

Statement by H.E. Mr. Nobushige TAKAMIZAWA

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Cluster I: Specific Issues: Security Assurances

Geneva, 26 APRIL 2018

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to briefly state Japan's position on security assurances.

Credible security assurances by the nuclear-weapon States (NWS) to non-nuclear-weapon States (NNWS) have served as an important instrument for strengthening the global non-proliferation regime. Negative security assurances (NSAs), in a longer perspective, could contribute to improving the overall security environment and to reducing the role of nuclear weapons. In this context, NSAs would serve as an important intermediary step on the way towards a world free of nuclear weapons. Therefore, Japan supports the concept of NSAs.

While bearing in mind the concept, given the ongoing security challenges to peace and security of the international community, NSAs should only be provided if the recipient states are in compliance with their NPT obligations. Based upon these understating, we recall the final documents of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, its action 7 and 8. Japan recognizes the legitimate interests of NNWS parties to the NPT in compliance with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances. In this regard, recalling the United Nations Security Council resolution 984 and noting the unilateral statements by each of the nuclear-weapon States, we call upon all nuclear-weapon States to fully respect their commitments with regard to security assurances.

Mr. Chairman,

We also believe that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free-zone will contribute to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime. We encourage the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region concerned and in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the Disarmament Commission. By signing and ratifying relevant protocols that contain negative security assurances, NWSs would undertake individual commitments with respect to the status of such zones and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States that are party to such treaties. These commitments will contribute to further improving the security environment and to strengthening the NPT regime.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.