

**Statement on behalf of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)
By Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, Toshio SANO,**

**At the First Committee of the 70th Session of the General Assembly
General Debate**

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On behalf of member states of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), namely 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 van Oosterom, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee of the 70th General Assembly. I assure you of the utmost support of the NPDI for your leadership in making this Committee a success.

Mr. Chairman,

We, the members of the NPDI, renew our determination to achieve the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. To that end, we will continue to work together on concrete and practical measures to advance both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as mutually reinforcing processes.

We reaffirm our shared commitment to the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and its universalization remains a goal of the utmost importance. The NPDI is determined to strengthen implementation of the Treaty across all three of its pillars, namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

While the NPDI regrets that the 2015 NPT Review Conference was unable

to produce a consensus outcome, this does not mean we need be resigned to five years of minimal ambition and progress.

The previous consensus outcomes of the NPT remain relevant and valid, including the decisions and the resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences and, most importantly, the 2010 Action Plan. Much work remains to be done, especially by the nuclear-weapon States. The NPDI remains committed to strengthening their implementation and to taking forward new initiatives where progress is possible.

The NPDI therefore calls for States Parties to continue their efforts to fully implement their commitments. In this spirit, the NPDI will continue to contribute constructively to advancing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation based on the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency during the 2020 NPT review process.

The NPDI remains open to dialogue and cooperation with individual States Parties, regional groups and civil society to help achieve our common goal of a renewed and strengthened consensus in 2020.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.