

Statement of Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Uto
Conference on Disarmament (Geneva, March 3rd)

Mr. President,

Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Vaanchig Purevdorj, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), and assure you of our full support and cooperation.
- I also would like to express my gratitude to Acting Secretary General, Mr. Michael Moller, and his team for their continuous support to the work of the Conference. The CD, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, deserves the full commitment of us all.
- Disarmament is one of the pillars of Japan's foreign policy, and it is therefore a great honor for me to have the opportunity to address you here today.

Mr. President,

- 2015 marks 70 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On this milestone year, it is crucial that the international community achieve concrete progress on nuclear disarmament and

non-proliferation. Atomic bomb survivors are growing old, and many believe that this year might be their last chance to witness such progress. I recognize that various creative efforts have been put forward at the CD in order to break the deadlock in negotiations.

- In this regard, we are encouraged by the work of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) that has allowed for experts to engage in substantive discussions on various aspects of a future Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), thus providing signposts that can help guide future negotiations of an FMCT.
- Japan urges representatives of the CD Member States to take advantage of these developments and to agree to promptly begin negotiations of a disarmament treaty in order to fulfil the mandate of the CD.
- To achieve such results, allow me to stress the importance, above all, of increased political will and participation of all countries.

Mr. President,

- Looking beyond the CD, 2015 is an important year given that the NPT Review Conference will be held this spring. The NPT is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and maintaining and strengthening this regime is the most important disarmament and non-proliferation issue for the international community.
- I would like to emphasize that the upcoming 2015 Review Conference

should not only review the implementation of past Final Documents, but should also agree on a concrete and practical Final Document for the next NPT review process. This outcome should address all three pillars of the NPT, namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Mr. President,

- Japan recognizes that the international community faces increasingly diversified nuclear risks in relation to national, regional and international security.
- In this regard, I would like to express my deep concern on the ballistic missile launches conducted by North Korea yesterday March 2nd, which are clear violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.
- In light of such security environments, we believe that it is important to adopt realistic and practical measures to advance nuclear disarmament and ultimately realize a world free of nuclear weapons.
- As I indicated earlier, political will is essential to make steady progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.
- In this regard, allow me to mention the activities of the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative or NPDI. The NPDI is cross-regional and action-oriented group of countries, including Japan, that shares such political will. Indeed, participating states committed, at the ministerial level, to pursue the activities of the NPDI.

- This group contributes to the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and has actively participated in the 2015 NPT review process by submitting a total of 17 working papers, including a proposal of standard reporting form to improve transparency. We are currently in the process of consolidating the working papers to be submitted to the NPT Review Conference so that the NPDI's practical and concrete proposals can become a basis of agreement at the upcoming Review Conference.
- Among the NPDI's proposals, Japan attaches particular importance to the issue of transparency, multilateralization of nuclear-weapons reduction negotiations, non-strategic nuclear weapons, reduction of the number and the role of nuclear weapons.
- Furthermore, Japan has also been contributing to the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology. While we need to continue these efforts so that NPT State Parties can benefit even more from the NPT regime, we must also stress the importance of the "3S", that is, Safety, Security and Safeguards when peacefully using nuclear technology. Japan will continue to actively contribute to the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology by promoting technical cooperation and strengthening the "3S".

Mr. President,

- In order to strengthen the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, along with reinforcing the NPT regime, it is

necessary to develop a subsequent legal framework at an early date.

- I would like to emphasize our commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Last month, Japan and Kazakhstan were nominated Co-Presidents of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT. In addition to chairing the upcoming Conference in September, we will act as Coordinators for the next two years. We plan to host a Group of Eminent Persons' meeting in August in Hiroshima.

Mr. President,

- In addition to the importance of the recognition of the various risks of nuclear weapons, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings in war, Japan has been attaching importance to discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, an issue that has been receiving increased attention in recent years.
- Japan believes that it has a special mission to convey across national borders and generations the reality of the devastation that occurred in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We have exerted various efforts over the years in this regard, including supporting international activities of atomic bomb survivors and translating their testimonies in several languages.
- The catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons

fundamentally underpins all nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. I hope that discussions on these issues will be universal and inclusive.

Mr. President,

- In August 2015, as we mark 70 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan plans to host the next United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Hiroshima. Furthermore, a Pugwash Conference will be held in Nagasaki in November. I wish to convey in these meetings the experience of those living in an area that has been exposed to radiation as we seek to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.
- I also hope that on this milestone year, we will all reinforce the political will needed for the CD to become once again a negotiating forum and for the success of the NPT Review Conference. I believe that such steady efforts are important steps to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you, Mr. President.