Berkeley. Compared to this, the democracy in Japan is very much limited. So what I want to ask the people in Hiroshima is that we have to establish a process in which the citizens can participate more in the government, the politics, and we have to really study that and we have to develop this process of citizens participating in democracy.

Chairperson: There must be a lot of things which we wish, in a different way, but I think I would like to say, as you may know, there was a plenary session this morning and this plenary session had to end with no discussion time left. So when we think of that, I think, if I may say so, I think we did have almost one-and-a-half hours for exchange of opinions, and I'm aware that it is not enough, far from enough, but I think, please believe that I did my best to bring up the free exchange of time. And I'd like to thank every participant for coming and staying late to the end. And thank you very much. And let's work together, for the future together. *[applause]*

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

A-bomb Survivor Testimony

13:00-14:00, Saturday, August 6, 2005

Himawaril

International Conference Center Hiroshima

A-bomb Survivor: **Akihiro Takahashi**

Former Director of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

Minoru Hataguchi, Director, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Hiroshima, Japan: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Hiroshima. I appreciate your being with us. I am Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. My name is Minoru Hataguchi. Sixty years ago, on this day of August 6, Hiroshima was the first citizens and the city to be bombed by the A-bomb. And sixty years ago the city was totally on fire and was totally destroyed. Sixty years ago, my father was also killed by the atomic bombing.

The A-bomb survivors that survived the bombing have been living up until today with great suffering. Mr. Akihiro Takahashi, who will be speaking to you as a testifier, is also one such A-bomb survivor.

Mr. Takahashi experienced the atomic bombing when he was 14 years old, in the courtyard of his junior high school. And from 1954, he has been testifying as an A-bomb survivor, speaking to children visiting Hiroshima, also speaking to many people both in and out of Japan of his experience. In 1979, he became Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. He has also received visitors from overseas and has talked about his experience. And in 1991, he received the broadcasters award of NHK. And also, in 2003 he had a dialogue with a pilot of Enola Gay, and this has been also awarded by the Japanese Association of Literature, an essay.

So I hope that you will listen attentively to the testimony by Mr. Akihiro Takahashi now.

Akihiro Takahashi, Former Director of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum: First of all, I'd like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all of you, mayors from all over the world who are participating in the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings. My name is Akihiro Takahashi. It is my honor to be introduced to you.

Now, it is only 60 years since the end of World War II, therefore, I would like to vigorously appeal to you for the abolition of nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date. Though 60 years have already passed since the end of World War II, I still feel the need to petition to you to achieve lasting world peace without further delay. No matter how fast time has passed, no matter how many other important things have occurred, the devastation wrought by the Atomic bombing has remained on my mind. Even to this day, the gravity of the day of Atomic bombing remains deep in my memories.

On August 6th, 1945 at 8.15 am, the world's first atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima.

I was 14 years old then and a second year student in junior high school. I was in a playground about 1.4 kilometers away from the hypocenter when the bomb exploded.

At the instant of the explosion, a fireball with a temperature of several million degrees Celsius rose into the sky. The center of the explosion - around the A-bomb dome - was filled with extremely high heat of 3,000 to 4,000 degrees Celsius.

And a shock wave with the pressure of several hundred thousand atmospheres spread in all directions. Following the shockwave was an extremely strong wind. Its maximum instantaneous wind velocity peaked at 440 meters per second.

It is said that those who were 100 to 200 meters from the hypocenter were exposed to radiation of 17 Sieverts, which is 17,000 times as high as the level harmless to the human body.

The compound effects of heat rays, blast and radiation caused A-bomb damage beyond our imagination. Almost the entire city was burnt down to scorched earth and most people within were massacred. I can only say that such an indiscriminate bombing was nothing but a diabolical atrocity, unethical and immoral. According to those that dropped the A-bomb, to win the war, the complete destruction of cities and the massacre of innocent unarmed civilians was justified.

About 350,000 people, including Korean workers brought in forcibly from the Korean Peninsula, U.S. POWs, and students from China and Southeast Asia, encountered the Hiroshima bombing. About 140,000 were dead by the end of 1945. The death toll increased to about 200,000 by the year 1950. As of the end of March 2004, a total of 273,918 atomic bomb survivors still live in Japan. Of these, 83,732 live in Hiroshima City, and 48,749 live in Nagasaki City. In lesser numbers, A-bomb survivors dwell in every prefecture from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south. I am one of these survivors.

Here I would like to show you some slides. There are 44 slides containing pictures and photographs.

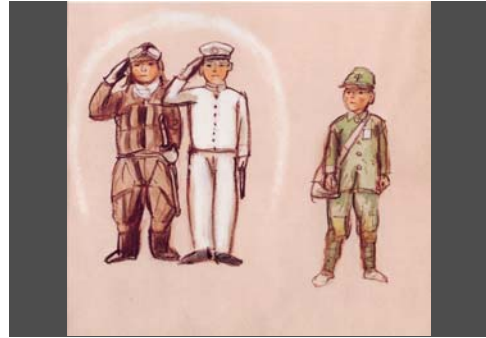
Japan was at war for 15 years. On September 18th, 1931, the Manchurian Incident occurred. This incident is also known as the preliminary skirmish of the Japanese-Chinese war as it led to the Japanese-Chinese War on July 7th, 1937. This series of wars expanded to the Pacific War, which began with Pearl Harbor on December 8th, 1941.



Japan went ahead with a war of aggression against Asian nations such as China, and colonized the Korean Peninsula for 36 years. Japan made a big mistake.

'Go, go, go soldiers!' This is a passage used in a textbook when I was an elementary school child. We received militaristic education using such a textbook during the war.

Most junior high school boys then thought that they would become servicemen when they grew up. I myself really wanted to enlist in the boys' naval air force headquartered in Kasumigaura in Ibaraki Prefecture.



At the center of this slide is the summer uniform consisting of white cap, white jacket with seven buttons, and white trousers. On the left is a uniform for piloting an airplane. They looked very sharp to us at the time. Our school teachers told us that becoming admirable airmen of the naval air force and marching into the enemy's territory to kill as many enemy soldiers as possible were right and necessary things for Japan to win the war - and we believed so, as well.

However, Japan lost the war, and we realized the faults of militarism. Moreover, we learned that Japan caused our Asian neighbors great distress and sorrow. I therefore believe that the basic responsibility of war lies with the Japanese government. Because the Japanese Government started the war...At the same time, however, I, myself, should deeply repent the war fought by Japan as a Japanese who lived through the war, even though I was only a boy at the time. I was taught that killing people was the right thing to do and I believed it. I think having such an idea was totally wrong even though I was taught so, and I now deeply repent this.



During the war, junior high school students and girls in girls' schools were mobilized - rather than studying - to perform demolition work of houses of ordinary citizens by order of the government. This demolition work was continued to prepare vacant lots as evacuation areas in anticipation of air raids by the United States. Residents of the demolished houses had no choice but to give up their houses and

evacuate to the countryside where relatives or acquaintances lived. They were forcibly evicted by government orders.

Just before the A-bomb was dropped on August 6th, an air raid warning and a precautionary warning had been cleared earlier. Feeling safe, we went out onto the playground and waited for the morning assembly to begin. There were about 150 students on the playground, including about 60 classmates of my own. We then saw the US model B-29 airplane approaching, even though the warnings had been already cleared. We never dreamt that this airplane was carrying the A-bomb.



In Hiroshima, the sky was clear in that morning. The B-29 airplane approached just above us leaving a beautiful vapor trail. Believing we were secure and safe, we looked up at the flying airplane while pointing at the sky. Then our teacher came out of the staff room and our class president called out, 'Gather around! Fall in!' At that particular instant, the tragedy happened.



With an incredible noise, complete darkness covered my eyes for a second. Without being able to see an inch ahead of me, I had no idea what had happened. They say there was a flash but I do not remember it. From what I have heard, it was a pale blue light bursting out in all directions, followed by a powerful booming blast.

We were blown away without the least resistance



After a while, I recovered consciousness when the smoke that had covered the playground disappeared and it became light. I had been blown about 10 meters away from where I had been before the explosion, and had fallen hard on the ground. The blast had thrown me there.

I then found that some 150 other students had also been blown in all directions and lay everywhere in the playground. The schoolhouse was flattened to the ground as it was built of wood. Every house and building that had once stood around the school had collapsed because of the blast.

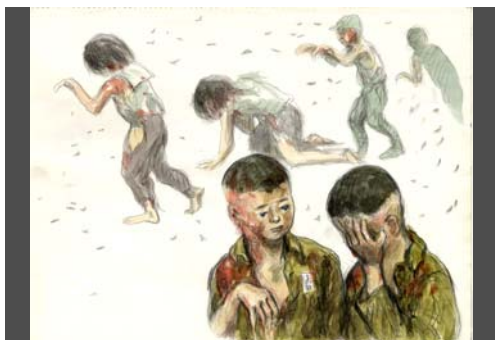


I gazed into the distance but saw no houses - all had disappeared except for a few buildings. Oh, Hiroshima has disappeared, I thought for a moment. Then I looked at my own body. My school uniform had been burned and torn to tatters by the heat rays. At the moment of the A-bomb flash in the sky, my uniform had spontaneously caught fire and burnt down to tatters. That blast peeled the skin right off the back of my head and down to my back, arms, hands, and legs. I could see my own red flesh exposed between tatters of skin burned by the heat ray. Recognizing that I must be in a state similar to the many other students lying around me, I was seized momentarily by panic.



Fleeing to a river at the time of an air raid was what I remember being told during evacuation drills by the teacher. I promptly left the playground to flee to the river.

On my way to the river I heard somebody calling my name from behind. 'Hey, Takahashi, Takahashi, wait for me, wait for me.' I turned around and saw my friend. Tatsuya Yamamoto, calling me -he was my classmate. I used to go to with him every day.



He was just crying, 'Mom, help me, help'. He just kept crying. I told him, 'Don't cry anymore -crying is no use. Get moving instead of crying or we may be in great trouble. We must leave here now.' I scolded him some times and encouraged him at other times. I stayed with him and pulled him along. During the war we wore a cap called a 'combat cap'. My hair remained in the part

covered by the cap but heat waves burnt away the hair that was not covered by the cap. Bald spots were left on these spots. The cap was, of course, blown off.

A great number of bombed people were fleeing in procession. Everyone held out their arms with tattered skin dangling from the fingertips. Their clothes were all tattered. Some were almost naked - their skin had peeled off and red flesh was exposed. Everyone was fleeing and they were dragging their feet and staggering barefoot- the sight looked as if it were ghosts walking in procession.



I saw many people in the procession who had been hideously damaged. One was covered with broken glass pieces from the waist up - these glass pieces were window glass, for instance, that had been broken into fragments and scattered by the blast, piercing human bodies. I could see such glass fragments had struck my own body in several places such as my waist and both arms.

One woman was covered in blood with one of her eyeballs hanging out. This had been caused by the blast. A man on the left had been so badly burned above the waist that his skin was peeling from his entire back and burned red flesh was exposed.



There were several dead bodies. Among them I saw a hideously damaged woman's dead body. Her ruptured internal organs were bulging out onto the ground - this had also been caused by the blast.

I also saw a baby lying beside a woman who was apparently the baby's mother. Both were seriously burned - almost their entire skin had peeled off with red flesh exposed. The baby was shrieking. He was still alive. However, we couldn't do anything for the baby as we were just boys.



A horse was dead with its neck in a trough and its skin peeled from its entire body, exposing red flesh. This entire scene was horrible. Words can never describe such a horrible sight.

With such a dreadful sight in front of us, we ran for our lives towards the river. The wreckage of houses destroyed by the blast, however, blocked every lane from the main street to the riverbank. It was impossible to walk there. We therefore desperately climbed over the wreckage of the houses - down on all fours - and finally, reached the riverside.



As soon as we reached the riverside, a fire suddenly broke out all at once in the wreckage of the houses. The fire was spreading rapidly and a tall column of fire rose to the sky with a loud sound and force - just like a volcano erupting. Even now, I can clearly remember how frightened I was. It was very fortunate that we were able to escape the fire. The fire was caused by the

wreckage of houses destroyed by the bomb blast spontaneously catching fire due to the heat rays that flashed for a second up in the sky. Fire being used for cooking breakfasts also combined with this fire. That fire is called a 'super high temperature fire.' Many were trapped beneath destroyed houses with no hope of help reaching them. Since only one or two people could not do anything to save those people. Shortly, the spreading fire quickly reached them and many people had no choice but to leave beloved family members beneath the wreckage to flee the fire. Within two

kilometers from the hypocenter, the fire burned everything combustible including wooden houses.

When crawling down to the riverside, we saw a small bridge that had miraculously remained intact after the blast. That bridge saved our lives.

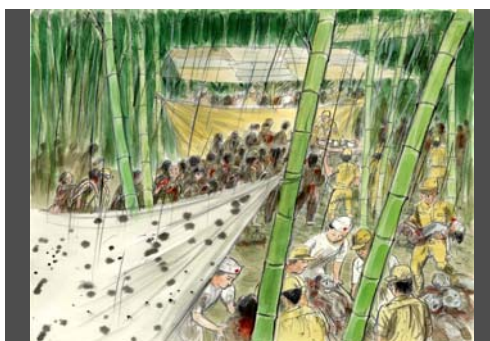


I crossed the bridge to the other side and found that my friend Yamamoto was no longer with me. Later, after I recovered, I heard from his mother that he had been taken to his home by a kind stranger, but died six weeks later on September 16 from acute radiation poisoning. So I crossed the bridge and got to the other side alone.

The opposite bank was 3 kilometers away from the hypocenter, so luckily there was no fire over there. "Oh, I am alive," I thought to myself. And then, I let go. Tears welled up in my eyes for the first time and I couldn't hold them back. At the same time, I felt that my body was getting hot - unbearably hot - so I entered the river and soaked in the water. The cold water felt so good on my burning hot body that it was like a treasure. In reality, however, dead bodies were floating in the river and it looked as if it was hell on earth.



Thousands of people were soaking their bodies in the water like I was, and many of them drank river water, then, were carried away to their deaths.



Shortly after, I came out of the river and went to a makeshift relief station made of bamboo taken from the mountains. I received simple treatment and rested there. A number of bombed people were waiting in line for treatment. Suddenly, large black drops of rain began falling. This is what is called 'black rain'.

