

**Remarks by Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C. at
Hiroshima Honorary Citizen Ceremony July 28, 2010**

To be made an Honorary Citizen of Hiroshima is a dream beyond my imagination. I am thrilled, but also deeply humbled. It is the people of Hiroshima who should be named Citizens of the World.

Hiroshima is a name that symbolizes both suffering and hope. I wish to pay my respects to all those who died as a result of the atomic explosion August 6, 1945 and to the *hibakusha*, who have suffered through the years and have carried their story around the world. Hiroshima has built hope that the world will learn that this must never happen again.

To the *hibakusha*, I say: Your suffering has not been in vain. Your voice has been heard. Your call for an end to nuclear weapons will be heeded.

For the first time, a global treaty to ban all nuclear weapons is now on the agenda of the whole international community. Hiroshima must take much credit for this achievement.

I would like to pay heartfelt tribute to Mayor Akiba for his impressive and fearless leadership of Mayors for Peace. This organization, with more than 4,000 cities, is a powerful force for peace and will succeed in leading us to a nuclear weapons free world.

I thank also the Hiroshima City Council for giving me this great honour. It is a privilege to belong to your city.

Fellow citizens of Hiroshima: I rejoice to be with you. I share your griefs and anxieties, your joys and hopes. I will carry the name Hiroshima with me wherever I go. Like you, I stand for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. I will fight for this goal as long as I live.

Long live Hiroshima!