

Closing Session (August 5)

Presentation by National Government Representative:

Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas Izquierdo **Ambassador to Japan, United Mexican States**

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a representative of the Government of Mexico, I feel very much honored to participate in this important event which has become a cornerstone of the Japanese campaign in favor of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

I also wish to transmit the message of solidarity delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Mrs. Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, to the Japanese people, and particularly to the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Government of Mexico has been historically engaged with the causes of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and in this spirit wishes to reiterate to the people and the Government of Japan its strong conviction on the need of total and definitive elimination of nuclear weapons. These weapons should not exist and neither constitute a threat to the life of all living beings in our planet due to their very existence.

The thousands of people that died because of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, demand that the international community takes concrete actions and effective commitments for assuring that such tragedy will never occur again, and for avoiding nuclear weapons as part of national defense policies and international security doctrines.

Mexico deplores the passing away of Mr. Ichio Ito, former Mayor of Nagasaki, and reiterates its condolences for the tragic act that ended the life of a distinguished and unflagging promoter of international peace that was always considered as a friend of Mexico.

Mexico recognizes the heightened threat posed by the access to mass destruction weapons by non-state actors such as terrorist groups, and thus has contributed to the international efforts to eliminate this risk. Nevertheless, it is also true that this fight has not been accompanied by efforts directed towards nuclear disarmament. In this regard, my country considers that the chances to reduce the risk of proliferation depend on the possibility to effectively advance in the area of nuclear disarmament. Disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes. Genuine implementation of irreversible, verifiable and transparent nuclear weapon reductions, leading to their total elimination, serves to diminish the

perceived utility of these weapons, and thus their desirability.

Nuclear and non-nuclear States are both concerned by the probabilities of nuclear proliferation. Therefore, I would like to reiterate the consistent position taken by Mexico and the New Agenda Coalition countries (consisting of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden), during the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), celebrated from April 30 to May 11, 2007: It is imperative that all States Parties be held fully accountable with respect to strict compliance with their obligations adopted during the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT.

The emerging doctrines emphasizing the importance of nuclear weapons not only to defense but also the offensive capabilities of States, by expanding the range of possible scenarios for use, act as an incentive for nuclear weapon States to develop new ones. The New Agenda Coalition countries have underlined that States must refrain from developing nuclear weapons and must not adopt doctrines or systems that blur the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons, or lower the nuclear threshold.

Mexico has insisted that the preference of some countries to preserve the nuclear option as a key component for their defense constitutes a trend that can encourage other countries to modernize their weapons and might lead to nuclear development by currently non nuclear states in order to gain deterrence capabilities.

In this regard, my country welcomes the actions of the British Government for the sake of a collective commitment against nuclear weapons by reducing its own nuclear arsenals. Mexico encourages this country and the international community to continue adopting creative and significant policies as a testimony of the political will of the States to construct a safe, peaceful and just world.

Mexico has contributed to the international community efforts in the field of non-proliferation in order to enhance international instruments on this issue, and has also initiated an examination process of the political mechanisms for trade control, such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group. In this regard, Mexico has encouraged countries engaged in nuclear activities to fulfill the international commitments agreed in the framework of the non-proliferation global regime.

Now is time to look for alternative formulas to advance the disarmament agenda and to break the impasse that prevails in the organizations dealing with disarmament, especially in the Conference on

Disarmament, the only multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community.

Mexico encourages initiatives focused on the abolition of nuclear weapons tests. In this regard, the Mexican Government underlines the importance and urgency to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and exhorts all the States to uphold and maintain moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions, as well as to promote the installation of the international monitoring system of the Treaty.

Mexico has continued encouraging greater political coordination, as well as the strengthening of Nuclear Weapons-Free-Zone regimes. As part of this effort, in April 2005, Mexico hosted the first Conference of States that are Party or Signatory to treaties that establish Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones. We will call upon the nuclear States to give total guarantees that they will adhere to such regimes and will avoid using their nuclear arsenals against the members of these Zones of peace, stability, and hope.

My country has promoted the construction of a peaceful and safe world. We are entirely committed with the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation under the effective compliance of the principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility.

Mexico will insist on the urgency to give strict compliance to legally binding instruments calling for nuclear disarmament such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and will firmly continue encouraging total and definitive elimination of nuclear weapons during the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the preparatory process for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and other international fora.

Please accept the message of solidarity of the Government of Mexico to the people and the Government of Japan and our most sincere acknowledgement and support to your valuable works towards worldwide abolition of nuclear weapons. Thank you.

