

STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
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TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 72ND SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- THEMATIC DEBATE: NUCLEAR WEAPONS -
12 OCTOBER 2017, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

The worsening global and regional security environment throughout the last several years has significantly undermined international peace and security. DPRK's nuclear tests and missile launches demonstrate an unprecedented, grave and imminent threat, and challenge the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime centered on the NPT.

Furthermore, we are without a clear guideline to pursue nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation leading up to 2020 due to the absence of an agreement at the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

Despite these challenges, the 2020 NPT Review Cycle has made a successful start in Vienna this May. We should be united in our efforts to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. I would like to stress that the steady implementation of the 2010 Action Plan and other measures agreed in the respective Review Conferences in 1995 and 2000 still serves as the foundation for our joint endeavor and mutual trust.

With this conviction, Japan will submit to this Committee a draft resolution entitled "United Action with Renewed Determination towards the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons." This resolution provides a common denominator on a wide-range of issues related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We strongly hope that this will receive strong support from all member States.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan aligns itself with joint statements made by Australia for NPDI and the Group of 29, I would like to underscore the following points from our national

perspective.

First, the NPT is an overarching architecture which ensures international security by promoting nuclear disarmament and by preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Therefore, to strengthen the NPT regime, we continue to underline the importance of universality and urge non-State Parties to accede to it immediately as non-nuclear weapon States, without conditions.

Second, looking at the slow progress of nuclear disarmament, substantial measures should be taken with a sense of urgency. In order to fulfill the obligation of Article VI of the NPT, all nuclear-weapon States have to make further efforts to comply with their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which is imperative to uphold the NPT regime. In particular, we call upon nuclear-weapon States to take the following actions:

- Further reduce all types of nuclear weapons through a unilateral and bilateral basis, and eventually engage in multilateral negotiations with all nuclear-weapon States.
- Further enhance transparency, including regular reporting with numerical information.
- Reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons and enhance nuclear security with the view to avoid the catastrophic humanitarian consequences from the use of nuclear weapons.

Third, Japan is convinced that practical and concrete nuclear disarmament measures with constructive cooperation between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States is an effective way to advance nuclear disarmament.

Japan concluded its role as CTBT Article XIV Co-coordinator last month. However, this will not mark the end of our effort. We urge all countries, particularly, the remaining eight Annex II States which have a special responsibility for the entry into force of this treaty to ratify the treaty and overcome internal difficulties in order to take prompt action.

Japan commends the efforts of the high-level FMCT expert preparatory group, and strongly expects this group will provide new momentum and help the CD to begin its substantive work. Moreover, until the entry into force of an FMCT,

we strongly urge all nuclear-weapon States and states possessing nuclear weapons to declare or maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Nuclear disarmament verification is indispensable to achieve transparent, complete, verifiable, and irreversible reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons. In this sense, Japan welcomes the establishment of the GGE on this issue next year. Also, we commend the efforts of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV). These initiatives are important platforms where both nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States can work together to identify and apply measures and technologies necessary for verification.

I also would like to mention that the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), which has promoted nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agendas, including the 2010 NPT Action Plan. Last month in New York we issued a joint statement, by all 12 members, and while our views are diverse, I believe, this is what comprises the strength of our group. We will continue to play a constructive and proactive role and provide practical and concrete disarmament measures.)

Fourth, in parallel with nuclear disarmament, it is important to strengthen and maintain nuclear non-proliferation to achieve peace and security. Accordingly, resolving regional nuclear proliferation issues is vital. DPRK's sixth nuclear test on 3rd September is totally unacceptable and is an egregious challenge to the international security as well as the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. By unanimously adopting Resolution 2375 on 11th September, the Security Council imposed additional robust sanctions to send a clear message to DPRK. DPRK must abide by relevant Security Council Resolutions and abandon its nuclear and missile development programmes immediately. At the same time, all UN Member States bear an obligation to fully implement a series of Security Council resolutions, and also should demonstrate a firm attitude in addressing this threat.

Fifth, disarmament and non-proliferation education is a valuable tool to foster momentum for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. It is imperative for us to pass on, particularly to younger generations, the threat of diverse nuclear risks, the devastation that was caused by the use of nuclear weapons,

and the necessary steps to overcome these challenges. Japan encourages all states to implement the recommendations contained in the 2002 UNGA report on the “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education (A/57/124)”. In implementing this action, States Parties take into account measures, such as cooperation among a diverse range of actors, critical thinking, information technology, and raising awareness of the realities from the catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

Mr. Chairman,

Lastly, differences among the international community unavoidably persist. We, therefore, should manage them and focus on common ground in order to increase cooperation among UN Member States as well as between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. The international Group of Eminent Persons, which Japan has established, is represented by members of diverse, international backgrounds including those from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is expected to meet in Hiroshima late November and provide standard-setting recommendations for the international community to make substantive progress of nuclear disarmament to overcome diverse positions. Japan believes that its first key recommendations to the next NPT PrepCom in Geneva will provide useful ideas for the 2020 NPT review process. Japan would like to exert its utmost efforts for remaining six preparatory months towards the success of the Committee with Poland’s Presidency.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.