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STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA  
AMBASSADOR OF THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN TO THE  
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT  
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 73<sup>RD</sup> SESSION++  
OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THEMATIC DEBATE: DISARMAMENT MACHINERY  
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Mr. Chairperson,

Japan strongly recognizes the important role of the UN disarmament machinery, namely, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament (CD), and the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), which were all established in 1978 by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-I).

In recent years, the discussions at First Committee and UNDC have been vibrant, as illustrated in the creation of several GGEs, as well as the recommendation in the field of conventional disarmament in the UNDC.

Japan considers these as positive developments. In particular, Japan attaches importance to the final report by the High Level Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) Expert Preparatory Group completed this year. We applaud this effort and wish to have positive impact to other disarmament fora.

Mr. Chairperson,

The CD remains essential as it is the single multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament.

We must use this forum to effectively address the challenges posed by technological advancement, from the influence of artificial intelligence on weapons systems to new threats in the realms of cyber and outer space.

In this context, Japan welcomed the substantive and intensive discussions held this year under the five CD Subsidiary Bodies covering a wide range of issues.

Though there are still clear gaps in some aspects, such as an understanding of the issues and ways in which discussions should advance, we should continue our efforts to further explore possible commonalities with flexibility and creativity.

We expect Ukraine, the First Presidency of the CD in 2019 to make an early start by further strengthening P6 coordination and informal consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Japan is determined to promote and contribute to such endeavors so that the CD will move forward to fulfill its own mandate.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is always important to bear in mind that we can only start where we are now. Given the current geopolitical and severe security situation, the international community has faced increasing tensions, which at times has made it difficult for States with divergent views to engage in dialogue.

Therefore, the need for constructive and respectful dialogue by all stakeholders must be emphasized now more than ever.

In this context, Japan believes that “An agenda for disarmament” presented in May by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, provides us with many useful perspectives and cues for promoting

disarmament, including a re-emphasis on effective partnership for the issues of gender consideration, empowering women and youth, and cooperation with civil society.

In addition, it is evident that emerging issues and new challenges will not only affect various cross-cutting fields and stakeholders, but all humanity, which is precisely why there is a pressing need to collectively act in multilateral fora.

Japan supports this initiative and stands ready to cooperate with the UN and other Member States to make strides towards strengthening the work of the existing disarmament machinery.

Furthermore, we welcome the work done by the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters on the UNSG's agendas released this July, and support the role of the Board being further strengthened.

Last, but certainly not least, Japan appreciates the significant contributions by UNIDIR in Geneva, New York and other parts of the world in various disarmament discussions and activities, whether it's with conventional weapons, WMDs, or cyber security.

Japan is keen to continue to see further collaboration with UNIDIR in the disarmament fora, taking advantage of their invaluable expertise.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.