Reports from Workshops:

Workshop 1: “For the Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons”

Beatrice Lemoine French Peace Movement

In the Workshop One: “For the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons,” 30 people in total took the floor, including one question and answer, and one message. First of all, we, chairpersons, wished the workshop would be an opportunity to find practical ways to pursue the abolition of nuclear weapons. It perhaps differed from what we first expected, but I learnt from this workshop that if we fail to abolish nuclear weapons, we would be abolished.

During the first half of the workshop:

- A participant from Yamanashi said that the greatest lie in the world is that peace comes because of nuclear weapons. But he stressed that nothing is more important than human lives;
- The one from Niigata said that in order to make Japan declare a nuclear free zone, his organization has met 61% of mayors and local authorities to support this movement, and 200 celebrities signed to express their support, but it's not enough. So his organization continues to send postcards, which calls on Japan to declare a nuclear-free zone, to the prime minister;
- An Indian friend told us that there are 2 aspects. One is non-proliferation, and the other is the abolition of nuclear weapons. The first one is important, whereas we have to spend time to management of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. India made the choice of non-nuclear weapons, so it's possible for the world also to make the same;
- Some people emphasized the importance to hold talks with young people, and some spoke about nuclear accidents, and their movement to prevent their country from having nuclear weapons. One mentioned that it would be a great idea to concentrate particular activities on the USA, because it is an important place. For example, to carry an opinion-ad on newspapers like *The Washington Post* or *New York Times* to inform Americans of the tragedy of nuclear weapons;
- Many Japanese participants in anger referred to the former Japanese Defense Minister who said, “Dropping of atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was inevitable”;
- A friend from the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Committee of the District of Columbia suggested that peace activists urgently adopt

recommendations set forth by Blix Commission;

- About nuclear non-proliferation, one suggested that we focus on profits of murderers and find ways how to suppress these profiteers such as banks, subcontractors, universities, and cosmetics industries, which are working for nuclear materials;
- Another Indian delegate pointed out to the need to deal with the lack of consciousness among young people and suggested to focus on industrial-military complex with embargo for example, to attract the attention of the media;
- One overseas delegate proposed that we, irrespective of Japanese and foreigners, support with each other in conducting a campaign against the move to adversely revise Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, and a campaign to give an influence on US election.

During the latter half of the workshop:

- A friend from Norway pointed out some analogies between the Kyoto Protocol system and the World Conference against A & H Bombs;
- An American delegate told us that in California, it decided to suppress nuclear activities so it's possible for other states or countries to do the similar thing. Though the decision in California does not have a legal binding power but it works, he said;
- The one from British people reported that his organization continues to send a message to the government that 60% of the English are against nuclear weapons;
- The problem of the NPT process is that even if 99% of world countries oppose nuclear weapons, 1% of the countries that have nuclear weapons are forcing the entire world to become nuclear-armed. That is why we need nuclear weapons convention to ban all nuclear weapons;
- A member of Hiroshima Gensuikyo said that the youth have launched a paper-crane-craft campaign to collect a paper-crane from people of all over the world because it's the symbol of people's wish. The target was to collect 210,000 paper-cranes because 210,000 people were the number of those killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki together, and she said she wants all politicians to see the volume of these paper-cranes at the end to know how many lives were lost in the bombings;
- A delegate from Norway pointed out that possessing nuclear weapons would increase the danger of giving terrorists a chance to acquire the weapons. Even though 90% of the population is against nuclear arms, the Norwegian government sticks to a policy in

favor of nuclear materials. Thus, there is a defect of democracy in Norway, this delegate pointed out;

- We can also have a campaign against nuclear weapons toward the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
- Some overseas delegates suggested that we must continue the proposition of Kofi Annan;
- Quite a number of Japanese participants mentioned the need to give priority to the young people and to let them know what happened in the past and what to do now and for the future;
- The year 2010 will be an important year in that there will be the NPT Review Conference and there may be a revision of the Japanese Constitution.
- We need an international platform of exchange.
- We could write a letter to Japan from around the world asking to inform the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki;
- We have several commemorative dates: August 6 for young, August 9 for women and in November for doctors;
- A Hiroshima Gensuikyo activist explained his organization's movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons and pointed out the importance to hold A-Bomb Exhibitions especially in the United States because the USA ignores the existence of Hibakusha.
- One from Kobe who wishes to establish nuclear-free ports said he agreed with French actions and expressed his hope to spread the Nuclear-Free Kobe Formula to other ports in other countries, particularly in Kobe's sister cities, including Rio de Janeiro and Marseille, and five others.
- A young peace activist spoke about youth movement. He emphasized the need to convince young people one by one to spread out the movement.
- We have to find the way to take on some actions quickly. For example, next year CND and Japan can plan a demonstration with youth so it will be good to focus on organizing these events;
- A delegate from Okinawa is opposed to the construction of an airport to the north of Okinawa in a little village and reported on their sit-in actions. He warned that the American project in this area might lead to the bringing-in of nuclear resources;
- One delegate reported that 6 million signatures were collected in Japan, demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- Some activists work with young and send them to visit commemorative places;
- There was a report about a man who had lost 14 people of his family during Hiroshima A-bombing, and who has never missed one

