

Opening Statement  
by H.E. Ms. OMI Asako,  
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of Japan  
at the Track 1.5 Meeting  
for Substantive Advancement of  
Nuclear Disarmament

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Good morning everyone.  
I'm Asako OMI, Parliamentary  
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of  
Japan.

It is our great honor and  
pleasure to hold the “Track <sup>one point five</sup> 1 .5  
Meeting for Substantive Advancement  
of Nuclear Disarmament” today with  
the participation of distinguished  
government officials and distinguished  
experts from various countries.

The Government of Japan  
hosted the meetings of the “Group of  
Eminent Persons” or EPG five times,  
and received a series of meaningful  
recommendations from this Group.

In particular, the “Chair’s Report” which was submitted last October has provided a number of useful suggestions to the international community.

The report presents concrete disarmament measures that can be initiated up to and beyond the 2020 NPT Review Conference, and also identifies hard questions regarding the relations between disarmament and security that must be addressed in order to eliminate nuclear weapons.

While fully utilizing the results and outcomes of the EPG meetings during the NPT review cycle, Japan has been contributing to international discussions on nuclear disarmament.

The security environment remains severe and there still exists a divergence of views among states on nuclear disarmament.

Under these circumstances, rebuilding trust among states through dialogue and bridge-building is essential to promote nuclear disarmament.

We also need to seek common ground, while improving the security environment.

Furthermore, presenting a positive and clear vision of nuclear disarmament would be inevitable to achieve a successful outcome in the upcoming NPT Review Conference and thereby maintain and strengthen the NPT regime.

To this end, Japan is determined to continue its tenacious efforts in cooperation with other stakeholders.

As part of the endeavors, the Government of Japan has decided to establish this track <sup>one point five</sup> 1 .5 meeting.

The prime purpose is to facilitate mutual understanding and confidence-building for the advancement of nuclear disarmament by offering opportunities for engagement and dialogue among responsible actors including government officials from various countries.

More specifically, building upon the outcomes of the EPG, we will promote efforts for examining concrete measures that can be taken jointly now and in the future.

We will also explore how to pursue constructive dialogue on the issues that we need to face towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In this meeting, I truly look forward to intensive discussions on concrete measures including transparency, nuclear risk reduction and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, towards the upcoming NPT Review Conference.

As you are aware, Japan has put great importance on the issues of transparency.

I believe that in-depth discussions are required from the aspects of quantitative transparency on nuclear arsenals and qualitative one on nuclear postures and policies.

Also, it is imperative to discuss measures of facilitating explanation and information sharing on nuclear postures and policies by nuclear weapon states.

With regard to education, frank exchanges of views are keenly anticipated in order to facilitate awareness-raising on the realities of the use of nuclear weapons, deepen engagement of younger generations, and promote dialogues focusing on both humanitarian and security aspects of nuclear weapons.

One of the most valuable legacies of the EPG is valuing civility in discourse and respect for the views of others.

It is my sincere hope that this meeting will inherit such spirit and contribute to enhancing momentum for the advancement of nuclear disarmament as a forum for dialogue to seek food for thought in considering concrete actions to be taken and issues to be addressed.

Thank you.