

2011 the United Nation General Assembly Resolution: “United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons”

December 2011

Concept

- Since 1994, based on the idea that a world without nuclear weapons should be achieved through concrete and effective steps, Japan has annually submitted a nuclear disarmament resolution.
- Japan's resolution puts emphasis on concrete and practical united actions to be taken by the international community towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Outcome

On December 3(Sat)(December 2 N.Y. time) the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the draft resolution on nuclear disarmament(“United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons”), which the Government of Japan submitted along with a record number of 99 co-sponsor countries(including the United States). The draft resolution was adopted by the overwhelming majority of 169 in favor to 1 against(North Korea), with 11 abstentions(Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Iran, Israel, Mauritius, Myanmar, Pakistan and Syria).

Main Contents

- Reaffirms the necessity of fully implementing the action plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
- Reaffirms the importance of all States parties to the NPT complying with their obligations under all the articles of the NPT.
- Urges all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT at the earliest opportunity, with a view to its early entry into force and universalization, stresses the importance of maintaining existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.
- Reiterates its call for the immediate commencement of negotiations on an FMCT and its early conclusion.
- Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States and States not parties to the NPT to declare and maintain moratoriums on the production of fissile material for any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
- Stresses the importance of the universalization of the comprehensive safeguards agreements of the IAEA to include States which have not yet adopted and implemented such an agreement, while also reaffirming the follow-up action of the 2010 Review Conference encouraging all States which have not done so to conclude and bring into force as soon as possible the Model Protocol Additional to the Agreement(s) between State(s) and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards and the full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1540 (2004).

New Contents

compared to the previous resolution

- Recalls the decisions and the resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT and the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences.
- Recognizes the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapon States which could strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.
- Recognizes that, by signing and ratifying relevant protocols that contain negative security assurances, nuclear-weapon States would undertake individual legally binding commitments with respect to the status of such zones and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States parties to such treaties.