Black rain is formed when the dust sent to the sky by the blast mixes with the rain. This black rain contains radiation. Some people who were directly exposed to that rain later suffered from radiation sickness. Luckily, I was in a tent at that time so I was not exposed to the rain. Looking at the black rain for the first time in my life, I felt so strange. I gazed at the rain for a moment and wondered if black rain had ever existed on this earth.



I waited until it had stopped raining and then started walking back home by myself. I was anxious, however, whether I could walk more than 6 kilometers to my house by myself after suffering such severe burns.

After walking for a while, I heard somebody calling my name again. 'Takahashi, Takahashi, take me home with you'. It was the moan asking for help. I looked in the direction of the moan and found my classmate, Tokujiro Hatta, crouching at the roadside. We were from the same town and went to the same school together everyday. I looked at his body. The skin had peeled off from the soles of both his feet and the red flesh inside was burned and exposed. It was impossible for Hatta to walk. I said, 'how did you come here?' He said that a kind stranger had carried him on a bicycle and left him there. After a while, I had come by. I was worried about whether I could find a way to help him. He was my classmate from the same town, so I did not want to go home by myself and leave him behind. I wanted to help him some way or another but couldn't find any means. In the midst of misfortune, fortunately he had suffered no severe gashes or burns except for the soles of his feet, so I finally thought of two ideas to help him.



One was for him to crawl on his hands and knees like a cat or dog. This way his feet did not touch the ground.

The other idea was for him to walk on his heels with me supporting his body. By traveling in these two ways alternatively, we traveled towards home very slowly - much slower than a snail's pace while helping each other. It now came as a surprise that I could think of such ideas.



Walking in such a unique manner made us exhausted, so we rested by the roadside. When I happened to turn around, I saw my granduncle and grandaunt approaching. I was overjoyed to see them and called to them at the top of my voice. They were very surprised. They never had the slightest idea that they would meet us in such a place.

They were on their way home from the country where they had been attending a memorial service for their relatives. It was very fortunate that I saw them there by chance.

My granduncle carried me on his back, my grandaunt carried my friend Hatta, and that is how we were finally able to get home. Without their help both of us would have died along the way and I would have had no chance of talking like I am now, before all of you, mayors from different countries.



My friend and I finally reached home on a stretcher that my grandfather brought.

After I got home, my mother cut off my clothes with scissors in order to undress me without the pain I would have experienced if my clothes had brushed against my hands and legs where red flesh was exposed. She dressed me in a new yukata - or summer cotton kimono. I later heard that my friend Hatta had died from acute radiation disorder on August 8th - two days after the bombing.



For one and a half years after that, I received treatment for my burns. Fortunately, one of our acquaintances was a doctor and he visited my house twice a day - in the morning and evening. This doctor, however, was an 'ENT' doctor - an ear, nose and throat doctor. Such doctors could not treat burns – that should be, of course, a surgeon or dermatologist. However, we couldn't ask for much because, with the city area virtually

destroyed, we had neither doctors, nurses, medicines nor food available to us. It is estimated that there were about 300 doctors and about 1,800 nurses in Hiroshima City before the atomic bombing, of whom more than 70 percent were killed by the bombing. I was very lucky to receive treatment from a doctor, regardless of his specialty, because a great number of victims never got any treatment. In this way, I managed to survive - I was really fortunate.

However, treatment was a painful ordeal. The burned area was covered with gauze bandages smeared with medicine. The following day, the doctor came to remove the bandages. Since the summer heat completely dried the gauze, it stuck to the wound. I couldn't stand the extreme pain I felt when it was pulled off. Blood and pus spouted from the affected area. I clearly remember wailing, "Ow! Ow! It hurts! Stop!" My grandfather washed the blood and pus from the gauze just removed, sterilized it by boiling, dried it, and used it the next day. No better treatment was available in postwar Japan due to the scarcity of goods.

Although I have survived, since 1971 I have suffered from chronic hepatitis thought to have been caused by radiation. I have been hospitalized 14 times, and currently I receive shots - injections -three or four times a week. I also suffer from many other diseases. I now receive every kind of treatment except those related to obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, and psychiatry. Every day I'm

anxious and painfully aware of my difficulties and the pains involved with living. In despair, I sometimes wonder why I have to continue to live while suffering this much.



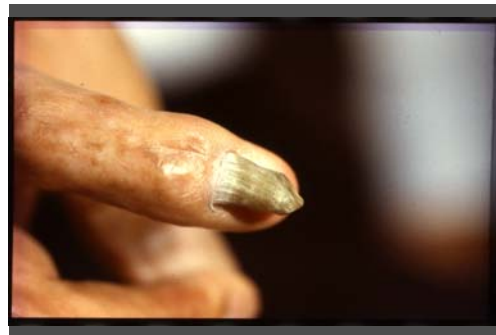
Whenever I yield to despair, however, I encourage myself by saying that I have managed to survive so I should continue to live. And so I have lived thus far.

Scars from burns received at the time remain on many parts of my body. Among them, burns on my right hand and arm were so severe from the right elbow to the fingertips that the skin peeled off and the red flesh inside was exposed and burned. My right elbow has been locked at an angle of 120 degrees since then and I can't move it. My fingers - except for the thumb - remain bent and I cannot move them either.



I have a very hard life because of this. I have keloids on my wrist. Usually a burn heals within a month at the earliest. After this, large lumps of flesh swell on the healed part. That slide shows the state after the keloids were removed from my wrist by a surgical operation.

I have a peculiar black-brown fingernail on my right index finger. A glass fragment propelled by the blast pierced the root of this nail. According to a dermatologist, the glass fragment destroyed the cells that produce the nail. He correctly predicted that this right fingernail would never heal and become a normal fingernail.



The fingernail grows naturally, and it grows so thick and hard that it can't be cut with ordinary nail clippers. I leave it for 2 to 3 years to grow.

Then a crack appears at the root of the nail and it falls off naturally. I have donated those nails to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, where two of my nails are exhibited in a showcase in the bomb blast section.



were damaged in this way.

This slide shows only one of my ears, but both of my ears were crushed. Blood and pus accumulated in both ears and they swelled large with a purple color. The doctor squeezed the blood and pus out of my ears. The blood and pus had rotted the cartilage or soft bones forming the ears. The rotted cartilage was crushed when the blood and pus was squeezed out, so that my ears

These clothes were worn by my friend, Yamamoto, with whom I fled immediately after the bombing. His mother always treasured them as his “remains.” His siblings donated them to the A-bomb museum in June 2003.



The chest of the jacket is burned out, and the front of his pants is burned to shreds. You can see the cloth in of the back. I encountered my friend's clothes again on August 2, 2004, after 59 years. I was unable to look at them without tears. Why did the US have to mercilessly kill 7,200 innocent mobilized students? Again, I felt a twinge of hatred for the US. However, hatred never destroys

hatred. Where there is hatred, we cannot have peace. However painful, we must overcome our hatred.

This ends the slide presentation.

Out of about 60 classmates of mine at the time, only 14 are still alive. I am one of the few survivors. Nearly 50 of my classmates including Yamamoto and Hatta were cruelly killed by the atomic bomb.

Ever since the war, I have lived thus far pledging that I should never waste their deaths.

I have lived with the conviction that it is the duty and responsibility of those who survived to convey the unheard voices and will of the tremendous number of dead. I live and work on behalf of my dead friends.

Even under the harshest of circumstances, we must never forget to open our hearts to others. We survivors have discussed this among ourselves and have lived since the war with this lesson etched in our minds.

I believe it is clear that the atomic bomb was dropped for experimental purposes. There are three reasons that support my view. First, the United States manufactured two different types of atomic bombs and wanted to compare them in terms of destructive capability. One was the 'little boy' - the uranium type which was dropped on Hiroshima. The other one is the 'fat man' or plutonium type which was dropped on Nagasaki. These two atomic bombs are different models and have different nuclear substances. Secondly, the industrial area and the center of the city where the houses were clustered were targeted by the bomb. In order to overthrow militarism, the killing of a great number of Japanese citizens was necessary. Thirdly, they selected cities that had been hardly damaged by incendiary bombs from air raids. Since then air raids on such cities were banned. These are the three reasons to prove that the atomic bomb was used to experiment with its power and destructive energy.

The US takes the view that dropping the atomic bomb was the right thing because it saved 1 million US officers and men and the Japanese citizens. But I'd like to call to the United States to stop and think. This 1 million lives is only an assumption. The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killed well over 300,000 people. How does the US regard this number of lost lives? Don't we always say that the life of a single person weighs more than the earth?

Nuclear weapons are an absolute evil - we victims of A-bombs object to all war and appeal to the world for the prompt and total abolition of nuclear weapons while overcoming all the grief and hatred we feel as A-bombs victims. Currently, it is said that there are as many as 16,000 nuclear warheads on earth. Of those, 90% are in the US or Russia. It is only the US and Russia that maintain huge arsenals of nuclear weapons. The five nuclear-weapon states, the U.S., Russia, the U.K., France and China, are protected by the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). This contradiction has been allowed by the international community. We, the A-bomb survivors, cannot help but feel strong resentment to such an obviously irrational and unjust situation.

As I expected, the NPT Review Conference in May closed without any concrete result due to the egoism of the five nuclear powers setting priority to national interests, and among others, the unilateralism of the United States.

Nevertheless, no matter how many times we are knocked down, we, the A-bomb survivors, rise again. We will tenaciously continue to appeal and act against wars and work towards the abolition of nuclear weapons up until our last breath.

I urge the five official nuclear-weapon states, especially the United States, not to cling to their national interests, and rather to think seriously about the interests of humankind and to lose no time in meeting their responsibility to international society.

The world is still dominated by a power-oriented philosophy and balance of terror – it endangers the earth towards self-destruction. At this critical moment, I would like to appeal strongly to every city and every citizen in the world to overcome the interstate confrontation and the differences in thoughts and beliefs, and in solidarity with each other, turn showdown to conversation, change distrust to friendship, and strengthen the bond of unity among us, encircle the nuclear-weapon states and press them, “Immediately eliminate nuclear weapons!”

Dear leaders of nuclear-weapon states! If you still insist on maintaining nuclear weapons, you should experience the same suffering we, the A-bomb survivors, were forced to suffer through. Perhaps only after you have experienced first-hand the atrociousness of heat rays and blast, only after you become familiar with the horror of radiation aftereffects, will you understand our honest and desperate plea. Yet, it is our primary desire to prevent another single human being from experiencing such horrors as we did, firsthand. Perhaps it would be enough if you were to merely walk a mile in our shoes, so they say, and honestly attempt to understand the unacceptability of nuclear weapons.

Dear leaders of nuclear-weapon states! Please be aware that if you hesitate today, it could lead to a catastrophe tomorrow. If the leaders of nuclear-weapon states decided to, nuclear weapons could be eliminated in a flash.

Unless we all have respect for international law and order, the world will never know peace. As we have seen in the war in Iraq, no true victory, and certainly no peace, can come from power controlling power. We must value the frameworks built so painstakingly by the nations of the world and be determined to live in peaceful coexistence with other peoples, other religions, and other cultures. I firmly believe that only on that foundation can we build a world of security and prosperity.

The human family is struggling with the negative legacy of the 20th century, including wars, nuclear weapons, terrorism, global warming, famine, refugees, violence, and violations of human rights. If people living in the 21st century fail to deal properly with this negative legacy, the present century may become the last with humans on this Earth. I, myself, now strengthen my determination to live my remaining days in full awareness of my responsibility as a crew member on 'Spaceship Earth.' I would like you to convey my view and wishes to all citizens in all parts of the world.

Thank you very much for your very kind attention. Thank you.

Tadatoshi Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan: On this occasion, actually in this morning's Peace Declaration, I declared the year beginning today until August 9 next year, the Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment. And to express that in a form that's more understandable, I would like to ask Mr. Takahashi to do one more favor for all of us. Actually, it's by sheer luck that Mrs. Takahashi is extremely good at folding paper cranes, beautiful ones, and she has prepared leis consisting of paper cranes for this conference.

So I'd like to invite the Vice-President Cities representing all of us to accept Mr. and Mrs. Takahashi's gift to this conference. The colors of the lei represent the national colors of your country. So I'd like to call on some of the Vice-President Cities to come up to the podium and receive the lei.

First of all, Mayor Herbert Schmalstieg from Hannover, please. Would you come up the podium? And Mr. Takahashi will place a lei for you.

Let me explain that when Mr. Takahashi visited Hannover, the City of Hannover and Mayor Schmalstieg made a beautiful booklet, this booklet, consisting of the speech you have just heard.

Next, I'd like to invite Mayor Catherine Margate from Malakoff, please. France.

Is Mayor Khan from Manchester here? Oh, you've just come back. Wonderful.

And Councilor Corro from Muntinlupa.

I understand that Mayor Ischenko from Volgograd had to leave, so I would like to move on to the next.

Mayor Gary Moore from Christchurch, please.

And Councilor Agostini from Firenze.

And also to thank those people who gave us inspiring speeches, I'd like to invite Senator Douglas Roche from Canada.

And Ms. Susan Walker. For the speakers we have the simple colors of red and white.

Well, thank you. Thank you very much, everybody. And before Mr. Takahashi leaves us, may I ask you to again thank him for his courage, for his inspiration. Thank you very much.

Takahashi: Thank you very much. Arigato gosaimashita. Thank you very much.

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Plenary Session II

The Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapon by the Year 2020

14:15-15:30, Saturday, August 6, 2005

Himawari

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Toshiki Mogami**

Professor, International Christian University

Reporter of Session Meeting:

Alyn Ware

Chairperson of Session Meeting I

Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

Motofumi Asai

Chairperson of Session Meeting II

President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University

Speaker: **Michel Cibot**

City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France

Alick Shaw

Deputy Mayor, Wellington City, New Zealand

John Hipkin

Mayor, Cambridge, U.K

Gisela Kallenbach

Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany

Miho Cibot

AFCDRP French Mayors for Peace, Malakoff, France

Alfred Marder

New Haven, Chairman of New Haven Peace Commission, U.S.A

Daniel Fontaine

Mayor, Aubagne, France

Susan Walker

Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant

Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer

Chairperson, Toshiki Mogami, Professor, International Christian University:

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. The time has come so we'd like to open Plenary 2 session. And this session will be composed of four parts, one is the report from Plenary 1 and the second is the report from the Session Meeting 1 and the third is the report from Session Meeting 2. And then after that I'll give you a short wrap-up report.

