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**STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 73RD SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**- GENERAL DEBATE –
OCTOBER 9, 2018, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Ambassador Jinga, on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this First Committee. I assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation, and look forward to closely working with you to carry out our task.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan continuously commits to working with the international community to further promote our efforts in the areas of security, disarmament and non-proliferation. We are living in a severe security environment as well as with emerging new technologies, which have been affecting a broad range of issues of disarmament agenda. Under these circumstances, **we should cooperate further in a cross-cutting way while narrowing down divergence of opinions.**

In this regard, Japan welcomes *“An agenda for disarmament”* presented by Secretary-General Guterres in May. **Japan supports this initiative and wishes to work with the United Nations and other Member States in an action-oriented and mutually reinforcing manner, building on relevant efforts already underway.**

Mr. Chairman,

This year marks the 50th anniversary since the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) was opened for signature. **The vision for a world without nuclear weapons needs to be refocused.** The NPT is the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It is the shared responsibility of all NPT State Parties to increase international momentum towards the 2020 NPT Review Conference. Japan will lead such an effort, together with the NPDI, a cross-regional group of 12 non-nuclear weapon states.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear weapons have not been used for 73 years. The international community shares the common goal to move towards “a safer world free of nuclear weapons.”

At the same time, threats from nuclear weapons still exist. **We need to seek security and nuclear disarmament simultaneously.** We need to strike a balance of these two, taking concrete and practical measures under the cooperation of both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States.

We believe that interactive discussion involving both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States is essential. From medium- to long-term perspectives, it is necessary to discuss issues such as how to effectively contribute to threat reduction and how to address security concerns that may emerge from the nuclear disarmament process. **The necessity of restoring “civility in discourse” and respect for divergent views must also be emphasized in those discussions.**

Mr. Chairman,

Japan will once again submit our resolution titled ***“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 while confronting new challenges. We hope that this resolution will still garner **wider support** from Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

All States, particularly nuclear-weapon States, are encouraged to **discuss and improve understanding about transparency, verification, threat and risk reduction, and security concerns raised during the nuclear disarmament process**. We believe that these measures represent clear opportunities for advancing nuclear disarmament through **cooperation and collaboration with all States**. Furthermore, they serve as confidence-building measures and as a basis for a stable international and regional security environment.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan is determined to continue our efforts with a view to contributing to the entry into force of the CTBT. We welcome the recent ratification by the Kingdom of Thailand and signature by Tuvalu. Japan once again calls upon the remaining non-ratifying and non-signatory States, the Annex II countries in particular, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan reaffirms our strong commitment to the goal of achieving complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (**CVID**) of **all of North Korea's nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs, and related facilities as well as ballistic missiles of all ranges** in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. Mindful of the recent developments, including the U.S-North Korea summit in Singapore in June, as well as the three Inter-Korean Summits, Japan calls on North Korea to take concrete steps toward denuclearization. We also call on all Member States to fully implement the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

Aside from the nuclear weapons issue, Japan has been committed to pursuing other disarmament efforts, such as **the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)**.

Progress in conventional weapons is also important. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons remains one of the most insidious challenges to security, safety and stability resulting in a wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic consequences at the local, national, regional and international levels. **We need to work hard to save lives, in particular those of civilians who continue to bear the brunt of criminal acts and armed conflict.**

In this context, it is important for Member States to implement appropriate measures in accordance with the documents adopted at **the Third Review Conference of the UNPOA** (the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects) held in June, here in New York under the French Presidency.

It is also important to implement and build on what has been achieved in **the CSP4 (the 4th Conference of States Parties) to the ATT (Arms Trade Treaty)** held in Tokyo in August under the Japanese Presidency.

Japan will remain active at the international, regional and sub-regional levels in an integrated manner to **tackle the problems stemming from the diversion, unregulated proliferation, excessive accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.**

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament and non-proliferation education has an important role to play. **Critical thinking** must be cultivated while learning about the humanitarian consequences of a nuclear detonation as well as proliferation. Tackling these questions in a practical

manner is very useful for cultivating critical thinking. Our journey towards a world free of nuclear weapons requires enduring will, aspiration and wisdom from all stake-holders on a global scale.

Mr. Chairman,

It is less than two years until the 2020 NPT Review Conference. In this connection, let me stress **3 important “I’s”**, namely, Implementation, Initiative and Interaction:

Implementation of the practical measures for advancing nuclear disarmament as well as for improving our security environment;

Initiative to facilitate constructive dialogues where the international community can discuss new risks and challenges;

Interaction of all stake-holders based on civility in discourse and respect for divergent views.

We believe these will foster united actions at this important juncture.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman