

Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education
Delivered by H.E. Toshio SANO, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the
Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the 36 countries – Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, I would like to make a joint statement on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Mr. Chairman,

A world free of nuclear weapons is the common objective of the NPT, and thus all State Parties shoulder the responsibility to advance global efforts of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, it is effective to raise awareness both in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues among the public, including the future generations, of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences from the use of nuclear weapons and the threat of diverse nuclear risks, as well as steps required to overcome these challenges. Such education fulfills a vital role as a basis for strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and fostering a global culture of peace and security. It is our strong wish to draw us closer to the common goal by utilizing education more actively.

Mr. Chairman,

The value of education is already recognized by the vast majority of the international community. In The Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, for the first time, education was underscored as a useful and effective

means to advance the goals of the Treaty in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Indeed, in Action 22 of this document, all State Parties are encouraged to implement the 34 recommendations contained in the report from the Secretary-General on “the United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education (A/57/124)”. The same point is reaffirmed in the biannual UN General Assembly resolutions on the United Nations study, and on the United Nations Information Programme, both of which have been adopted without a vote, co-sponsored by a large number of delegations. We call on all State Parties to renew their commitment to implement these recommendations this year when these resolutions are presented again to the 69th session of the UNGA.

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament and non-proliferation education should be carried out in an inclusive and collaborative way with all relevant actors. It should also take place in all States and regions. The 2002 report from the Secretary-General stressed the importance of partnerships among governments and international, regional, and civil society organizations. We will continue to enlarge dialogue and strengthen cooperation among a diverse range of actors. Furthermore, the 2002 report recommended using new information and communication technology in order to promote education on disarmament and non-proliferation. We encourage Member States to make more use of the internet and social media to provide relevant material on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament to the people worldwide including teachers and students.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, I would like to reiterate that education on disarmament and non-proliferation underpins the full implementation of the obligations of this Treaty. In addition to appealing for greater action in this field, we will continue our efforts and share our accomplishments within the review process. Believing in the potential of education and its importance for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons, we call on all State Parties - nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States alike – to take part in this collective endeavor.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.