So it is my task to give you a report on Plenary 1 which was titled The Next Step for Mayors for Peace. And each of us will spend about 15 minutes or so, I would say less than 15 minutes, because time is limited so I'll try to abide by the time limit.

Plenary 1, which took place yesterday, started with Miss Susan Walker's vigorous keynote speech. She told us a lot about her rich experiences when she was actively involved in the work of the ICBL, which won the Nobel Peace Prize. She gave us many meaningful suggestions if this Mayors for Peace are to emulate the ICBL type of activity. For example, she told about the importance of raising voices, for us to raise voices, as the pressure from civil society. And she also said that you have to be explicit in your aims and you have to proceed with determination so that you can succeed some day.

She said many other interesting things, but one point which struck me strongly was when she said that you have to be ready to act out of the UN. People like myself, I am an international lawyer, and I have the tendency to think of turning to the UN from the beginning, but she suggested that sometimes it is necessary to step out of the mindset of the UN in order to succeed. And rather, you may have to rally with civic society more than the UN itself. So there must be a good combination of both.

So after this vigorous keynote speech, we had the presentations of 21 cities. As a matter of fact, there were many more applications for presentations than we had imagined. This was a very happy situation and we were very happy about this, but I have to apologize to you once again. Because of this large number, we were compelled to extend the session in an extraordinary way. But the presentations were rich enough that we never felt that we wasted time in any way.

The presentations were too rich to summarize in a few words or sentences, but I'd like to take up only five major points. One is that there was strong support for the cause of the Mayors for Peace, like non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and the 2020 Vision, everything. The presenters were almost unanimous in their support for those causes, and they were almost unanimous equally in their denunciation of the nuclear doctrine, I felt.

And the second was that people were almost equally unanimous in their conviction in the positive roles the mayors can play. Many people stressed their closeness to citizens which would enable them to sense something different and to act in a different way from the central government, national government. And they are also conscious of the power of the civil society of which they regard themselves as part.

And third, probably in connection with this sense of closeness with the citizens, many emphasized the importance of peace education. There seems to be a commonality

growing among the city representatives that children and other future generations are the most important assets of society in our endeavor for peace.

And fourth, in relation to this, several indications manifested themselves that the promotion of a culture of peace is also indispensable. This has to do with the love of nature, environment and all living things. It has also to do with the notion of reconciliation, which is the focus of the Mayors for Peace. In short, this puts forth the attitudinal change which will enable us to find an alternative to killing and violence.

And fifth and finally, there were also indications of the importance of memorizing. Memories of the past tend to wither away, so if we are to build a better future on the basis of past mistakes, we have to construct a mechanism through which our memory is sharpened and stabilized. The important thing is that all this will not be a memory for retaliation but a memory for reconciliation.

So these are the five points which I think were important in yesterday's presentations and discussions. And it was a long, long session but I do believe that despite its length it was a very meaningful and fruitful and rich session. Thank you very much.

So next I'll call on Mr. Alyn Ware of IALANA to report on Session Meeting I .

Alyn Ware, Chairperson of Session Meeting I , Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have the honor to give the report on Session Meeting I , which is on International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons: Partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations and National Governments. The meeting included mayors and other city representatives, government representatives, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society.

Sixteen representatives took the floor to make comments and this report will summarize some of the main themes, actually ten of them.

One, on strategy. It was noted that Mayors for Peace should think strategically about the nature of collaborations with other sectors, and that indeed it has been doing this. And there will be times when Mayors for Peace should act within its own constituencies of mayors and cities, highlighting the unique contribution that this organization can make and focusing on the specific roles of mayors and cities in promoting nuclear disarmament.

There will be other times when Mayors for Peace should collaborate with a specific group or constituency building on the existing or potential links between mayors and that constituency. An example of this is the relationship between Mayors for Peace and the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament, which highlights the mutually reinforcing roles of mayors and parliamentarians in promoting nuclear disarmament.

And there will be other times when Mayors for Peace should collaborate in a much wider sense and more generally with a cross-section of the abolition movement.

Two, on partnership with governments. Collaboration with governments was noted as especially important, particularly in building government support for a nuclear weapons abolition treaty. Mayors for Peace has gained credibility through collaboration with like-minded governments, for example, at the 2005 NPT Review Conference. And there was encouragement for deeper collaboration with new agenda countries and with countries that become part of the Article 6 Forum, which was proposed by Senator Douglas Roche and the Middle Powers Initiative.

Three, partnership with non-governmental organizations. There was considerable discussion on such collaboration. This included collaboration with groups like Abolition 2000, the International Peace Bureau, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and many others. These have helped Mayors for Peace to build membership, to assist Mayors for Peace in developing its abolition strategy, and its participation in international disarmament fora like the Non-Proliferation Treaty. And these groups have also helped to engage cities in local disarmament and peace actions. The plan of Mayors for Peace to establish an advisory group of NGO representatives and disarmament experts was welcomed.

Four, partnership with other local authority organizations. There was discussion about strengthening relationships with other local authority organizations and networks, such as local government commissions and associations of nuclear-free local authorities.

Five, partnership with parliamentarians. The report on the positive relationship between the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament and the Mayors for Peace, including the release at the 2005 NPT Review Conference of a joint mayors and parliamentarian Statement on Nuclear Disarmament. And it was hoped that more mayors and parliamentarians would endorse the Statement in order to support the mayors for peace Jump-Start Disarmament Project, which is the one specifically calling on the United Nations to establish a committee at its General Assembly in October to kick-start preparations and negotiations to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world.

Six, youth. Considerable importance was placed on engaging youth as actors, equal participants in the Mayors for Peace campaign and activities, and also in disarmament peace actions and events in cities. The International Law Campaign, Peace Wall, which many of you have seen around the Dome, is one example of such a positive youth action, and this was initiated by a German youth. It was hoped that there would be increased representation by youth in future Mayors for Peace meetings, including possibly on delegations from member cities.

Seven, promotion at the United Nations. It was noted that collaboration with governments and NGOs should focus on the Mayors for Peace programs adopted at this General Assembly, and in particular, the Jump-Start Disarmament Project on nuclear abolition negotiations, and also the educational projects on informing children and the public on the effects of nuclear weapons.

Eight, events. A number of forthcoming events were noted as possibilities for engagement with other sectors by Mayors for Peace and also by member cities. These included, for example, the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly, the World

Social Forum, the World Peace Forum in Vancouver in June, the World Urban Forum, also in Vancouver in June, and the 10th Anniversary of the International Court of Justice Case on Nuclear Weapons in July of 2006.

Nine, outreach across religious and ethnic groups. It was noted that Mayors for Peace is engaging members from a variety of communities reflecting the breadth of religions and ethnicities. In that respect, Mayors for Peace has an opportunity to transcend and transform ethnic and religious barriers and to promote understanding in the pursuit of world peace.

And finally, on communications. There was some very useful information offered on how Mayors for Peace could generate a more powerful media presence and develop affordable, live audio-visual communication links and virtual meetings between its members and also with key partners through new software such as ICUII and other developing technologies.

And in conclusion, the meeting concluded with a rousing tribute from Senator Roche to Mayors for Peace for its vibrancy, its creativity, and its potential to make an historical contribution in cooperation with like-minded states and NGOs to achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Alyn Ware. And then I'll call on Director Motofumi Asai of Hiroshima Peace Institute on Session Meeting II.

Motofumi Asai, Chairperson of Session Meeting II, President, Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University: Thank you very much. I would like to make the presentation on the results of the concurrent Session II. The number of participants in the concurrent Session II was very small in number. At the starting point I was very much afraid whether we were able to start the meeting, but with the positive and enthusiastic involvement by the participants, we did have very good results.

The advanced notification for the intervention were six in number, but two were attending the concurrent Session 1. Therefore, in the concurrent session, after finishing their statement they went back to concurrent Session 1. Therefore the total number of the advanced interveners were four in substance. In the first round of presentations there were two points which were raised.

One, when we think about the peaceful resolution of conflict as a precondition, two presenters emphasized the importance of education. One speaker said explicitly that as a preventive measure of conflicts and for sustainable development of society, we need to put more importance on education for peace. Another speaker said, for us in French local authorities, abolition of nuclear weapons is not the ultimate goal, but it is one of the important but basic means to promote a culture of peace. This delegate also said, in order to let children, especially older children, know the danger of nuclear weapons, it is possible to teach them by using very specific examples and also games under the name of the game, "Path for Peace."

As a Chairperson, with those comments, I wanted to have a thorough discussion in the following discussion time, but because of the following reasons, there was no further discussion on this subject.

The second point, there was a call for hibakusha and the hibakusha organization to be awarded the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize and there was a very positive intervention. Hibakusha refused to be treated as victims, as an individual, as a group they are appealing the spirit of peace. It is indeed the living proof of Gandhi's spirit, she said. She also proposed specifically Hidankyo to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize which set the pace for further discussion to follow.

After we moved into the discussion session, most of the statements focused on hibakusha and Hidankyo, hibakusha organization issues. From France and Belgium, there was the comment that hibakusha is not known much in Europe, and also there was a very hard question by them whether Japanese people are serious about letting other people know about hibakusha. Not retaliation, but they have asked us, the Japanese, whether we have asked the United States to apologize and demand moral compensation of the United States as the perpetrator of the A-bombing and the Holocaust. And to make Hiroshima and Nagasaki as the legacy common to all people, in order to give legitimacy to Hidankyo, it is advisable to offer the Nobel Peace Prize to Hidankyo.

Therefore, in this concurrent Session II, in the Appeal of this Mayors for Peace there should be sentence which says Hidankyo should be offered the Nobel Peace Prize. There was a specific proposal. Therefore this comment was delivered to Prof. Mogami, who happened to be attending in this conference session.

I personally think Mayors for Peace should be actively engaged in the activities to have Hidankyo offered the Nobel Peace Prize in order to heighten international voices and reinvigorate Japanese nuclear weapon abolition. That is considered to be fading over Hiroshima memory. I sincerely hope that the plenary session will take this up seriously.

So this is so much from the report from the concurrent session, but allow me to further make my perception about the concurrent Session II. As I expected in the beginning, there were so many people attending in concurrent Session I, but not many in concurrent Session. I believe this resulted from how two themes were selected to begin with.

The theme of concurrent Session I was International Cooperation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons; it's very easy to understand that theme. On the other hand, in Session II, the theme was Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts and the A-bomb Survivors Message. This theme was separated in the earlier conference, in the year 2002: the Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts and Making the A-bomb Experience a Legacy Shared by All. And in this 2005 meeting this was put together.

To be candid with you, ladies and gentlemen, as a Chairperson of this session, in the beginning I did not understand exactly what the purpose of this concurrent session was. I believe one of the reasons why we did not have many participants in this

Session II is that compared with the concurrent Session I , which did have the explicit purpose stated, the points to be discussed in Session II were unclear.

This is my humble proposal, Chairman, to the Mayors for Peace. I sincerely hope whenever you select the themes for the concurrent session you will select an attractive enough theme which can make every participant feel difficult to decide which one he wants to attend. This is my request. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much, Prof. Asai, including your very good suggestions for the future of this conference.

Now it's time for you to take the floor. I know that some of you want to take the floor and say something additional based on the three reports, or, as I promised you yesterday, you can add something to the topic of Plenary 1 yesterday because we ran out of time. So those who are willing to say something, please feel free to raise your hand. Yes, please. Yes, Mr. Cibot.

Michel Cibot, City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France: I am Michel Cibot. I am a Representative for the City of Malakoff and AFCDRP. In terms of cooperation with NGOs and parliamentarians, I am all for that, but as a representative of the local government, I think that this all relates to peace culture or the culture of peace and nuclear abolition. I think local governments should take ownership of these issues and activities, daily activities, so that the local governments are able to talk closely with the citizens to take ownership of these issues in order to motivate the citizens. And I think this may not have been emphasized as much in the past.

One other point, the September 21 International Day of Peace, let me talk about this. September 21 is declared as the UN International Day of Peace, so we should take advantage of this day to work on this day as the day to promote peace. The culture of peace, this is a notion that is defined by the United Nations. Once again, there is this concept of the culture of peace that could be furthered. It is a concept that is internationally and legally supported. So let us promote this. And also to nominate the Hidankyo as a candidate for the Nobel Laureate, I am for this.

Chairperson: So I think it was mentioned that we should focus the point on ownership, and also to link this with activities at the UN. Thank you very much for the comment.

Alick Shaw, Deputy Mayor, Wellington City, New Zealand: I'm Alick Shaw. I'm Deputy Mayor of Wellington City, New Zealand. It seems to me that the key contribution that we can make as leaders of local government is, in fact, to apply pressure to our national governments. And if we look at the policy that New Zealand has adopted on a national basis, the origins of that policy in many respects arose of municipalities from one end of my country to the other declaring themselves nuclear-free, but not simply making the gesture, but making the gesture in order to ensure that our government took an active position on that issue in the United Nations particularly, but also in all the multilateral organizations of which we are a member.

It does seem to me, ladies and gentlemen. that that aspect of applying pressure and recognizing the position of our nations is not altogether present or is not as clearly present in the documents we have before us as I think it ought to be.

Mr. Chairman, I really believe that this is the key to our action. Certainly international conferences are important in terms of strategizing, sharing experiences and so on, but unless we direct our attention to the positions of individual governments, we will make no progress at all because it is they in the end who are going to make the decisions.

Let me close by reading to you one verse of a poem written by Hone Tuwhare, a great New Zealand poet, who wrote this piece in tribute to Hiroshima. It's poem called "No Ordinary Sun":

Tree let not your naked arms fall
nor extend in vain entreaties to the radiant ball
This is no gallant monsoon's flash
no dashing trade wind's blast
The fading green of your magic
emanations shall not make pure again
these polluted skies...for this
is no ordinary sun.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. There may be insufficiency in the documents. I believe your suggestion is well-taken and so we would like to take note of what you have suggested and try to work out something together. Thank you.

