

STATEMENT BY Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA
2022 High Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament
March 2, 2022

I would like to take the floor to provide additional statement with regard to the statement by Foreign Minister HAYASHI, based on the latest developments since its recoding on February 25th, including the statement by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the Conference on Disarmament.

With regard to the situation in Ukraine, Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force and shakes the foundation of international order. It constitutes a serious violation of international law and is totally unacceptable. Japan condemns it in the strongest terms.

Russia has raised the alert level of the preparation of the nuclear deterrence units, which is a dangerous act that may lead to further destabilization of the situations.

Nuclear weapons, once used, cause extensive and tremendous devastations. Such Russia's action contradicts the aspiration demonstrated in the Joint Statement on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Race issued by the Leaders of the Five nuclear-weapon States which jointly affirmed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. President Putin should fulfill his own commitment.

As the only country to have suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan is fully aware of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. We stress once again at this occasion that such tragedy must never be repeated again: neither nuclear weapons coercion as we currently witness, nor, needless to say, nuclear weapons use can never be tolerated.

Regarding North Korea, I would like to add that on February 27th, they launched a ballistic missile again in violation of a series of UNSCRs. The series of North Korea's actions, including this launch, threaten the peace and security of the international community and Japan strongly condemns these launches.