

Joint Statement on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation  
between Japan and Australia

We, the Foreign Ministers of Japan and Australia, express our satisfaction with the close and long-standing partnership in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation that both countries have cultivated until now, and renew our determination to continue our cooperation for a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons, including through our membership in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI).

Consistent with the Hiroshima Statement issued by the NPDI ministers in April 2014, we reaffirm our commitment to promoting practical and concrete measures to advance both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as mutually reinforcing processes. In this context, we underline the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and strengthening its three pillars (nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy) to achieve the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

We express our regret over the lack of a consensus outcome at the 2015 NPT Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, which has contributed to current difficulties in developing a concerted vision on how to proceed with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. This situation, however, should not mean that we resign ourselves to minimal ambition and progress. We stress the importance of moving forward with practical progress in the next review cycle leading up to the 2020 Review Conference of the Treaty, and reaffirm that the previous consensus outcomes of the NPT remain relevant and valid.

Japan and Australia have long promoted global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, while ensuring a secure environment, together on the world stage. This year the NPDI submitted to the NPT Review Conference a joint working paper which called for the implementation of practical and concrete measures across the three pillars. We welcome the United Nations General Assembly First Committee's adoption of two of our resolutions this year, by an overwhelming majority, the Resolution titled "United Action with Renewed Determination towards the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons" proposed by Japan and the Resolution titled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)" proposed by Australia.

With that in mind, we hereby call once again on all states to take further practical and concrete measures, such as the early entry into force of the CTBT, which Japan and Australia jointly promote as co-Chairs of the Friends of CTBT group, and the early commencement of negotiations for the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), to fully implement their commitments towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

In the area of non-proliferation, we welcome the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action established between Iran and EU3+3, and stress the important role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the leadership of Director General Yukiya Amano for strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology.

We strongly deplore North Korea's continued development of nuclear and missile programs and urge North Korea to refrain from any provocation, to fully comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, and to return to compliance with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

On the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we voice our deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, and recall that this concern fundamentally underpins all our work for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We encourage leaders, youth and others to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to hear the testimonies of the atomic bomb survivors.

We call for greater cooperation between the nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States, which in our view is indispensable for further reductions in the global nuclear stockpiles and subsequently for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Bearing in mind that Japan will assume the presidency of the G7 and will host the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Hiroshima next year, we jointly renew our resolve to realize a world free of nuclear weapons through united action.

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