Excuse myself for the moment and ask Mr. Alyn Ware to take the Chair in the meantime, and I would like to ask others to take the floor and also make remarks.

John Hipkin, Mayor, Cambridge, U.K.: I would like to make one very minor suggestion in response to what we previously heard as the report from Group 1 and a more general comment on peace education. The suggestion I'd specifically like to make about the involvement of youth would be to explore an idea that we've already adopted in Cambridge, which is that the mayor should have a Youth Ambassador. If every Mayor for Peace nominated a student, a school student, a senior school student or a young university student who would act as the mayor's Ambassador, who would accompany the mayor on important occasions when the discussion of issues of this kind were raised, I think that would work. It certainly worked in the case of my own Ambassador who is a keen young man from a peace organization and I think the experience of being allied with the mayor has meant a great deal to him.

On the general question of peace education, my plea is simply, let it be education and not indoctrination. I believe that children distrust their teachers when their teachers oversimplify the complexity of the issues that face mankind. The issue of war and peace is a complex one. There are difficult arguments to work your way through, and I have seen many, many instances in my long life as a teacher where teachers have defrauded their pupils by giving them an over simplistic notion of how the world is and might be. So let us respect them by dealing with these issues in all their real complexity.

Chairperson: I'd like to thank you for your comments, and in general it seems that it will be possible to include some of these points in the reports of the working groups. They are not finalized and set in stone, so ideas will be able to be reflected.

Just with regards to peace education, to let people know that there may still be some brochures on peace education out at the front desk. If not, feel free to up to me afterwards. These are ones put out by the New Zealand Ministry of Education, which has gone out to every school in the country and reflects exactly the sentiments that you are talking about, what is peace education, education and not indoctrination. Excuse me for putting in my own comments there. Thank you.

Are there other comments on the reports from the plenary and the two sessions? Oh yes, over here, thank you.

Unknown: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have heard from the report, it is very important that we, the local leaders, put much pressure on our governments, and I would like to start with the Japanese government because I don't see the Government of Japan putting in much effort in this activity, because when you read the report you can find out that even this conference has been almost totally sponsored by the City of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we want to see that the Government of Japan has come in strongly.

And as you know, this conference, we hold it every four years. So we need to strengthen the national chapters of Mayors for Peace so that we encourage the Secretariat to see to it that the national chapters of Mayors for Peace are very, very active so that we get these frequent meetings and reviews so that there is a momentum. Because it seems that we are almost the remaining strong pressure group to see to it that the nuclear weapons are abolished. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. In each country, Mayors for Peace chapters should be strengthened. I believe the momentum has already been seen and there are a lot of our cities which have already embarked upon such activities in the local areas, and we would like to encourage such activities further. Any other interventions?

Gisela Kallenbach, Member of the European Parliament, Representative of Leipzig, Germany: A very short remark. I just want to reassure that the existing close cooperation with European institutions should be reinforced and strengthened because I really, I am personally convinced that the difficult but successful unification process in Europe could be a good example to other parts of the world. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Yes, please.

Unknown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to emphasize the very important matter brought about by the lady professor in her presentation, the power of knowledge.

As you know, despite the fact that we are in this modern age, where we have advanced communications technology, many more, especially the children, are not yet aware of what happened in Hiroshima, and so my plan at the local level is for me to

bring home information materials, like film showings, like if we have a live presentation of the Peace Ceremony of the victims of the A-bomb, like what we just heard this afternoon, conduct seminars and symposiums. So we need more information materials so that we can start at the two general chains, the process for education for peace.

And therefore I suggest that we have to make use of the present modern information technology to spread the word around, to spread the horrors of the atomic bomb. So I emphasize that we have to remember the power of knowledge. And if our purpose is on the children, our asset for peace for future generations, then we have to educate them as to what happened in Hiroshima in 1945 and to make them effective peace advocates for the future. That's my point, thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much.

It was a very constructive opinion. I concur with you. If everybody is very serious about this kind of peace education, the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation does have a lot of teaching materials. They are able to rent those materials out and it's possible for them to second people, of course it all depends on the budget of theirs, but in some way or another they are always ready to provide you with those materials. And we would like to do this in a Hiroshima and Nagasaki educational course, more systematically at the university level as you can see in our proposal. If we are going to do this, or if you are going to do this in the universities, Hiroshima City and Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation is prepared to provide you with materials. Please utilize them. Thank you very much. Any other intervention, please?

Unknown: My question, I have a question, I also notice the State, the government, there was none at the beginning of the conference. There was no government cabinet representation in this event. Now my gentleman behind me was stating that the State, especially the Japanese government, should get involved in an international thing like this, this international event. So when he said not a single cent has come from the State, that is something that we have to take to note, because at the end of the day it's the State that takes the position, even in my part of the world. So the State also should get involved in some form or another.

So I think, I felt it when there was no top-listed - I call it a cabinet minister or some kind of representative of the State, especially commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing, this conference, their attendance is very important.

Chairperson: Are you referring to the Japanese cabinet members or some other –

Unknown: Yes, from the State, from the government of this country. Their representation from the top rank because that is important. I feel, I don't know, that is how I feel and their presence is felt from State to nation to nation, the word can go from the top rank.

Chairperson: President Akiba might want to say something about this proposal because it has to do with the basic policy of this organization. Well, is this related to this? No. Does anybody want to say something about this proposal? No? Related to this? No, no the gentleman behind you.

Unknown: Thank you very much. It's not that I am able to respond to the earlier question, especially no presence by the heads of States in this conference, I'm not in a position of responding to that question, but allow me to talk about a different issue.

As several delegates have already pointed out, I am 45 years old today. When I was 10, at school I was taught about the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombings, and the day before yesterday, I went to the museum where I learnt of the serious atrocity and horror of the A-bombing. With my own eyes I was able to experience the A-bomb.

September 21 was designated by the United Nations as Peace Day. But specifically, there have not been any specific events prepared. This is only the verbatim commitment. Probably UNESCO or the other international organizations should be mobilized.

Fall is going to be the start of the new educational term in Europe. In the curriculum of the new courses, we hope that peace should be educated and taught to the children by using video and films. I think it's possible to mobilize UNESCO if September 21 is set as the peace day, this can also be called as the day for the education of peace.

I was very much stunned by seeing the pictures of the A-bombings. Seeing is believing. You have to see the actual terror, the atrocity. I have seen those pictures and I felt so depressed yesterday. And our local authority, whenever there is an election, we elect the local councilors. And there have been a lot of election campaigns in the local authorities. But for the citizens to elect the right local councilors, they have to also give thought to the terms of the local councilors.

Now going back to peace, peace does have diversity, without peace we cannot do anything. Peace is the concept which is very much diversified and it is multi-faceted. Physical peace, mental peace, there are different peaces, but the A-bomb instantaneously could destroy all peace. There are different types of peace in the world. But all those peaces will be destroyed to ashes in a split second. In order to avoid that situation from happening we have to take the initiative on our own, on the local authorities. This is a long time-consuming movement.

CHAIR MOGAMI: Yes, we have to take more specific movements and activities and give the thoughts to the features of the local authorities. Thank you.

Miho Cibot, AFCDRP French Mayors for Peace, Malakoff, France: My name is Miho Cibot. In 1985, when the first Mayors for Peace was held, ever since then I have been attending the conferences. In 1985, in the first meeting, that was indeed the very beginning meeting. We did not know how long we would be able to continue the Mayors for Peace meetings. And in the General Assembly we did discuss whether we are going to continue this meeting. In those days, this Mayors for Peace, this idea came about by the initiative of then Mayor Araki.

His idea was this. In 1982, as far as I know, he thought we should never depend on government-to-government initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons. But mayors, when there is a war, they are in the position of protecting the citizens in their proximity. Therefore, we cannot depend on the central government when it comes to

rectifying wars. Local authorities have to cooperate together with the citizens to prevent wars from happening. This is the proposal of this meeting. Mayors and the local authorities in the world, cross-borders, should put their hands together. That was the idea which was envisaged by then Mayor Araki.

Therefore, in this meeting, the comment was earlier raised about the non-presence of the head or the ministers of State and asking for such persons. But I do not consider this is the floor, this is the de facto point of this meeting because there is no presence, there is no initiative of the government. We started to take initiatives on the local authorities. In France, for the past 30 years I have been involved in the peace movement and the activities.

Whenever I was asked by the French people, what do you do, I explain my job and I explain what I do, then those French doctors who have asked questions say, that is not your job, that's what the central government is supposed to do. And there are so many people who share the same view. Those are the types of things which should be tackled by the central government, but because the issue cannot be solved by the central government initiative, we have decided to take initiatives on the local authorities, on the cities, which are very close to the citizens. This is the very important feature of this conference.

And in concurrent Session I , the report was given saying that Japanese movements are not adequate enough to communicate the message of hibakusha to the world. But we have to admit it is very difficult to communicate such a message, but there are a lot of efforts exerted so far. But it is very difficult to find the receiving end, the hosting countries.

In France, come to think of it, about 25 years ago, I think there are an increasing number of French people who can collaborate with us. Although not all the members of AFCDRP are present here, those cities who are not present in this meeting from AFCDRP have been engaged in various peace activities by having the Sadako Exhibition, and also some events for peace.

And in 1983, I created "On the Crane," that's the title of the animation. And this year, on NHK, an international radio broadcasting program, it was translated into 24 languages and this will be broadcast soon this year.

With long-enduring efforts and untiring efforts, we have culminated our efforts to this event. So there are a lot of efforts, and I sincerely hope each one of us is able to put more efforts to create more receiving ends in each one of the countries. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. When it comes to representatives from the State government, as has just been mentioned, there is a history why we don't have a state representative. I hope you would understand.

And the second point she mentioned, is also a wonderful point. It's not that we are not making efforts to communicate, it's just that there's not enough receiving ends prepared. If we have more receivers as our counterparts there will be better communication.

I think we are running out of time, but I think there are few hands up. The three people, or two people, these will be the last comments. The person in the back row, please.

Alfred Marder, New Haven, Chairman of New Haven Peace Commission, U.S.A.: Thank you. In order to take advantage of the opportunity of a number of groups here, we convened a meeting this morning of those organizations that plan to be involved in the Vancouver Peace Forum, and began the process of trying to unite efforts, especially efforts around the abolition of nuclear weapons.

There will be any number of organizations in Vancouver whose main issue, main focus is the abolition of nuclear weapons, and so the Mayors for Peace, the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Abolition 2000, which is the global council of organizations devoted to the abolition of nuclear weapons, 2000 members, hopefully the International Association of Physicians, parliamentarians and others are initiating efforts to come together to use each other and their expertise. And I would urge that we consider the World Peace Forum as the next major stop on the highway to abolish nuclear weapons. I think it provides us an historic opportunity.

Chairperson: Thank you. The next person, please.

Daniel Fontaine, Mayor, Aubagne, France: What we are discussing is about what we do, who is going to do what. My name is Daniel Fontaine. I am the Mayor of Aubagne. I am the head of the AFCD RP.

Four years ago when we had the conference we discussed the same matter. and we changed the name of the organization and we now call ourselves the Mayors for Peace because we wanted to emphasize the role that mayors can play. In that sense we need to keep our direction.

It is the mayors who are the central core of our organization. National governments may take part in our efforts. That's good, but the important thing is, we, as mayors, get together and discuss things and make proposals and we should be the central pillar of this group.

The second point I wanted to say is in May 2005, what happened at the United Nations was considered by the majority as a failure. It's true that we were unable to make progress. Some countries, because of political, economic and military-related hegemony issues, they tried to hide the risk, they tried to hide the threat and risk of nuclear weapons. And they tried to develop nuclear weapons. I'm not going to name the country, you know which countries I'm referring to, and I'm sure you know who is at the height of that effort.

The half-failed attempt should be remembered by us, and in our Mayors for Peace conference we have to go beyond the Appeal that we are going to adopt very soon and we need to have strong resolve and determination. We need to have a strong voice of condemnation for the proliferation. We also need to appeal to the people that we keep the memories.

There was a very impressive comment I heard earlier and I strongly feel the same sensation whenever I come to Hiroshima. This is my fourth visit to Hiroshima, and when I first came to Hiroshima I had the strongest impression. At that time I couldn't even sleep at night when I visited the museum. The duty of remembering is a duty for everyone. But those who have a direct experience, those who suffered the A-bomb, they should not be the only ones to remember, and that's why we had a discussion at Session Meeting 2 yesterday.

The Hidankyo, there is a proposal to nominate the group for the Nobel Prize for Peace. I think this is a wonderful scheme. By doing so we can express ourselves. At the same time, the world would be able to have no choice but to think about the reality of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Hidankyo's nomination to the Nobel Peace award was not included in the Appeal, but I think in line together with the Appeal we can also think about writing in our statement about what we'd like to do as Mayors for Peace. For the memory it should be not faded, we should think about what we are going to do in the future, and there are many, many people in the city this morning who are still fighting. So that the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be well remembered, we need to support these people in various ways.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Mayor Fontaine's view that has just been shared with us focused upon the fact that the people of Hiroshima wanted to hear the most. I will briefly talk about Hidankyo later. Now the last comment, please. This will be the last comment. From Susan.

Susan Walker, Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant, Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer: : Arigato gosaimasu, Mogami-san. I'm sorry to take the floor when I've had the microphone for a long time yesterday, but I have seven points actually.

The first is, and I strongly feel this, the Mayors for Peace have the potential to be an extremely powerful and effective agent for change. That being said, I think it needs to become much more focused, and I'm speaking very frankly because this is an opportunity that all of you have.

Jody Williams, the '97 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, often quotes a fellow peace prize laureate of ours, Betty White from Ireland. And Betty constantly says, "emotion without action is useless." It is important to raise voices but it is very, very important to be focused and to take practical action. I couldn't agree more with my colleague from Wellington who said one thing the mayors can do is to apply pressure on your local governments.

Our Japanese colleague said that Mayor Araki, when he founded the Mayors for Peace, founded it to try and get rid of nuclear weapons. Of course, all of you as mayors are dealing with every issue in your town, from unemployment to reduction of poverty to peace education, and that is fine and that is all part of your agendas. But I think the Mayors for Peace, if you want to truly achieve getting rid of nuclear weapons by 2020, need to have a very strategic plan of action just like we in the landmine ban convention. I'm working on implementation now. We want to get

mines out of the ground and to help victims. I have been going and talking with individual governments in the field. It can't only be done in Geneva and it can't only be done in New York or at the capital level. That's where raising the voices comes in very importantly.