World conference against A and H Bombs till today. He would continue to tell about his experience through A-Bomb exhibitions in Egypt, and last year he received a French delegation in Hiroshima.

Workshop 2: “Peaceful & Just World and Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution”

Robert Lastman
Movement for the Abolition of War
UK

In the workshop there were 24 speakers, each person made very powerful and passionate presentation about their area of interest. This included topics such as Article 9, Japanese-US relations, Military bases in the Philippines, Japan and South America, education and about various peace initiatives taking place.

Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution states:

1. *Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.*
2. *In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of the belligerency of the state will not be recognized.*

The article is under a threat of revision which is also one of Prime Minister Abe's intentions. But it is of great significance for the peace movement and Japan to resist. This includes any suggestions of change by the politicians or by the intensified pressure from the US. The ruling party in Japan the conservatives and the second biggest party the Democratic Party cannot be relied on for resisting a change to the constitution. The different campaigns that are taking place include for example the Article 9 Society with many eminent writers involved. Writers have also been active in producing literature on the A-bomb experience. In addition, there is also the movie *Blue Sky* covering this topic. When writing about Article 9, I just came to think of, what about having the Article 9 in the beginning of the latest Harry Potter book, a book read by many. Imagine if books on peace became as popular. Nevertheless, a majority of people in Japan are in support of maintaining the constitution and the article 9.

Furthermore, the importance of article 9 ties into the discussion on US bases in Japan. For example, the base in Okinawa is a product of Japanese-US alliance and not the constitution of Japan. Locals at bases for example in Yokosuka complain about the abuses and intolerance by US forces.

In other parts of the world there is also an expansion of US bases which are taking place. To the rest of the world it's a threat to peace when US troops are free in another country to transport weapons and they are immune from prosecution. However, there is a resistance to the bases, such as in Manta, Ecuador where the US faces eviction but probably by the carrot or the stick policy they are trying to remain, including bogus justifications and bribes even to children. Pressure for further expansion and cooperation is also taking place in the Philippines. A community can survive when the base leaves, including construction of a recreation area and a commercial port which is better than having an aircraft carrier as your neighbor.

Communities and many individuals around the world are working hard to make a difference towards a peaceful and just world. In India workers have formed a National platform of mass organization and there are annual peace gatherings taking place.

In Japan for example the teachers are working against the pressure from the government. There is a friendship exchange between countries like Japan and Korea, a way to enlightening and encouraging further dialogue and collaboration. There is also the annual photo exhibition in Hiroshima with pictures of the devastating effects by the atomic bomb. In addition, strong Hibakusha movements in cities across Japan are telling their stories and recording their memoirs. It is truly an inspiration for everybody on this planet.

That was just a few of the many campaigns occurring to build a peaceful and just world and to protect article 9 of the Japanese constitution.

Remember, if we all play an active part in the community our struggle will succeed.

Workshop 3: “Making Known A-Bombing and Other Nuclear Sufferings Beyond Generations; Solidarity with Victims”

Michele Tingling-Clemmons
Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Committee
USA

The workshop had four Chairpersons: Hara Kazuto, Michele Tingling-Clemmons, Craig Matsuzaki, and Murata Tadahiko. After the workshop was introduced by Hara-san, speakers were asked to speak slowly for the simultaneous translations, and were given 7 minutes each for their remarks.

There were approximately 18 persons present, representing Hibakusha from all over Japan, lawyers, scientists, filmmakers, from NGOs,

professors - including Hiroshima, Aichi, Kyoto, Mie, Shizuoka, Osaka; as well as from three other nations - Korea, Russia, and Fiji, with audience comments expressing solidarity from the U.S.

