

STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
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TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

THIRD 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: NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT -

2 MAY 2019, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

Japan aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Broadly Like Minded (BLM) countries. I will now underscore the following points from a national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

All NPT States Parties regard the NPT as a cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and fully agree on the importance of the treaty. In order to sustain and strengthen the Treaty, it is necessary to make balanced and concrete progress in all three of its pillars (nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use). In this regard, we need to advance especially in the pillar of nuclear disarmament through our collective efforts. At the same time, we must recognize that the deterioration of the international security environment affects the progress of nuclear disarmament.

The year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT and will be 25 years since its indefinite extension. In order to achieve a meaningful outcome of the 2020 NPT Review Conference, the Preparatory Committee sessions, especially this session is expected to make recommendations. I strongly believe that we should renew our commitment to the 2010 Action Plan and other measures agreed in 1995 and 2000. With a sense of urgency and ownership, we should also identify and implement

pragmatic and practical disarmament measures that all State Parties could implement to advance nuclear disarmament in light of the current international security environment.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me point out 5 important issues.

First, we **reaffirm the importance of negotiations on an FMCT and the entry into force of the CTBT**. These measures are crucial building blocks that are necessary for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We need to have substantive discussions towards the early commencement of negotiations on an FMCT in various fora including the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Moreover, until the entry into force of an FMCT, Japan urges all nuclear-weapon States and states possessing nuclear weapons to declare or maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. With regard to the CTBT, we continue our efforts to urge the non-signatory and non-ratifying States to sign and ratify this treaty through utilizing bilateral and multilateral channels. Until the entry into force of the CTBT, signatory States are encouraged to transmit the necessary data for strengthening the verification regime and all nuclear-weapon States and other states possessing nuclear weapons should declare or maintain a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosion and any other nuclear explosion.

Second, we emphasize **the importance of ensuring the transparency of the reporting process and its mechanism**. The NPDI provides a useful template to both nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states and information on how States Parties have implemented their NPT obligations and commitments. Efforts to increase transparency and accountability through reporting on nuclear doctrine of nuclear-weapon states and on the number of nuclear warheads each state possesses will lead to the strengthening of the NPT review process. It will also contribute to increasing trust and confidence among states and to reducing nuclear risk. We, therefore, should seriously consider and promote the practice of reporting in the NPT process. In this regard, Japan (welcomes the submission of a report by some nuclear-weapons states and) calls upon all states, including nuclear-weapon states, to voluntarily report their disarmament efforts in the 2020

RevCon by making use of the NPDI reporting form.

Third, it is necessary to take **nuclear risk reduction measures** as outlined in Action 5 of the 2010 NPT Action Plan. Given the impact of recent scientific and technological developments such as AI and cyber, we should pursue more concrete measures for reducing nuclear risk. Japan expects that dialogue among nuclear-weapon states will be conducted regularly to prevent nuclear escalation based on false information and misunderstanding.

Fourth, we reaffirm the importance of **effective nuclear disarmament verification**. Developing verification capabilities will provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament and contribute to our common goal. Japan welcomes that the report of the GGE on nuclear disarmament verification was adopted by consensus. In addition, we commend the efforts of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV). We strongly hope that the concrete work to establish an effective disarmament verification mechanism will be steadily advanced based on this report and the useful inputs of the IPNDV.

Fifth, it is highly important to continue to promote **disarmament and non-proliferation education**. As mentioned in the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, raising awareness, especially among young people, is necessary. We should consider various programs to provide them with opportunities and platforms to learn about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and the diverse risks posed by the proliferation of nuclear arsenals.

Mr. Chairman

The aforementioned measures serve as a basis for a stable international and regional security environment, as well as **contribute to confidence building among NPT States Parties**. As our Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiyoto TSUJI explained in his general statement, **the “Kyoto Appeal” by “the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament” stresses the importance of rebuilding civility and respect in discourse**. It is necessary to engage in efforts to rebuild trust among

states prior to the 2020 NPT Review Conference. In this regard, we hope that the Creating Environments for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND) approach proposed by the US can provide opportunities for constructive and interactive work involving many stakeholders. We also hope that the P5 meeting will result in concrete outcomes and contribute to rebuilding trust between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states.

Lastly, the divergence of views among the international community persists. We, therefore, should aim to **narrow these differences, find space for compromise and focus on establishing common ground** in order to strengthen the NPT regime and achieve our shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons. Japan, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, has been engaged in practical and concrete measures to advance nuclear disarmament, while not losing sight of the humanitarian aspects of the use of nuclear weapons and an objective assessment of the severe international security environment.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.