And I think individual and collective advocacy on the local, national, sometimes regional - we talk about the European Parliament - has to be done, not only international.

The list of the events in the action plan is very good. The First Committee, the World Peace Day, the world forums, these are all important international events. But work has to be done in between. Just three ideas that came to mind was, the mayors, individually, each of you, sending letters to the nuclear powers and also to, frankly, all the governments of the world, asking for support. This could be, maybe a draft letter could be prepared that you could use as a template.

But also, get your government representatives to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That has been suggested. I don't think anyone hearing Takahashi-san's presentation just earlier could not be moved. As Senator Roche said to me, there is no conceivable reason to have nuclear weapons. But that needs to get out.

The third could be countries like New Zealand, a nuclear-free country, speaking to other countries. And I plead ignorance on nuclear issues. I could not, for instance, tell you what country besides New Zealand, I was asking my colleagues, what country besides New Zealand has declared themselves nuclear-free. That is where, as our colleague from the Philippines said, power is knowledge. Some of those essential facts could be included in very simple briefing papers. I was surprised not to find more, or frankly any, here that people could, the mayors, all of the network could take back with them.

And the Middle Powers Initiative Conference that Senator Roche is talking about. I think that will be an example of practical action. They plan to meet in October to discuss the legal, political and technical requirements to eliminate nuclear weapons. We did this in the campaign. We took each country saying, what are the blocking points? Why are they not joining? Who are the influences that can influence? Every country is different. That analysis and work needs to be done, and it cannot only be Hiroshima doing it or Aaron Tovish and his staff of zero? It needs to be, either you need to contract people, but get some of that information.

The hibakusha, I think a lot has been said about that, raising the voices. But for instance, was Takahashi-san's presentation, which was one of the most moving that I've seen, was that videotaped? I didn't think of it before, but that is something that can be used again and again.

The power of media. I won't say any more than that but the media should be engaged on this.

Also the web, which is in your plan, the website being upgraded. We have found in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines the importance of communications and now you have a network of 1,000 mayors, right? One thousand. Yes, I'm finishing.

You could set up electronic groups where Aaron could instantly send a message to every single person that is a member and information can be sent out instantly and I think the UN colleague spoke about that.

So sorry to go on for so long. Just one last clarification on the Nobel Peace Prize. It seems there is some confusion, but you should know that the Nobel Peace Prize, each year the nominations close in January, the end of January, and AFSC has already nominated, they are already nominated, so what needs to be done now is letters of support to be sent to the Nobel Committee. It would be powerful if every mayor in this conference sent a letter of support. But that needs to be done urgently because the decision will be made very soon.

So thank you, and thank you for the wonderful organization of this conference. Sorry to go for so long.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for many useful suggestions and proposals which are quite important items that we can make use of in our future activities. Now I'd like to ask the two reporters of the session meetings to speak for one minute.

Ware: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Just to say I have been very heartened by the comments of this session. They have been both very practical and also very significant in terms of not only ideas for Mayors for Peace but also looking at strategy. And I'm sure we can build some of those into the reports which will be part of the final report for the conference.

I had one comment on the strategy question, because it seems as though there may be what appears to be two opposing views on Mayors for Peace strategy with regards to relationships with governments. On the one hand, there is a view that Mayors for Peace should be concentrating on influencing governments. On the other hand, there is a view, I think, that was put that governments aren't really to be influenced and Mayors for Peace should instead look at building up the authority of cities on this issue.

I'd just like to say that I don't think that these are opposing strategies. They are actually mutually-reinforcing strategies. It may be that in some situations mayors and cities will be able to have an incredible influence on national governments, and in that case, they should focus. An example was given on New Zealand where the cities actually changed a policy of a country which was supportive of nuclear weapons to one which now has legislated against nuclear weapons. That's a positive example that could be emulated possibly in some other countries but not others.

On the other hand, there may be countries where the States are totally not ready for influence from the mayors and it's very important to be able to build up the strength, not only with mayors in other countries but also with like-minded States. We're going beyond borders here. So the mayor of a country in France, for example, there's nothing to stop mayors from there to build relationships with the government members of New Zealand, for example. In fact, New Zealand and Canada and a number of other like-minded States were very positive about working with Mayors for Peace at the 2005 NPT Review Conference. They helped sponsor events there, including press conferences.

So we need to look beyond just our nationalistic framework when we're looking at the influence of Mayors for Peace and really look at building a strategy for what ultimately we will need government to support the treaty on the elimination of nuclear weapons, which is what we're working for of course with civil society support, but we can't leave out governments on that. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much.

Asai: In the case of the anti-personnel landmines campaign, civil societies, civil organizations and NGOs, and in some cases national governments, these parties collaborated to make the campaign a success to enter into a treaty. That was a very impressive comment I heard yesterday.

But when it comes to the nuclear elimination campaign that we are working on, when it comes to the circumstance in Japan, we have to frankly accept the fact that the Japanese government is most negative or inactive, not positive about nuclear elimination. When we want to campaign for nuclear elimination, in Japan what we need to do is, for the moment it's not really realistic to involve the national government, rather, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and other local governments who declare peace should work together, join hands to give pressure to the national government so that the government has no choice but to face the campaign. That is our real challenge.

In that sense, on a global basis, you have New Zealand and other countries who are declared nuclear-free, and together with Mayors for Peace, if these national governments work with us, it is very useful and beneficial. And these efforts in the end would lead to change national government's or cabinet government's attitude of not following always the American policy. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. You may have the wish to speak up but we cannot extend our session as we did yesterday. I won't be able to safely go back to Tokyo if I do this, so I'd like to refrain from doing that.

In the report for Session 1, we had a very good discussion. What actors we have, how we should collaborate with different sectors and different actors to be effective on the part of Mayors for Peace, we heard very constructive views. And in Session Meeting 2, the importance of education for peace was mentioned, and Hidankyo was mentioned. I happened to be in the discussion. It was a very good discussion I heard. In the next session, when I explain about the Appeal, I will mention about Hidankyo. So I'm not going to speak about that any more at this point.

But in any case, in the last session today we talked about how we should operate, what methodologies we should cooperate. These ideas and suggestions, proposals are all useful and there are different suggestions and different views mentioned. That, I think, is one of the good things about this meeting. We are in a learning stage. We have our own views. When you listen to other people's views, that opens up your mind and you would be able to learn more and know more after having heard the views from other people taking part in the meeting. The fact that we have a variety of views is one of the good features of this conference, and I do hope that we can continue on with this kind of proceedings.

So with this we'd like to conclude Plenary II .

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Closing Ceremony

15:40-17:20, Saturday, August 6, 2005

Himawari

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Greeting **Tadatoshi Akiba**

President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan

Discussion of Hiroshima Appeal Draft

Chairperson: **Toshiki Mogami**

Chairperson of Plenary Sessions I , II and Appeal Drafting Committee
Professor, International Christian University

Speaker: **Gary Moore**

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Christchurch, New Zealand

Stewart Kemp

Stewart Kemp, Principal Policy Officer, Manchester, U.K

Hervé Brahmy

President, Seine St. Denis, France

Aaron Tovish

2020 Vision Campaign Manager

Gordon Matheson

Councilor, Glasgow, U.K.

Alyn Ware

Chairperson of Section Meeting I

Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

Announcement of Hiroshima Appeal

Mohammed Afzal Khan

Vice President of Mayors for Peace

Mayor, Manchester, U.K

Closing Speech

Herbert Schmalstieg

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Hannover, Germany

Catherine Margate

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Malakoff, France

Tadatoshi Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan:

Well, may I start the meeting? Okay, now I'd like to start the closing session of the 6th Mayors for Peace General Assembly. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

First of all, I'd like to report that this conference has been quite successful. In total, in the Secretariat count, we have had the participation of 243 people. Now let me break that down. From within Japan we have 61 people from 38 cities, and from abroad we have 144 people from 54 cities and three organizations, and that represents 19 countries in total. And we also have 18 governmental representations, including the European Parliament. There was some reference to the lack of participation by national government, but we do have 18. And I am pleased to summarize or at least express my appreciation for the participation of many of you, and I only regret that a lack of time prevented more ample participation or more frequent contributions by each delegation.

But I found that many of the presentations and contributions were based on the actual experiences of activities in each city, in each organization and so forth, and many people supplied new ideas as to where we should be going and also new ideas that would help us pursue our goal of abolishing nuclear weapons by the year 2020. And also some others raised questions that we need to deal with seriously in order for us to overcome some difficulties.

But all of these comments and contributions, presentations were inspiring and they gathered some new energy and insight. And also, they have helped us strengthen our resolve to continue our efforts. And I believe there are many reasons for this, but let me point out just two reasons that all of your participation, your contributions here have helped all of us in such a positive way.

One is that as mayors, as council members or as leaders of different organizations, your daily job has been and is to inspire your citizens, to move them to action, to give them energy so that you can tackle your local problems with creativity, and that's your daily job, and you have done a splendid job of showing what you do in your cities very well in this General Conference, and I really would like to thank you all for showing your talent in that way.

And I believe that the second reason is that you represented the voices of your citizens, the voices of the members of your organizations very well. Not only the voices, but you represented the actions that have been taken by the citizens in your community. And I believe that gave us the feeling that this is real; we are not talking about abstract nonsense but rather concrete problems that each citizen faces each day. And we are dealing with the problem of the peace of the world on that level, and that is why we are persuasive in the eyes of government officials and international organizations as well. I believe that is our strength and we'd like to utilize that strength, take advantage of that strength, to make sure that we accomplish the goal.

That said, we need to work even more diligently in the coming years, until the next General Assembly, which will be four years from now, but yearly we will produce new actions plans, new names for the campaign year, starting from August 6 through

August 9 of the following year. Well, that's the terminology which was born during this General Conference, instead of fiscal year, instead of school year, we have the campaign year or action year or we could even use the word Hiroshima Year or Nagasaki Year or Hiroshima-Nagasaki Year, or whatever. But that is the one-year cycle that we are going to use, 369 days, from August 6 through August 9 of the following year we call maybe the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Year. But we will have a new agenda and new action plan for each year.

But for this General Conference we'd like to summarize what we've accomplished in the form of an Appeal, which you are calling the Hiroshima Appeal. And believe that you have in front of you the draft of this Appeal and I'd like to invite Prof. Mogami, who is the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to propose this Hiroshima Appeal draft to you and explain some of the careful considerations that went into the draft. So Prof. Mogami, please.

Toshiki Mogami, Chairperson of Plenary Sessions I , II and Appeal Drafting Committee, Professor, International Christian University: Sorry to have kept you waiting. I'll start explaining about the Appeal. The Drafting Committee held its meeting last night until well into midnight and we spent so much energy in making this Appeal as acceptable as possible to everybody. And I will explain to you briefly what the Appeal contains.

In the preambular paragraph, from paragraph 1 to 6, we have looked back upon the past four years and we regretted, this Appeal regrets the slow process of nuclear disarmament, almost stalemate of a nuclear process, and the aggravation of the world situation. And at the same time, in these paragraphs, we express our resolution to confront this deteriorating situation and make our determination to make things better.

This is what these preambular paragraphs say, and as to these paragraphs, there is one serious problem, which I would like to propose an amendment from this page. It is paragraph 4, which begins with the terms, "The human family now faces..." and so on and so on. And there was a heated discussion yesterday too about this paragraph. Some of us were concerned to name the specific names of the countries and some of us expressed the opinion that we have to specify the situation as clearly as possible.

So in the second sentence we say, "due to the doctrines of the US and other nuclear weapons States..." Although we say "other nuclear weapons States," the name of the of the United States is singled out. And there was a kind rejection from Mr. Cochrane, the President of the US Mayors Conference, which has been very contributive to this organization, and he is embarrassed to see his country's name singled out and it's quite understandable. There was serious discussion, and after the serious discussion the compromise was this, that we understand his situation, so Mr. Cochrane and President Akiba and myself talked a few moment ago and we decided that in view of the great contribution of the US Conference of Mayors, we should not complicate the organization's work back in the US further, and we should accommodate his concern.

And the compromise was to name all the countries which Mayor Akiba named in this morning's Declaration of Peace. Now if this is accepted, I'd like to propose it as it is, so we will say, "the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, India

and Pakistan," we limit to these countries, This is in accord with the Peace Declaration today. If there is serious objection we will have to listen to that, and if that objection is not too serious I would like to propose it that way. Will you kindly accept this amendment? [applause] Okay, so I take the majority as supporting this. Thank you very much. So we will revise sentence that way. So this was the most serious point.

And the discussion itself was a sincere and serious one and very productive I think. So after that, the examination went so smoothly and after the preambular paragraphs, we, the Appeal, takes up six points as the demands from this General Conference to States and governments and some international organizations. As you can see, the content is very clear.

Number one, we demand the conclusion of the abolition of nuclear weapons and to urge the negotiation for that.

And the second point is that the nuclear weapons States would promptly cease their deployment.

And the third point is to invite governments to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

And the fourth point is that governments will tackle other problems, like famine or poverty and all other social problems, other than the nuclear disarmament issue.

And the fifth point is that governments will implement important environmental treaties and other documents, including the Kyoto Protocol.

And the sixth point is, let's make the best use of the funds which we will gain from disarmament and so on.

So these are the six main points which this Appeal demands from governments and other organizations.

And following that, this Appeal takes up six other points which we will set as our goals, this organization's goals, not demands. These are the demands for ourselves.

One is that we will strengthen our activities to urge governments to conclude the nuclear weapons ban treaty before the NPT Review Conference, once again in 2010, before that.

And the second point is to strengthen the network of this Mayor's conference.

The third point is to cooperate with other actors, including governments and NGOs and other citizens for nuclear abolition.

And the fourth point is to urge the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly to start to set up a special committee for nuclear abolition and a nuclear-free world.

And the fifth point is to transmit the message of hibakusha as humankind's common legacy to the world, and for that purpose to establish as many Hiroshima-Nagasaki courses as possible.