There were a couple of recurrent themes:

1. Hibakusha found themselves consistently faced with the dilemma of battling denial from their governments;

2. Hibakusha faced the barrier of having to prove that they had been exposed to radiation, from being forced to find witnesses, or ignorance from authorities that secondary exposure even existed and could have been a cause of their ailments:

- a medical center investigated radiation effects and developed a list of diseases that included none of the ailments suffered by Hibakusha seeking assistance;

- having to apply for official recognition; In other words, we found Hibakusha who, in addition to suffering with the difficulty of being Hibakusha had to prove that they were in fact Hibakusha! In the case of Mr. Cho Chang Kun, he had to go to Japan from Korea to file an application, which took all of 5 minutes, but cost him two days and 100,000 yen, clearly a form of harassment;

3. Hibakusha who had to suffer the disbelief and disregard of their legal systems for their claims and appeals for justice and to be made whole;

4. Hibakusha having to struggle with their own governments to receive fairness;

5. The consistently repeated belief that all - their governments, their courts, all seemed waiting for the Hibakusha to die.

We also heard a frequently repeated refrain of determination, that the Hibakusha were not going to just go away and die but, in the word of Mrs. Kayashige from Hiroshima, "It does not matter what happens in my individual court case, what is most important to Hibakusha is that there is a total abolition of nuclear weapons, that there no longer be any nuclear war."

Some of the suggestions for what people could do to support the Hibakusha included:

- Mrs. Matsui suggested having solidarity between Okinawa people and their struggle with the military base and weapons testing;

- Mr. Matsui (A-Bomb Exhibition) suggested that there be a special focus on the U.S. during the 2008 election year;

In addition, it was pointed out by one of the chairs following up on the audience comments by Rick Tingling-Clemmons from the U.S. that we cannot rely on the legal systems of any of these countries for justice because they are all representing the interests of private property and not people or justice, and the important goal will be to organize a campaign to take it to the people, to the young people, to the schools.

In the final sobering words of Rick Tingling-Clemmons (US), who apologized for his earlier emotional outburst and passion on this subject stated: "If we don't deal with capitalism and imperialism, we will never get to the causes of war or achieve peace." And, in the words of Michele Tingling-Clemmons, co-chair, "We will only get what we are organized to take; and this conference offers a perfect starting ground for the kind of organizing we need to achieve the peace we want."

Whether one was a Hibakusha in Fiji, Japan, Russia or Korea, or a person in solidarity with the Hibakusha it was consistent that their task was to ensure that no one in the following generations allow their neighbors, their families, their countries, or their governments forget what transpired in 1945 and beyond, to ensure that our cry of No More Hibakusha, No More Nagasakis, No More Hiroshimas become a reality.

Report on the Scientists Forum:

Fukao Masayuki Chair, Organizing Committee of the Scientists Forum

This year's Scientists Forum was held on August 2 in Kyoto, the city where Nobel Laureate Dr. Yukawa Hideki was born, made great achievements in research and education, and called for the abolition of nuclear weapons. This year is the 100th anniversary of his birth. So the forum was entitled "For the creation of a North East Asia nuclear weapons-free-zone - Carrying on Yukawa's desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons." Before I go into the detail of the discussion related with this theme, I would like to briefly introduce some other topics we discussed in the forum.

We asked Ole Kopleitan from Norway, chair of this meeting, to report on the international situation. He touched on the difficulty the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) suddenly faced after the 9/11 terrorist attacks despite some progress made in previous years. In spite of that, he said, there were some hopeful prospects, among which was the participation of professionals from his country, a non-nuclear state, in Britain's nuclear disarmament efforts.

Now, one of the contributions scientists have made to the cause of nuclear weapons abolition is the victorious court rulings on the Hibakusha lawsuits. We had lawyer Mie-san who took part in the counsel of these lawsuits to share with us the contribution of scientists to the rulings. From a unique and interesting perspective, he talked about how scientists' knowledge penetrated the thinking of the judges and lawyers, leading to the rulings in

favor of the Hibakusha plaintiffs. With regard to the mechanical application of the DS 86 (Dosimetry System established in 1986), it was the elaborate explanation of the scientists that influenced the judges, Mie said. It reminded us of the heavy responsibility of scientists.

Ms. Sakatoh Masako, a disciple of Dr. Yukawa and president of the Physical Society of Japan, made an address on Yukawa's initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons. After giving a briefing on Yukawa background, she shared her view that his engagement in the abolition movement was based on the "Yukawa spirit" which he exhibited in his scientific work. That is, it was based on his strong belief in working in solidarity even with scholars of enemy countries at times of war, regardless of power, age, or positions they hold, unlike some accounts that it was first motivated by his meeting with Albert Einstein and the hydrogen bomb explosion test at the Bikini Atoll. She closed her remarks with her assumption that Yukawa might have wanted to not only study space, biology, and information but expand his field of research to the science of war and peace. It was truly an appropriate speech for this forum.

