## APPROACHING ITALIAN DECISIONMAKERS

by Michele Di Paolantonio, MD, President of AIMPGN (IPPNW Italy)

Please, let me explane briefly the italian experience. Italy has always been a special border between East and West during the Cold War. Even for that, since 1999, ten years after the fall of the Berlin's Wall, the Summits of Peace Prized Nobel Laureates were organized yearly in Rome, until 2007. When the political guide of Rome's Municipality changed, the Summits were moved to Paris (2008), Berlin (2009) and Hiroshima (2010). AIMPGN, the Italian Affiliate of IPPNW, has played a key role since 2003, when participated for the first time to the official delegation of IPPNW to the Summit. Since then, we promoted the contacts between the municipalities of Hiroshima and Rome, obtaining to indirect results: an italian mayor, the then mayor of Florence, president of all the italian mayors, became European Vice President of Mayors for Peace, and so, in a few months, the numbers of italian mayors embracing Mayors for Peace was one of the higher in the world for a single nation. Moreover, in november 2006 mayor of Hiroshima participated together with the then Foreign Minister of Southern Korea (and next General Secretary of United Nations) to the VII Summit, whose agenda was written since august 2006 in direct cooperation with AIMPGN. That agenda was carachterized by a new concept of Holocaust: starting by the idea of "Genocide" written by our colleague Ernesto Kahan, President of the Israelian affiliate of IPPNW with a japanese colleague, in their book so titled, the Summit developed the concept that nuclear weapons are weapons for genocide, and the similitude between the ebraic nazi holocaust and the japanese nuclear holocaust was phisically sintethized at the official former lanch of the Summit by the presence, at the same table, of the Mayors of Rome and Hiroshima, of the oldest hebraic roman survivor to the Holocaust, and of the next General Secretary of UN.

The Summits in Rome have always had the High Patronages of the President of the Republic, of the Presidents of the Senate, and of the House of Deputies, and have often had the participation of italian ministries.

At the VII Summit AIMPGN proposed that year 2007, twenty years after the

INF Treaty between Reagan and Gorbaciov, should have been used to reconsider the simple idea, told by both american and sovietician Presidents in Helsinki in their Summit of october 1986, to free the world by all nuclear weapons.

From that AIMPGN's proposal, several results came both indirectly than directly: on january, 4th, 2007, the Wall Street Journal published an article inspired by the GSI, participating to that VII Summit in Rome, where four eminent americans (Kissinger, Nunn, Perry and Schultz) invited to come back to the Reagan's and Gorbaciov's idea to free the world by all nuclear weapons; the President of Mayors for Peace participated on the journal to the opened debate and after that launched the Good Will campaign, that produced soon the 2020 Vision Campaign, as organizative product of the global action of Mayors for Peace.

Later, as another result of all of us, IPPNW Community, our Appeal of march 2009 to the new President of United States to reconsider the american nuclear agenda contributed to his Prague's Declaration of april 2009, on the way to Moskow, to sign the START II with the Russian President Medvedey.

Some of you are thinking that I am going out of the title, limited to "Approaching Italian decisionmakers", but I must say to all of you that I communicated soon my difficulty to stay inside the title, giving even my disposibility to renounce to talk. Anyway, Liz Waterston invited me to keep my brief speech as well.

Now, by the way of nuclear weapons in Italy and by the way of the concept of nuclear weapons free zones: 1) AIMPGN decided in 2007 to don't support in Italy a so called "proposal of law of popular initiative" aiming to discuss and to vote at the italian parliament the decision to remove from Italy 90 american nuclear bombs because we consider that a wrong way. First, because international military treaties, mostly bilateral military treaties for national security cannot be at disposal of law parlamentarian initiative of a single part. Second, because, even if a similar initiative should have been voted at the italian parliament, should have been produced, in a way or in another, a depressing effect on the italian pacifist movement, producing

exactly the contrary of the announced effect. And that should have been a "good" result (let me joke with words!) in the moment of the translation of a very important allied military air base from Frankfurt (Germany) to Vicenza (Italy). In fact, as only a few people knows, a bilateral international treaty gives to Italy, through the Italian Air Forces, the so called "double key" for the use of some nuclear bombs stocked in Italy. For all of this arguments, when, as a first antinuclear step, Italy decided to close the american submarine nuclear base located in La Maddalena Island, in Sardinia, AIMPGN proposed to Mayors for Peace the concept of Mediterranean Nuclear Weapons Free Sea (MNWFS). On the basis of this proposal, the President of AIMPGN was named member of the Delegation of Mayors for Peace (MfP) at the 2008 PrepComm at UN in Geneva, and the concept of MNWFS was adopted there by MfP. MNWFS means to free the surface, the waters and the depths of the Mediterranean Sea from every nuclear armed ship, every nuclear submarine and every nuclear sea mine.

Lastly, let me give you the contribute of AIMPGN to the problem of the denuclearization of Middle East.

Unfortunately, before to free the Middle East from all nuclear weapons, we must face there both the menace of the development of new nuclear arsenals and of new wars.

Therefore, we tried to give, after our support to the Summits, another contribute to peace, organizing on november 2009, in the hearth of Sicily, in the old diplomatic mediterranean town of Mazzarino, with IPB Italia, the italian chapter of the International Peace Bureau, the International Conference "Peace is in hour hands".

So, in the moment of the worst political and strategic international confrontation about the problem of the Iranian nuclear programmes, we brought in the middle of the Mediterranean mayors for peace coming from Iran, Iraq and Italy, to talk sincerely and freely about the necessity of international cooperation and commerce, together with the necessity of nuclear not proliferation to avoid new nuclear nightmares.

In december 1985, after that on december, 10th, we, IPPNW, received in Oslo our Peace Prize Nobel, our Co Presidents Professors Bernard Lown

and Eugene Chazov flew to Moscow, to the Kremlin, for a visit of courtesy to President of USSR Mikhail Gorbaciov. A brief visit became suddenly a whole afternoon of intensive work, and two physicians convinced Gorbaciov to take a unilateral decision to move towards agreements, disarmament and peace: in this way, Gorbaciov decided to announce to the world the unilateral sovietician decision to ban for six months the sovietician nuclear tests.

Today, IPPNW should cause again a new miracle: convince Iran, in the path towards the Nuclear Weapons Convention and to free the world from every nuclear weapons in 2020, to announce the refusal of the development of nuclear weapons, declaring unilaterally the Iranian territory NWFZ. That could be, as well as in 1985, the first step towards a new peaceful myracle, and a first step towards the Middle East NWFZ.

Thank you for your attention.