And the sixth point is to promote the culture of peace throughout the world and for that purpose to strengthen peace education.

So these are the substantive points of the Appeal. And one thing that has to be explained at the beginning is the proposal to recommend Hidankyo for the Nobel Peace Prize. And as far as I know, many people welcomed this proposal. In fact, this was a very good proposal and this is being considered around here seriously.

But the reason why it was not included in this Appeal is that we had to spend so much time on many other points so we did not have enough time to consider seriously about that good proposal. Personally, I myself think it was a very good proposal and I personally want to thank the people who proposed that. But for technical reasons it was not possible. But there was once again another request to consider that proposal once again this morning. So once again I talked with Mayor Akiba and he is also quite thankful for that proposal, yet, we decided to postpone, not to include that proposal this time. It is because it may incur some political difficulties where you have to consider other points as well.

There are many points to be considered, but if I explain to you in the easiest way, for example, this conference is being run by the close cooperation between Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so it is a good idea to recommend an organization from Hiroshima to the Nobel Committee. On the other hand, you have to think about Nagasaki equally. So it will be best if both cities, the organizations of both cities, receive a Nobel Peace Prize. For the moment, we don't have enough time to consider all those complicated points.

So in any event it is difficult to include that proposal in today's Appeal. But there are positive signs that Hiroshima City and Nagasaki City will be very active in fulfilling that proposal, so it's not neglected in any way, but please understand that because we were unable to include the proposal this time.

So this is the rough explanation of the Appeal as outlined, and I will take questions if there are any.

Gary Moore, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Christchurch, New Zealand: Hello, I'm Gary Moore from Christchurch, New Zealand. One of the things that I would like to see added here is I think we need to acknowledge that we can make all the proposals we want, but without a Secretariat there will be nothing, that without the good will of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we wouldn't be here. And so I think we must share the burden, all of us, by making an international contribution, by putting in place a format of some form or another.

Most of us in this room have been parties to movements, and a movement does not happen without organization. So I would like to propose, and I have given this to Mayor Akiba, that we promote a movement by forming an International Secretariat which will share the burden of promoting and expanding Mayors for Peace. And I

believe that the Executive, those of us here, would have the task of making that happen.

Mogami: As the seventh point? That's what you intend? Okay, this is a very well-intentioned amendment and I would take opinions from you about this. The proposal is, if I may repeat, to insert one more paragraph for the Roman numeral I, as Roman numeral 1, the new sentence will be, "To promote a movement by forming an International Secretariat which will share the burden of promoting and expanding the Mayors for Peace." This might take some discussion or is it easy? *[applause]*

Okay, this involves some technical questions. So in order to be precise with procedure we have to reconvene the Drafting Committee once again, but we cannot do that because you are waiting, and this contains some technical problems. We'd like to propose that this will be, this kind proposal will be discussed after this. We will have to establish a committee to discuss this or other things, in spite of your clapping or applause. Yes?

Stewart Kemp, Stewart Kemp, Principal Policy Officer, Manchester, U.K.: Chairman, I think at the very opening, at the Executive Meeting that the matter of the future financing for the organization was raised, and it was agreed at that opening Executive Meeting that in the period between now, I think Mayor Akiba mentioned over the next couple of years, we ought to take soundings amongst the membership as to how to proceed on that matter.

And it would seem to be appropriate in that same context to move forward and discuss any of these organizational matters at the same time. So I would certainly propose that we agree the statement as it stands, but take on board this point as something that can be discussed and views can be taken from the whole of the membership as to how they may wish to move forward.

Mogami: Thank you very much Mr. Kemp for indicating that. You left it up to me, so I did not know what happened at, but with this indication I think the problem has been solved. So please accept the Appeal as it stands as far as this part is concerned. Okay, thank you. And so let's discuss about this later.

So any other serious proposals based on this? Please raise any suggestions based on this draft and the Drafting Committee. Yes, please.

Hervé Brahmy, President, Seine St. Denis, France: From Seine St. Denis, my name is Brahmy. About the responsibility by the States, there was the paragraph which mentions about the responsibility assumed by the governments or the States. I believe the part is also signed on the Millennium Declaration, and there is a Chapter in the Millennium Declaration which says, "for peace, for disarmament, for security." And after that Chapter 2, there are a series, I think there were ten proposals in the Millennium Declaration.

I believe the parties to this declaration are, for example, saying that we have to respond to WMD. This is the Millennium Declaration, WMD I'm talking about. I believe the governments are going to start the negotiations, that's what's suggested there. So I would like you to include, based on the commitment which was declared

in the Millennium Declaration in accordance with or following the commitments we made in the Millennium Declaration, this is what we'd like you to do.

Mogami: There is something called the Millennium Declaration issued by the United Nations General Assembly, and the proposal is that he wants to add that term specifically to this paragraph. The Arabic 1, is it absolutely necessary? Is the amendment necessarily indispensable? I hear some saying no.

Brahmy: To me, for peace, because this is the mayor's assembly for peace, paragraph 1, that's Arabic number 1, all governments or most of the governments are a signatory to the Millennium Declaration, and the abolition of nuclear weapons is mentioned in that Millennium Declaration. WMD, in order to avoid the risk of weapons of mass destruction, the commitment is made in the Millennium Declaration. The abolition of WMD, the abolition of nuclear weapons, that has to be considered as an objective and we have to put our efforts as a commitment. So there is the matching in the objectives of our Appeal and the Millennium Declaration, and my wish is to include the Millennium Declaration term, the knowledge wording in paragraph 1.

Aaron Tovish, 2020 Vision Campaign Manager: There are several texts in which the nuclear weapons States have made such commitments, including Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is legally binding and which the International Court of Justice reinforced in its findings. We could cite many sources for this. I don't think that that particular citation is particularly strong because it talks about eliminating the nuclear dangers and not the weapons themselves in terms of commitment to negotiations. We're talking here about abolition. So I think it would complicate matters to bring that particular citation into this paragraph.

Mogami: Yes, please.

Michel Cibot, City Hall Administrator, Malakoff, France: What I was referring to was a very small provision, specifically speaking. Those who are awarded by the Nobel Peace Award, we would like to invite those Nobel Laureates and we would like to designate them as Peace Ambassadors, so this another amendment, suggestion, those Nobel Peace Laureates are the citizens.

Mogami: Excuse me, we are still in the midst of the discussion of one subject, so would you please wait another moment, at a later stage? We are now discussing whether the suggested wording should be included, "Millennium Declaration," should be included in paragraph 1. As long as we listen to the opinions of the Executive Members, it is not necessary to include this. So we should go back to this point first. Please wait for the other intervention.

Going back to you, are there any other comments? If we are going to the source of the text for the abolition of the nuclear weapons, because there are a lot of sources of such texts, probably it is not convenient, it is not advisable to include one specific source, which is the Declaration, here in this paragraph. That is the opinion I heard. Any other opinions?

Well, I take it, if it is not necessary to make an amendment to the original appeal, our wish is to retain the field as much as possible in the original format, so it is not an indispensable amendment or proposal. We would like to decline such a request.

Now ladies and gentlemen, is there any burning new suggestion for an amendment. Of course, there are so many hopes so there are a lot of ideals we want to put on the table, but once you start to say what's on your mind on this table, that's going to take another four or five hours. We have spent four hours last night. I hope you will respect what we have learnt last night, at midnight last night. We worked hard, we have to go back to the table again if we start to say whatever we want to say. We should never treat ourselves inhumanely. That is the principle.

Tovish: Extremely constructive suggestion. This morning we heard Mayor Akiba declaring this a Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment.

In the name of Mayors for Peace, and I think it would be slightly strange if in our Appeal we make no reference whatsoever to this Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment, and there is, I think, a logical place for this to appear. It could appear after the first comma in the section that introduces the last six commitments on the part of our organization. So it would read, "To achieve total abolition of nuclear weapons," it would say, "To advance total abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting peace during this Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment, we will cooperate..." et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. So it would reflect the public statement that Mayor Akiba made that this organization was in fact declaring such a year, otherwise that will be absent from this Appeal. *[applause]*

Mogami: Oh, I hear you. I heard the same proposal from several other people and I hear lots of applause once again, so may I include that amendment into this draft? *[applause]* Okay, let's do it that way.

Okay, is there any other suggestion? The last one? The short paragraph preceding the paragraph with Roman I, which starts "To achieve total abolition of nuclear weapons."

Could you really announce that to the floor? Yes, the sentence.

Tovish: The verb at the beginning of that paragraph, for it to make sense, would have to read, "to advance" rather than "to achieve" the goal. "To advance the goal."

Mogami: No, no, no.

Tovish: "During this year."

Mogami: No additional amendments. Just insert your sentence, please.

Tovish: I'm just clarifying that. Instead of "to achieve," it would read "to advance," and then that beginning phrase would continue "during this Year of Inheritance, Awakening and Commitment."

Mogami: Is that clear? The wording will be different from the language, so I do not repeat that in other languages, what Mr. Tovish says, so will you take note of what he says and the Secretariat will once again streamline the revised text. So please accept it as recommended.

Cibot: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure in the interests of time we have to be very brief. It's not that every member was a participant in the Drafting Committee. There are a lot of members who have come here all the way from their respective city. Only because there is limited time allocated to this session, you cannot decline some constructive offer or proposal.

I have one proposal, one point to be added. Nobel Peace Laureates should be invited to come to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That is a small proposal, so that they can be the Ambassador of the Mayors for Peace, because they are also the citizens of the local authorities. And Nobel Peace Laureates do have influential power. They are competent in delivery strong messages. In our fight, I am sure they can give us a lot of power and contribution. Just one sentence, that is my hope.

Mogami: I tried not to automatically decline the new proposal. I sincerely hope that you will understand the new proposal, the Nobel Peace Laureates should be invited to Hiroshima, what do you think about this new proposal, ladies and gentlemen?

I heard some acclamations, probably half of the members seem to be agreeing to this amendment proposal. Any other opinions?

Gordon Matheson, Councilor, Glasgow, U.K.: I suggest that that specific proposal be remitted to the Executive. That's why they have an executive to deal with these kinds of issues. It need not be a critical statement, which is the purpose of this document here. I'm not saying that I disagree with the suggestion, I'm just saying I don't think it is germane to this statement, and therefore I would suggest that the idea be remitted back to the Executive.

Mogami: The proposal was to discuss this in the Executive Session, executive sitting session.

Alyn Ware, Chairperson of Section Meeting I, Consultant for the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms: Mr. Chairman, may I make a suggestion and it relates to proposals like this and possibly many other wonderful ideas that people have. On the first day, at the plenary, we were given a program plan which included a number of very, very good ideas, and this I think goes along with those thoughts and ideas that don't need to be in this Declaration, but can be added to the types of activities that can be conducted by Mayors for Peace.

And I would suggest that we don't ask for any more of those sorts of ideas for this particular Declaration, but really if there are any problems that people have with the Declaration, and if there aren't then we should move towards accepting it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mogami: Thank you very much. As for the ideas, there is a high possibility that those can be included in the action plans, and there are a lot of excellent plans already included in the action plan. So as the policy, in the Executive Session this idea or some of the action programs will be discussed. Is this acceptable? I'm sure you must have a lot of ideas. You must have a lot of plans. But if we are going to take this one by one at this moment, there will be a lot of things which were not given thought to, those points which were not discussed before, so it is very difficult to include them in this Appeal. I understand your feelings and I understand how you feel about some of the brilliant ideas you have, but I respect the mechanism or the policy so may I suggest, may I ask you to concur with this Appeal? *[applause]*

Thank you very much. Now, once again may I ask you, is there any burning, indispensable suggestion where you might think that if we are going to leave this, this will create the fatal flaw or problem? Are there any?

And there will be a further small amendment to what Mr. Tovish says. He said that he only mentioned this year, but this document will have to be valid for another four years, so we will thoroughly, simply modify the sentence in order to incorporate that possible change. Okay so please recognize that.

So if so, I think as a whole this Appeal is ready to be accepted by this Conference, and if you accept will you please accept this by a show of hands? Okay. Okay, thank you very much. I think the majority now has shown their hands and this Appeal has been accepted. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Thank you. Thank you very much, and actually I think we went ahead of ourselves, but at this point in order to formally adopt the Appeal, I'd like to invite Mayor Khan of Manchester to read it in full so that we understand what we are adopting clearly.

Afzal Khan, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Manchester, U.K.:

Lord Mayor, respective mayors, honored and distinguished guests, the Hiroshima Appeal:

We, representatives from 92 cities and local authorities and 4 organizations from 20 countries, met at the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings held in Hiroshima City and discussed in great detail the keynote theme: Toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020: roles and initiatives for cities.

Following after the May 2005 NPT Review Conference which failed to achieve concrete results, we actively discussed other strategies through which to pursue the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

At the 5th General Conference, held four years ago, we confirmed our commitment to strive to make the 21st century a 'Century of Humanity,' in which all life is respected. Unfortunately, major political developments, including continued terrorist attacks, have changed the global situation dramatically, and the world continues to walk the path of retaliation and war.

The human family now faces the risk of nuclear proliferation and a third use of nuclear weapons due to doctrines of the U.S., Russia, U.K., France, China, India, and Pakistan, North Korea's declaration that it possesses nuclear weapons, the possibility that other States may be developing nuclear weapons, and the possibility that terrorists might obtain and use nuclear weapons.

Threats to civilians are not limited to nuclear weapons. In this world, an incredibly large number of people are exposed in their daily lives to such threats as hunger, poverty, infectious diseases, discrimination, violence, conflicts and environmental destruction.

Though national leaders worldwide are well aware of these challenges, their attention is focused on pursuing national and economic interests rather than on implementing effective measures to deal with these challenges. It is always citizens who are the victims of wars, violence and environmental destruction. We mayors are responsible for the protection of the human rights and security of our citizens. To deal with these challenges, the Mayors for Peace have confirmed once again our resolve to cooperate in strengthening our solidarity and make the 21st century a 'Century of Humanity'. We reaffirm Vision 2020, the emergency campaign for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We, the participants in this General Conference of Mayors for Peace:

1. Call upon all governments to immediately start negotiations toward the conclusion of an international treaty banning nuclear weapons leading to total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.
2. Demand that countries possessing nuclear weapons promptly cease their operational deployment.
3. Invite government leaders, in particular those of countries possessing nuclear weapons, to visit the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and see with their own eyes what nuclear weapons have in store for humankind.
4. Demand that governments actively deal with the entire range of global challenges, including hunger, poverty, discrimination, violence and environmental destruction.
5. Demand that governments throughout the world promote efforts by the whole of international society to deal with environmental problems including full implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.
6. Demand reductions in military expenditures and the use of funds generated by those reductions to address problems in such areas as peace, hunger, refugees, and the environment, while actively promoting the conversion of industrial capacity from military to civilian use.

