

Statement of Mr. Motome Takisawa,
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Astana International Conference "Building a nuclear weapon free world"

His Excellency Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

His Excellency Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan,

His Excellency Mr. Erlan Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Distinguished Participants,

I am greatly honored to participate in this memorable international conference and have the opportunity to deliver a statement.

71 years ago, two atomic bombs instantly took numerous precious lives in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Those who initially survived developed health problems and many of them lost their lives in later years. The atomic bombing has caused deplorable humanitarian consequences.

Even after that, the nuclear testing at Bikini Atoll has led to expose Japanese nationals to its nuclear radiation which caused their death and injury. Japan, as well as Kazakhstan, understands the reality of atomic bombings more than any other countries. Therefore, the two countries have a mission to work toward realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.

In March this year, President Nazarbayev released "Manifesto: the world. 21st Century". President Nazarbayev's strong commitment to nuclear disarmament and international security is very encouraging.

It is of our view that, in order to promote nuclear disarmament, practical and concrete measures with cooperation between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States are important. These measures should be based on two understandings, a clear understanding of the humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons and objective assessment of the reality of the security situation. In order to gain the clear awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons visiting the sites of atomic bombings will particularly be conducive.

In May this year, Mr. Barak H. Obama, President of the United States visited Hiroshima. Along with Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, he sent a strong message that enhances international momentum for realizing a world free of nuclear weapons. We are fully sure that, along with the Hiroshima Declaration issued by the G7 Foreign Minister's Meeting in April under Japanese Presidency, these messages from Hiroshima presented a great deal of hope for the people across the world.

We believe this memorable conference also send out such message all around the world.

Japan and Kazakhstan are working together to realize a world free of nuclear weapons. Among others, both countries are strongly committed to achieving early entry into force of the CTBT. Since last year, Japan and Kazakhstan have worked as the Co-Coordiators for the Article XIV process. Prime Minister Abe and President Nazarbayev made joint statements two times which strongly deplore North Korea's nuclear tests and intend to increase awareness of the importance of its early entry into force. Through these efforts, both countries aim to strengthen the global norm against nuclear testing and achieve its early entry into force.

Next month, during the UN session, 9th "Friends of the CTBT" Ministerial Meeting is to be held. Japan, as a member country of "Friends of the CTBT," would like to call for participation of all countries to the Meeting and cooperation for its early entry into force. Furthermore, Japan calls for political statements by all nuclear-weapon States to declare their renewed commitments to moratorium on nuclear testing.

In closing, Japan hopes that this conference provides a valuable opportunity to deepen the understanding of the reality of atomic bombings and wishes that each of you can share the understanding after you go back to your country. Also, we will most welcome if you could visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to deepen the understanding of the reality of atomic bombings as well.

Thank you very much.