Now, I would like to move on to introduce our discussion on the main theme: denuclearization of North East Asia, the creation of a nuclear weapons free zone in the region. Three keynote speeches were made on this, the first from Asai Motofumi from Hiroshima Peace Institute, who also spoke at this conference, the second from Kang Jong Heon, who runs an institution on South Korean issues in Kyoto, and Tanaka Norio, professor of international law at Ryukoku University. As was expected, the main focus of discussion was how we should see the North Korean nuclear weapons program.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Bush Administration declared that it would strike first against "states which support terrorists" or "rogue states" in its effort to counter terrorism. Pyongyang, one of those labeled "rogue" by Bush, must have feared the destruction of the nation. To avoid such a grave outcome, it can be considered that North Korea had no choice but to adopt nuclear deterrence of countering a perceived US attack with nuclear weapons. The Japanese government and a number of entities from the Japanese press incited the alleged North Korean nuclear threat. But it is crystal clear to anyone's eyes the country would be destroyed by the counter attack of the nuclear super power, the US, in the event of a strike against Japan. It is unrealistic for a country with 1/100 of the economic power and one 1/600 of military power compared with those of Japan and the US to even consider military operations against the two countries. It can be considered that North Korea went to the extreme of nuclear armament on its

own in the face of the US nuclear threat. In Japan, the mainstream media's depiction of North Korea as a threat that breaches its commitment and of the US and Japan that respond with a strong alliance goes unchallenged. But if you carefully follow the history of the US-DPRK talks, which one is the real threat is obviously clear, North Korea's threat or the threat against North Korea.

The US exploited the alleged existence of "highly enriched uranium", "counterfeit US dollar bills" and continued to sabotage improving relations with North Korea. It was the quagmire of the war in Iraq that compelled the US toward the diplomatic solution in its dispute with North Korea. It was the view of the speakers that the prospect is not pessimistic if an action by North Korea is responded to with action by the US.

With regard to the denuclearization of North East Asia, the following points were made:

a) The US renouncement of its aggressive policy against North Korea would lead to North Korea's renouncement of its nuclear program;

b) The initial focus of the Chinese nuclear armament as a measure against possible US or Soviet nuclear strike against it has shifted to the prevention of conflict over the Taiwan Strait. The US-Japan missile defense buildup in this context would prod China to reinforce its nuclear deterrence;

c) The so-called nuclear umbrellas the US provides to Japan and South Korea have lost meaning with the end of the Cold War;

and d) in the end, it is the US nuclear strategy that is the cause of the nuclear crisis.

Having stated the possible use of its tactical weapons, the US government is dangerously falling into the delusion of going beyond the nuclear deterrence.

It was emphasized that the steps Japan should take toward the denuclearization of the region are:

a) strict observation of the Three Non-Nuclear Principles; b) breaking away from the US nuclear umbrella; and c) clarification of the responsibility of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

There are 5 nuclear weapon-free zones treaties today, each of which is basically the same in nature. The bodies of the treaties prohibit the production, acquisition, storage, testing, deployment and use of nuclear weapons in the concerned regions. In addition, they call on the nuclear weapons states to ratify their protocols to assure the state parties against their use or threat to use nuclear weapons within the regions of the treaties. They do not require the abolition of nuclear weapons. They are not arms control treaties that ban nuclear weapons testing and proliferation. Their purpose is to build a foundation on which nuclear weapons would be abolished by disabling them within the region.

In reality, the resistance of the nuclear weapons states against the treaties is so strong that it is only the treaty of Tlatelolco whose protocol was ratified by all 5 nuclear weapons states. A North East Asia nuclear weapons-free zone treaty could cover Japan, North and South Korea and possibly Mongolia. State parties to its protocol would either be the 5 nuclear weapons states or 3 nuclear weapons states, the US, China and Russia. Japan and South Korea's military alliances with the US and the nuclear umbrella run counter to this concept. We could, however, build on Japan's three non-nuclear principles and the 1992 North and South Korea's Declaration on

Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula among others. We need to develop the movement into one that has the perspective of breaking away from the nuclear umbrella and dissolving the military alliances.

Opinions differ among the participants in the Scientists Forum on this issue. Some argue that the US renouncement of its nuclear strategy is the essential prerequisite for that and some argue for the need of studying multiple approaches and pursuing effective means. The Forum, therefore, has given us some homework to do which is indeed a result of meaningful discussions with the participation of more than 150 people.

