



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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— General Debate —

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Mr. Chair,

I would like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Paulauskas, on his assumption of the Chairpersonship of this First Committee. I assure the bureau of my Delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

78 years have passed since the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ever since that moment, Japan has assigned to itself the mission of taking the lead in international efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. The tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki must never be repeated.

The path towards a world without nuclear weapons is becoming more severe, due to deepening divisions within the international community and the illegal, unprovoked aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, including threats of use of nuclear weapons. Against such a backdrop, maintaining and strengthening the NPT is in the interest of the international community.

In this regard, the “G7 Leader’s Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament” issued at the G7 Hiroshima Summit this May has provided a solid platform to work towards a world without nuclear weapons. Japan will continue to advance realistic and practical efforts in line with the “Hiroshima Action Plan”, which the Japanese Prime Minister Kishida announced last year.

Mr. Chair,

We are concerned that the decreasing trend of the global nuclear stockpile could be reversed for the first time since the Cold War by a rapid expansion of nuclear arsenals, including that of China’s nuclear capabilities without sufficient transparency.

Such a situation threatens to spark a new arms race and take us further away from realizing our collective objective of a world without nuclear weapons. We must also breathe new life into discussions on an FMCT. To this end, Australia, Japan, and the Philippines co-hosted a high-level event to refocus political attention on this issue during UNGA High-Level week.

We must also enhance transparency as the foundation of all nuclear disarmament measures. We call on nuclear-weapon States to promote effective and responsible transparency measures, through providing data on their nuclear forces and the objective size of their nuclear arsenal.

This year again, Japan will submit a draft resolution titled “Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons”. We hope the resolution will garner the widest possible support from Member States as a vehicle towards our genuine aspiration for our shared goal.

Mr. Chair,

Japan is seriously concerned about DPRK’s intensified nuclear and missile activities which pose a grave threat to the international community. It is essential for the international community to be united and fully implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of DPRK’s all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. Japan urges North Korea to abide by all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and return at an early date to full compliance with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding the BWC, Japan fully supports and contributes to the work of the Working Group that was established by the 9th Review Conference last year in order to strengthen and further institutionalize the BWC. With respect to the CWC, we fully support the OPCW working for the disarmament of chemical weapons and the prevention of their re-emergence.

Mr. Chair,

Japan expresses deep concern at the disproportionate civilian casualties caused by the use of conventional weapons in acts of military aggression and for regional coercion. The illicit trade, diversion and inappropriate stockpile management of conventional weapons also accelerate regional instability and the spread of terrorism. Universalization and effective implementation of the existing frameworks of conventional arms continue to be key to tackle these challenges.

Japan, together with Colombia and South Africa, will submit a draft resolution on "the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" once again this year and we hope that a consensus adoption of this resolution will enhance our cooperation in this area.

Japan believes that landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance is an important prerequisite for the future rehabilitation and reconstruction of Ukraine and other conflict areas around the world. Japan remains a staunch supporter of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and has decided to seek the Presidency of the Twenty Second Meeting of States Parties in 2025. In the 2022 fiscal year, Japanese contribution to mine action surpassed 52 million US Dollars across 22 countries. Japan reaffirms its strong commitment towards the realization of Mine-Free World.

The military use of AI should be responsible, transparent and based on international law. In this regard, Japan welcomes the adoption of a substantive report by the GGE on LAWS last May, and supports the continued work within the framework of the CCW.

Regarding outer space, Japan highly values the efforts of the Open-ended Working Group on Reducing Space Threats through Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible Behaviours. Although it is regrettable that no report was adopted, the inclusive and interactive discussions at the OEWG greatly contributed to deepening understanding among stakeholders on space security issues and to identifying issues for further consideration. Japan strongly supports the OEWG's continued work as a meaningful contribution to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space.

Japan is firmly committed to ensure a free, fair and secure cyberspace, and also welcomes the adoption of the second annual progress report of the OEWG on security of and in the use of ICTs. Once again, Japan supports the establishment of a Programme of Action (PoA). Japan will spare no effort in cooperating with other Member States to address cyber issues.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.