

**Statement on behalf of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)
by Ambassador Toshio SANO,
General Debate**

**First Committee for the 69th UNGA
October 20 2014**

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the countries of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, or NPDI - Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to you, Ambassador Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee for the 69th UNGA, and assure you of the utmost support of the NPDI countries for your leadership in making this Committee a success.

Mr. Chairman,

On 11 and 12 April, Foreign Ministers of the NPDI gathered in Hiroshima, where an atomic bomb was dropped for the first time in human history, and witnessed first-hand the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of an atomic bombing that last even to this present day. They were touched very deeply by the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors, or *Hibakushas*, and reinforced the group's commitment to achieving the goal of **a world free of nuclear weapons**. With this in mind, they invited the world's political leaders to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to also witness the consequences with their own eyes.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPDI is committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the essential foundation for the achievement of nuclear disarmament, as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and as the basis for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We stress the importance of

universal adherence to the NPT and call on all States not party to the Treaty to accede to it immediately as non-nuclear-weapon States.

With the 2015 NPT RevCon fast approaching, we urge all the States Parties to fully comply with the obligations and commitments, particularly with the full and prompt implementation of all the actions in the 2010 Action Plan.

We reaffirm that the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. In this regard, we stress the need for a **systematic and continued reduction of all types of nuclear weapons**, including non-strategic and non-deployed nuclear weapons, by all States possessing nuclear weapons, in a pragmatic and step by step approach aiming at their total elimination.

While recognizing the positive impact of unilateral and bilateral reductions, the NPDI believes that they do not replace **multilateral negotiations** towards the ultimate elimination of all types of nuclear weapons. In this regard, We urge those not yet engaged in nuclear disarmament efforts to reduce their arsenals with the objective of their total elimination. Quantitative reductions should be accompanied by steps towards **reducing the role and significance of nuclear weapons** in security strategies and military doctrines.

Increasing the **transparency** of information about nuclear forces has also been an issue of great importance to the NPDI. Without transparency, nuclear disarmament cannot be verified nor would NPT States Parties have complete confidence that nuclear disarmament measures have been accomplished in an irreversible manner.

De-alerting nuclear forces is also important not only as a step towards a world free of nuclear weapons, but also to avoid and reduce the risk of catastrophic humanitarian consequences from any unauthorized or accidental launch of nuclear weapons.

As an essential step towards a world free of nuclear weapons, the NPDI calls for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and universally and effectively verifiable **treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or FMCT**, that serves both disarmament and non-proliferation purposes. We urge the Conference on Disarmament to launch negotiations on such a treaty as soon as possible. We welcome the work of the group of governmental experts on this issue.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, or CTBT, is also an essential component for achieving nuclear disarmament. We therefore urge those States whose last remaining signatures and ratifications are necessary for the entry into force of the CTBT to sign and ratify without delay.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPDI is committed to strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the **IAEA safeguards system** and underscores the crucial role of **export controls** to support the fulfilment of nuclear non-proliferation obligations under paragraph 2 of Article III of the NPT. Recognizing the serious threat of nuclear terrorism, we reaffirm our commitment in working together to strengthen **nuclear security**, including through the Nuclear Security Summit process, to fully implement relevant international requirements.

We strongly condemn the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs which undermine the NPT and the global non-proliferation regime as well as pose a great threat to regional and global peace and stability. We condemn and express grave concern at a series of the ballistic missiles launches conducted by the DPRK. These launches are clear violations of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. We strongly urge the DPRK to comply with its commitments under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement and obligations under all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and to return to compliance with its IAEA safeguards agreement and the NPT. Furthermore, we urge the DPRK to refrain from further provocative actions including, among others, ballistic missile launch, nuclear test or the threat of the use of nuclear weapons.

The NPDI, while welcoming the implementation of the first-steps under the Joint Plan of Action, regrets that Iran has not yet implemented some of the measures in the Framework of Cooperation with IAEA. We hope that the on-going negotiations of the E3+3 and Iran will lead to the final and comprehensive resolution of **Iran's** nuclear issue. We call upon Iran to swiftly and steadily implement measures, in particular the ones related to Possible Military Dimensions as well as the ratification and implementation of its Additional Protocol, to remove international concerns regarding its nuclear activities.

The NPDI, as a group of non-nuclear-weapon States which are committed to promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, is following with grave concern the situation in Ukraine, which has been the subject of intensive discussions amongst ourselves as well as at the UN General Assembly. The NPDI expects international obligations and commitments to be respected, including the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the NPT.

The NPDI emphasizes that the establishment of **nuclear-weapons-free zones** on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned is an important measure in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament process.

We regret that **the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction**, which is an essential and integral part of the final outcomes of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, has still not been held. We welcome the ongoing consultations among the relevant parties to address outstanding issues and call for the earliest possible convening of a successful conference with the participation of all States of the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at.

Mr. Chairman,

The testimonies of *Hibakushas* serve as a reminder to us all of why a nuclear war should never be fought, the NPDI urges all States to reiterate their deep concern at the **catastrophic humanitarian consequences** of any use of nuclear weapons, as expressed in the 2010 NPT Review Conference Final Document. In view of such consequences, it is in the interest of all nations that the nearly 69 year record of non-use of nuclear weapons be extended forever.

The catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons fundamentally underpins all work to succeed in our non-proliferation efforts and to achieve nuclear disarmament in pursuit of a more secure world, particularly through the NPT. The ongoing discussion on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should be inclusive and universal as

well as a catalyst for a united global action towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

In order to foster further momentum for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, we stress the significance of spreading awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons across borders and generations.

Efforts to further deepen our understanding of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons based on fact-based scientific studies are important. We welcome all such efforts, including during the Conferences on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo in March 2013, Nayarit in February 2014 and the upcoming Conference in Vienna in December this year.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

The NPDI calls upon all NPT States Parties to take part in the 2015 NPT RevCon in a spirit of cooperation and good faith, which would maintain the constructive atmosphere created at the previous PrepComs. It is the responsibility of all NPT States Parties to fulfill their commitments and obligations under the NPT regime and to work to uphold and strengthen that regime, including through achieving a successful outcome at the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

I thank you, Mr. Chariman.