To advance total abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace commencing with this "Year of Inheritance, Awakening, and Commitment," we will cooperate and strengthen solidarity across nation, ethnicity, ideology, belief and religion, giving particular emphasis to the following:

- I. In collaboration with all governments and with NGOs, promote activities that lead to an international treaty banning nuclear weapons by the time of the NPT Review Conference due to be held in 2010, leading to the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.
- II. Create a network of Mayors for Peace member cities in each country and engage actively in various initiatives for the total abolition of nuclear weapons.
- III. Launch a great diversity of campaigns for nuclear weapons abolition in numerous cities throughout the world working with nations, NGOs and the vast majority of the world's people.

- IV. Urge the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security of the United Nations General Assembly to establish a special committee to deliberate and plan for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
- V. Propose that schools, colleges and universities across the world organize 'Hiroshima and Nagasaki Courses' to communicate the message of the hibakusha to people across the world as a common legacy for humankind.
- VI. Promote peace education at all levels to develop a culture of peace.

We resolve the above and vow to work in close cooperation with the public to achieve the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

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Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Is this acceptable? *[applause]*

Thank you very much.

Akiba: Thank you very much, Mayor Khan. And we intend to send this Appeal to all the member cities, to all the national governments in the world, and many international organizations, including the United Nations and affiliated organizations.

Now we are finally coming toward the end of this meeting and I would like to invite a couple of people from outside of Japan to address you at the final stage of the conference, and I'd like to invite one of the longstanding members of the Mayors for Peace, as well as one of the dearest friends of Hiroshima for a long time, Lord Mayor Schmalstieg of Hannover, please.

Herbert Schmalstieg, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Mayor, Hannover, Germany: Mr. President, Mayor Akiba, distinguished guests, colleagues, dear friends, shall we put an end to the human race or shall mankind renounce war? This is the temporary question of the manifesto by Einstein, Bertrand Russell and eight other internationally-renowned scientists addressed to the governments of the world fifty years ago.

Today, 60 years after the end of the Second World War, 60 years after the horrific destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by A-bombs, this question still has not been answered. But we will not abandon our cause.

The 21st century must be the Century of Humanity. Events of terrorism in New York, Madrid, London and in other places have upset the world situation. Nevertheless, among all the efforts to pursue and combat terrorism and to improve the safety of our citizens, we may not slacken in our striving to reduce confrontation and to promote peaceful coexistence among people of the world's origins, color and cultures.

A life without peace, a life without these meetings between peoples and dialogues between their cultures, is no life at all. People, dear friends, live in the city. This is why we, mayors and councilors, have a right to raise our voices when peace is the

issue. Our commitment to equality, understanding and peace, is required each and every day, among this day, in this place, on the 6th of August in Hiroshima more than ever.

I have more than 260 cities of Mayors for Peace in Germany declaring the following:

We are opposed to terrorism in any shape or form.

We are opposed to war and to violence.

We are opposed to the persistent and increasing threats posed by nuclear weapons.

We demand a moratorium on all nuclear weapons testing and a stop to all further development of nuclear weapons.

We demand the complete dismantling of all nuclear weapons.

This is the address to the United States. President Bush, make a start now on ending the nuclear threat. Please do the first step, present an address to Russia. President Putin, please show that your country is prepared to renounce all nuclear weapons. And this is the address to the United Kingdom, to France, to India and Pakistan. We want no nuclear weapons in North Korea or Iran, not in Israel or in any other country.

Ladies and gentlemen, we live in one world for whose world being we all share the responsibility because we have only borrowed it from our children and grandchildren. For this reason, we may not tolerate the way that more and more money is spent on armaments and rearmaments, the instruments of death and destruction. We need this money to combat hunger, poverty and disease all over this one world of ours. We need this money to declare war on AIDS, to eliminate discrimination, to stop the destruction of our national environment, to prevent violence and the displacement of people from their homes.

It will not be simple to achieve all this. Hiroshima, this 6th General Assembly of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace urges us to do everything in our power to make it happen.

And also, as the events of the last two days have shown, give us courage for the future. Let us work on ways to resolve and determination to make our vision a reality. No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki! Thank you for your attention.

Akiba: Thank you very much, Lord Mayor Schmalstieg for your eloquent and passionate closing remark. Now I would like to invite a good friend, also a longstanding supporter of the Mayors for Peace, Mayor Catherine Margate of the City of Malakoff. I'm sorry, this is written in Japanese and I couldn't find the proper name, but Mayor, please. [*applause*]

Catherine Margate, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Mayor, Malakoff, France: Mayor Akiba, distinguished mayors, ladies and gentlemen, 60 years ago Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed by this atrocious event. After that, victims suffered for many, many years. The A-bomb brought about the destruction of human civilization.

This morning I listened to the testimony of the hibakusha. I saw at the museum an exhibition and I took part in that very impressive, moving ceremony. I heard many voices on how we should proceed with the campaign for nuclear elimination. There are many appeals. We should never forget Hiroshima. We should never forget the men, women and children who gathered together to voice out their strong commitment not to repeat Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And this afternoon, again, Mr. Takahashi has moved us deeply through his testimony.

The future of mankind, how we can sustain our civilization, how we can reduce tension, how we can resolve conflicts, how we can get rid of injustice and inequality. As local governments there are many, many challenges and many commitments that we need to make. We need to stop armaments from proceeding and we need to establish a mechanism for peace.

The conference here in Hiroshima should continue to contribute to mobilizing people on the local level to appeal for peace. You should not just voice opposition. That would not be enough, but we need to tackle establishing a new civilization. The culture for peace, as Mayor Akiba says, is the way we can stop the threat of nuclear weapons to continue to make us fearful. We have to continue remembering through this Mayors for Peace conference. We should also identify what kind of education programs we need. With other local governments interested in peace here in France, I am committed to making various initiatives.

How we can promote disarmament, how we can go with development and sustainability go hand in hand. In many parts of the world, huge amounts of military spending are made. How we can rectify the situation is a challenge. How can citizens take a central role in promoting a new initiative for peace?

What we can do to realize that the countries make steps forward for peace, how we can make countries abide by the rules and provisions of the treaties. We need to make sure that we realize the society that is just and equality. Thank you.

Akiba: Thank you Mayor Margate. And that concludes our 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, except I have the honor and pleasure of thanking everybody at the end. It's the privilege of the president of any organization to do so.

And first of all, I would like to thank the Drafting Committee and committee members. I would like to thank the keynote speaker, the speaker of the commemorative lecture, and also the speaker of the plenary session, chairpersons who coordinated the workshops, and the panelists and all those who spoke.

And of course, I really would like to thank each one of you who participated in this General Conference, and also I'd like to thank the government representatives who have spent your busy time in attending and listening and interacting with the city representatives and city leaders.

Also, the NGOs who have been working with us tirelessly all these years, I would like to thank you again.

And all of you who have actually come from outside of Hiroshima, I'd like to thank you, especially for overcoming the jetlag and also some of the inconveniences that trips actually involved, such as your suitcase not arriving at the same time you do. So I'd like to thank all of you who have had such trouble.

And also I'd like to thank the volunteers and the NGOs, and of course the interpreters who have put up with many of the technical difficulties and so forth. And if I haven't mentioned, well, there are many other people who made this conference possible. And of course the city employees who have always put in extra hours for the success of this conference.

So with that I would like to declare that this conference is formally adjourned, and tonight there will be a farewell party and that will give you another chance to interact with each other so that for the coming four years we'll go again full steam toward the goal of the abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. So thank you very much for all of your efforts. Thank you very much. *[applause]*

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Press Conference

17:30-18:15, Saturday, August 6, 2005

Ran

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Toshiki Mogami

Chairperson of Plenary Sessions I , II and Appeal Drafting Committee
Professor, International Christian University

Tadatoshi Akiba

President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan

Herbert Schmalstieg

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Hannover, Germany

Catherine Margate

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Malakoff, France

Afzal Kahn

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Manchester, U.K

Raul Corro

Councilor, Muntinlupa, Philippines

Evgeny Petrovich Ischenko

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Volgograd, Russia

Gary Moore

Vice President of Mayors for Peace
Mayor, Christchurch, New Zealand

Susanna Agostini

Councilor, Florence, Italy

Beverly O'Neill

President of the US Conference of Mayors
Mayor, Long Beach, U.S.A.

MC, Zenpei Kunimoto, Director, Public Relations Division, Hiroshima, Japan:

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, thank you very much for waiting. We would now like to begin the press conference for the 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace. I'm Kunimoto, Director of Public Relations Division of Hiroshima City. I will serve as your MC. Please have your simultaneous interpretation receivers ready for this press conference.

Here we have the attendance of the general Chairperson of the General Conference, Prof. Mogami of the International Christian University, and the President and Vice-President City mayors of the Mayors for Peace, and the President of the US Conference of Mayors. We were scheduled to hold the press conference for a longer time period, but we would like to end the press conference by 6:00. I would like to solicit your cooperation.

First of all, I would like to ask each of the participants to give us a very short and brief comments, after which we would like to entertain your questions. So first of all, may I invite the President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor Akiba, to speak.

Tadatoshi Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hiroshima, Japan :

Thank you very much, Mr. Kunimoto. I'm very sorry that we have kept you waiting and also for shortening the press conference.

In this 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace, we have had very meaningful discussions, and ultimately, we have adopted the Hiroshima Appeal today. And one other important point that I would like to mention is that two years ago we adopted the 2020 Vision, which is the emergency vision to ban nuclear weapons, and this has been revised, which we hope to adopt for this conference. From August 6 to August 9 of next year, we would like to look at this 369 days as the campaign year. So in this year's campaign year, specific actions to be taken in this year we have been able to come up with specific actions to undertake in the following year. The details will be worked out in the subsequent year.

But regarding the operation and management of the Mayors for Peace conferences in the past, compared with those in the past we have a greater membership and we need greater funds to support these activities. And therefore, we have decided to raise funds for our activities, and in this sense this was quite an epic-making General Conference. Based on this, we will be working in the following year to come up with concrete actions.

I am very appreciative of the positive contributions made by each city and the presentations that we had that the speakers shared with us, specific practices that are in place in each of the cities, and we have gained much energy and inspiration from many of our member cities participating in this General Conference. So I'm very thankful for this. Thank you very much.

MC: Then, may I ask Prof. Mogami to say a few words?

Toshiki Mogami, Chairperson of Plenary Sessions I , II and Appeal Drafting

Committee, Professor, International Christian University: Good afternoon. I'm not a mayor but I do have some special knowledge regarding this field, and therefore I

have been asked to help and I have served as the general coordinator or Chairperson of this General Conference.

I wanted to help the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as much as I can, that was the original intent, but actually I have learned that many cities who are members of the Mayors for Peace are actively working on peace issues in reality, and so I was very happy to learn of these specific actions that are being undertaken by each individual city. Overall, I have the impression that it was a very good conference. Thank you very much.

MC: Then I would like to call upon the eight cities to speak to you. They are very eloquent people, each individually, but since we are very short of time may I ask you to be eloquent in being brief. So Vice-President City, Dr. Schmalstieg, City of Hannover, please.

Herbert Schmalstieg, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Hannover, Germany: I have the opportunity to visit all the six conferences of Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima and I feel that we have had this year a very good start because we have also a program for the next year. And we all agree that we don't need nuclear weapons in the world, not in Russia, not in the United States, in France, in Israel, in Korea, in North Korea and all the other places. And we need this money with different governments, for armaments and rearmaments, we need this money to combat hunger, poverty and all other things in the world. And we will work and we have the great opportunity and a chance that in 2020, our Vision 2020, no nuclear weapons in our life.

MC: Next, the Mayor Margate, the City of Malakoff, please.

Catherine Margate, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Malakoff, France: Yes, thank you. What I would like to emphasize here, this is the first visit to Hiroshima. I am very much impressed in attending the Peace Memorial Ceremony. I visited the Peace Museum in Hiroshima. I have listened to the testimony by hibakusha. I attended the conference with a high level of interest. Through exchanges of the experiences of the mayors, we discussed thoroughly the path for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

And also the point was raised that an unprecedented defense budget is allocated in some of the countries, and that defense budget should be allocated to other purposes for the prevention of disasters. In that area, there are a lot of roles to be played by mayors.

And what are the roles to be played by mayors? How can we mobilize the citizens of each city? Depending on the situation and conditions of each city, we would like to create specific initiatives. Through the education for children, through the education for youth, we hope that we will be able to contribute to the nuclear abolition.

MC: Thank you very much. Lord Kahn, Mayor of Manchester, please.

Mohammed Afzal Kahn, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Manchester, U.K.: Of course I'm sitting here next to the Lord Mayor from Germany,

who has not missed any of the General Conferences. But this is my first conference that I have attended and also the first time that I have had the opportunity and privilege and to visit Japan.

After going through this whole conference, I think Manchester has a pure record. Back in the 80s, we were the first city to declare ourselves a nuclear-free zone and then since '84 we've been part of this movement. And after all that we have seen in this conference, and particularly this very special day of the 60th anniversary, one thing is very clear to me, that this conference has given us the opportunity to learn, to network, to see what is happening in the world, but ultimately, the goals which we have set, I believe they are realistic and are achievable in this 2020.

And this whole conference has spurred us all on and I hope that we will be moving forward. We have the world opinion with us. What we need to make sure is that all of us take responsibility because all of us have a role to play, and if we can do that there is no reason why we cannot achieve the goals which have been set by 2020. Thank you.

MC: Thank you very much. Corro, Mr. Corro, the Councilor of Muntinlupa, please.

Raul Corro, Councilor, Muntinlupa, Philippines: Muntinlupa is the only Asian country which is a member of Executive Committee, aside from Hiroshima in Japan. And my presence here in the 6th Conference is to me significant because, as you know, the Philippines was once occupied by the Japanese Imperial Army in World War II. We were a victim of war. Yet, despite our experience, we are now advocating reconciliation and not retaliation because we believe that freedom from nuclear weapons can stand our differences in the past.

My father was a soldier, a Filipino soldier, and was a prisoner of the Japanese Imperial Army. However, we would like to look forward and forget what has happened in the past because nuclear weapons have no place in a civilized society. We have to work very hard. That's the reason why, I believe, that when I go back to the Philippines we have to educate our young children, our school children, about the horrors of the atomic bombings. That's the reason why I believe that power is knowledge. We have to inform the public. We have to create awareness about the horrors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings so that this should not be repeated again.

And the Philippines has the policy in our Constitution of freedom from nuclear weapons, and we believe we are one with Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the rest of the members of the Executive Committee and the majority of the people of the world in calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. And I'd like to bring this message home to our people by bringing some materials, informative materials, film showings, especially about the testimony of hibakusha. This has to be shown, this has to be shown to our children because the children are the direct beneficiaries of our actions today.

The abolition of nuclear weapons in this world will benefit future generations. That is the reason why Muntinlupa is fully supportive of this conference. In fact, I was here in 1995 during the 50th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombings and we will continue

to support this Mayors for Peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. Thank you very much.

MC: Next, Mr. Petrovich, Mayor of Volgograd, please.

Evgeny Petrovich Ischenko, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Mayor, Volgograd, Russia: I'm sorry I speak Russian because my English is not so good and my assistant, Elena, will translate. This conference provided us with a brilliant opportunity to better understand each other, better learn about each other. And though we had different wording during the Draft Meeting, for example, you had an absolutely similar approach to the problems and similar visions on how to create the nuclear-free zones and how to learn to solve problems without warfare involved. Thank you.

MC: Next is Mr. Moore, Mayor of Christchurch, please.

Gary Moore, Mayor, Vice President of Mayor for Peace, Christchurch, New Zealand: Greetings and welcome from Christchurch, New Zealand. The first thing I'd like to say to the Japanese people is that Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima is acknowledged as a world leader in the cause of peace. And I want to tell you a simple little story about how we have addressed this issue in New Zealand.

We declared our homes nuclear-free. We then declared our streets nuclear-free. We then declared our suburbs nuclear-free. People declared their churches nuclear-free. And then the pressure went on each of the towns and cities of New Zealand, and one by one, led by my city, we all became nuclear-free cities. And in 1984, our government declared the whole country nuclear-free. And what started off as something simple in the minds and the hearts of peoples in their homes, spread throughout the country to where it became national policy. And it isn't easy to keep that policy.

Our government is under constant pressure to actually get away from being a nuclear-free country, but the interesting thing is that we're about to engage in a general election, and the leader of the Opposition toyed with dropping part of the nuclear-free legislation, and he received a very clear message from the people of New Zealand: it was totally unacceptable to move down that path, and he backed away.

So our challenge as mayors of the world is to spread this message, heart by heart, street by street, city by city, so that country by country the politicians feel courageous enough to pick this up and say, our country is nuclear-free. That's what this is about. Thank you. [*applause*]

MC: Thank you very much. The next speaker is Ms. Agostini, Mayor of Florence.

Susanna Agostini, Councilor, Florence, Italy: I'm the Councilor in the Peace and International Solidarity Commission of the City of Florence, and I'm here representing my mayor. It is also for Florence the first time we participate to the MFP, and we definitely have a great experience to report once we go back.

We are very happy with the results. We learnt a lot from this conference, and we are sure that our work will be the base for future steps towards a free nuclear world with the help of all the mayors and the role they play in spreading this word to all their citizen, and spreading new instruments and new commitments by every single one.

The Hiroshima Appeal is going to be the starting point for a new instrument for the education and information about all the consequences of war, in particular, because of the victims of the last Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bombs.

We heard the poetry from these young students and we saw the ceremony this morning with all the pain of these people, those who died and the relatives of those who died, and we also saw those wounded bodies of men and women. And so we definitely know that people want peace and we cannot let them down.

For this reason we are all committing to this association. Let's keep on working together, both mayors and organizations from the civil society. Let's try to make it a dream come true and this is to abolish the nuclear weapons and to guarantee the human rights all over the world. Thank you.

MC: Thank you very much. Last but not least I'd like to invite Ms. Beverly O'Neill, Mayor of Long Beach and President of the US Conference of Mayors.

Beverly O'Neill, President of the US Conference of Mayors, Mayor, Long Beach, U.S.A.: Thank you very much. I am Beverly O'Neill. I am Mayor of the City of Long Beach in Southern California and also the President of the US Conference of Mayors. I am here representing the US Conference of Mayors and I first want to say how much we admire and are appreciative of Mayor Akiba. He actually has been the leader in knowing that if you have the mayors involved, you have the people involved. The mayors I have met at this conference and the people that have been involved in this conference have been committed and have been passionate about the future.

We, as mayors, speak the same language. We understand what our people need. We understand what they need, what they're fearing for the future, and nuclear weapons is certainly the most prominent problem we face.

The US Conference of Mayors meets annually, twice. We have resolutions that are passed by our membership. The resolutions have been on nuclear weapons, the elimination or reduction of, for over 25 years. The Boston meeting that we had two years ago, it was unanimous to begin the discussion in the United States on the elimination or the reduction of nuclear weapons.

So I'm very pleased to be here. I think the conference was very productive, very insightful, very passionate about the future. I think that having the mayors involved with this was very visionary on the part of Mayor Akiba because there are mayors that are joining every day on this future that we need for our world.

MC: Thank you very much. We'd now like to open the floor for questions. If you have a question could you please identify yourself by your affiliation and your name and to whom your question is addressed.

Asahi Newspaper: Ogawa from Asahi Newspaper. I have a question for Mayor Akiba. In the opening remarks you mentioned the NPT Review Conference. Following that, you mentioned that you seemed to see disappointment among the citizens who are calling for nuclear elimination. You mentioned that this conference might have given great hope to people who are depressed because of the failure. Is that what you wanted to say?

Akiba: Yes, that's how you should understand this conference. The problem is, we had repeatedly pointed out in our conference, and also it is mentioned in other conferences, that the Russell-Einstein Manifesto says that - this is I think the truth - unless we renounce nuclear weapons, mankind will be completely destroyed. That sense of crisis is what we feel.

If we feel that sense of crisis, just because you cannot realize what you hope for, you shouldn't just give up on your campaign against nuclear elimination because that leads to total annihilation of mankind and prevention of such an event is what we started with. Of course, you cannot have your way in everything you want. But we have to set up our goal and we have to come up with concrete steps and measures and activities to reach the goal. And here want to reinforce, expand such activities and actions in the campaign with more like-minded people to get together. And we were able to confirm that commitment through this conference. In that sense, we believe that we have received many good ideas and suggestions and proposals. And we were able to come up with good plans and actions.

The pace of our progress may not be as fast as everyone wants to see. But we are making a steady step forward.

MC: Thank you. Question, please.

Chugoku Newspaper: Morita from Chugoku Newspaper. A question to Mayor Akiba. You said that in this 6th General Conference, many concrete measures and proposals I would assume have been made. And I think you have also reached certain decisions in your agenda. What would be the most recent activities that you would initiate in the very near future?

Akiba: Yes, we have Vice-President Cities. The mayors are going to exchange email addresses so that we will be able to read emails without any failure. That would be our first step.

MC: Ms. Morita, is that okay? Anything else? Yes, please.

Asahi Newspaper: Sorry, once again to Mayor Akiba. You mentioned about the proposal to establish a sub-committee at the United Nations General Assembly. Could you be more specific? What steps or what means are you going to employ to realize this initiative?

Akiba: First of all, we need to speak to as many national governments as possible. Already we need to have more concrete measures to speak to some government representatives who would collaborate with us. We have a Mayors for Peace

International Campaign Manager, so if you'd like more specifics, perhaps he can respond to you. Maybe you can speak to him directly after this press conference for the interests of time.

MC: Ms. Morita again?

Chugoku Newspaper: Thank you once again. A question to Mayor Akiba. It seems you had a very heated discussion in the closing ceremony. You had to extend the session and you also had to extend the session in the plenary conferences. And I think there were a shorter number of days held for the conference. Is that one reason why you had extended sessions? Are you going to make some changes for future conferences about the number of days you spend?

So you have the conference once every four years. It used to be that you have a conference both in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but now you only have a conference here in Hiroshima this time.

Akiba: Well, yes. As you said, the nature of the conference where we have so many people and we decide to speak for three days and it's rather difficult to reach any conclusions with this many people. Just because we can extend two days wouldn't make everyone satisfied that they have said everything they wanted. That, I think, is the kind of nature of any international conference.

What we did during the past is, we had so many different programs and actions that we were engaged in. For the past one year we've had many good results and consequences. But the problem was, we didn't have enough system in the Secretariat to take care of these activities in terms of money and people.

We also need more people and more time to prepare reports to each member city. But we haven't been able to do that. We don't have enough human resources and financial resources. And things are changing very rapidly on a daily basis. When changes are made we need to promptly communicate those changes to our member cities, but we don't have enough Secretariat function. And that's one problem we face.

In order to have closer communication amongst our member cities, one challenge and one item that we discussed at the Executive Meeting and at the plenary session is that we are to have an international secretariat office to have better communication. So in the future, we will be able to have more thorough discussion. We will have a better foundation for building consensus in the future. Thank you.

MC: The time has come. Just let me limit the question to one or two more questions.

Chugoku Newspaper: Okada of Chugoku Newspaper. I have a question to Prof. Mogami. In the Appeal, in the final part you talk about poverty and hunger in the middle part of the Appeal.

On the other hand, Ms. Susan Walker mentioned that the activities need to be more focused to be effective. I think it is similar to Pugwash as well.

When you discuss peace and nuclear disarmament, the kind of participants' focus may be diverged in a sense when you do not have the focus, and therefore, in the discussions at your conference, wasn't there a case that participants may have been looking towards different directions? So how do you intend to focus more on nuclear disarmament in the future?

Mogami: Of course, I take note of your question. What Ms. Walker had mentioned I think was very important for our meeting. On the other hand, poverty and hunger needed to be included in this conference as well, and such issues have started to be taken up from the previous conference as well.

Even if we try to coordinate and cooperate among the cities in nuclear disarmament, some cities may focus more importance on poverty and hunger, and yet they were looking for a reason to participate in a conference like ours, and so they would have more exposure to other cities, and therefore we did not want to focus only on nuclear disarmament, and that has increased membership greatly.

But when we actually go to promote a certain movement, sometimes it becomes less effective. And therefore, in terms of promoting a movement, as Ms. Walker has suggested, we may have to focus on a single issue. But having said that, however, I don't think we can say that peace is related only to the arms race or nuclear arms, and therefore we are trying to think together on the mutual cooperation, to think mutually on these important issues that concern specific individual cities.

MC: Just one more question then.

Chugoku Broadcasting: Okamoto of Chugoku Broadcasting. I have a question to the President of the US Conference of Mayors. As you mentioned, the mayors are always working closely with citizens, and although the Mayors for Peace have been appealing for many years, the top leaders of the United States and other countries seem to be relying more and more on nuclear weapons. So trying to hear the voice of the citizens, do you have any particular strategy to appeal to the national government?

O'Neill: Let me just say that the United States Conference of Mayors is a group of mayors from every party. It's mayors that run a partisan, mayors that run without any indication of party, so it represents all the cities of the United States, 30,000 or more. That means that all of the large cities are a part of this organization.

The resolutions that I mentioned earlier are resolutions that go through a process and finally get to the floor of the Conference for Mayors for a business meeting. When the resolutions are passed they become part of our advocacy for the next year. These are the things that we voted on, these are the things that we agreed on, these are the directions we want to take. It could be resolutions on education, it could be resolutions on transportation, it could be resolutions on land use. In this case, the resolutions I was discussing are the resolutions on nuclear disarmament. This gives us a direction for all of our mayors, for all of our members.

We are the local government; we are not the federal government. The recommendations that we make do not become part of the federal government policy just because we say so, but it does give us direction in what we do and how we feel about the policies for mayors.

So when you ask if this is going to be part of the federal policy because of the resolutions on a local level, that's not correct. We will make sure that we let the authorities, the White House, the Congress know, what the US Conference of Mayors feels about the direction in many, many issues. And as I've said earlier, we have been working on, 25 years ago, about the nuclear arms race, to stop that. And it takes a long time before some of our policies really become part of the federal government. But that's the type of system that we live in, and it's a system that gives our local people the feeling that they can be part of the policies that we make sure that the federal government knows is part of the mayors policy.

MC: Thank you very much. In view of the program to follow I would like to end the press conference here. So with this we conclude.

Akiba: Regarding the question posed to President O'Neill, let me add. The question that was posed I think was not only posed to the United States only. I think it also applies to other nuclear weapons States as well, including, we have the French cities, British cities with us as well. And therefore, it concerns all the local governments. There is a case, many cases, where the state policy may differ, the national policy may differ from that of local authorities, but we are asserting ourselves as local governments. I think we can all go back to Greece even, but in the case of the economy, I think it is the cities that have led the development.

And we speak of the 21st century as being the Century of the City, and in terms of environment, for example, the US federal government has not signed the Kyoto Protocol, but each city has set its limits in terms of emissions of the greenhouse gases. If the cities are willing to set the limits individually as to the emissions of greenhouse gases, ultimately, as a nation the United States may be able to meet the requirements under the Kyoto Protocol. I think the cities, therefore, have that power. And so the 21st century can be said to be the Century of the City, and at the Japan-US City Summit held in November of last year in Hiroshima, we made that point very clearly.

So if we are talking about the issues for which we speak for the citizens, we can do our part in trying to take actions on behalf of the will of the citizens. That is basically the intent of holding the Mayors for Peace, and also that is the approach taken by other similar organizations as well. So your question does not only address the United States but other countries as well.

MC: So we have the final version of the Hiroshima Appeal which will be distributed to you. This is the official Hiroshima Appeal, the final version. So with this, ladies and gentlemen, we would like to conclude the press conference. Thank you very much for your cooperation.