

**Joint Statement on practical measures for promoting Disarmament and
Non-Proliferation Education**
**Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**
-Cluster I-
New York, 1 May

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the 55 countries –Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and my own country Japan, I would like to deliver a joint statement on practical measures for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT is regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of disarmament. All States Parties therefore shoulder the responsibility to sustain, implement and strengthen the NPT regime, thus advancing global efforts for a world without nuclear weapons. Education imparts skills and critical thinking to individuals to empower them to make their own contribution to concrete disarmament and non-proliferation measures. In the current severe international environment, we strongly believe education is all the more important and plays a key role in strengthening all aspects of the Treaty through raising awareness on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, while also fostering a global culture of peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

The value of disarmament and non-proliferation education has already been recognized by the vast majority of the international community. In the Final Document

of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, education was underscored as a useful and effective means to advance the goals of the Treaty in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. In addition, Action 22 of the 2010 NPT Action Plan encouraged all State Parties to implement the 34 recommendations contained in the 2002 report of the Secretary-General entitled “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education (A/57/124).” The same point is reaffirmed in the biennial UN General Assembly resolutions on the United Nations study, and in the United Nations Information Programme, co-sponsored by a large number of delegations. We call on all State Parties to renew their commitment to implement these recommendations. Furthermore, “Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament” published in 2018 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres also contains useful and important elements for promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Mr. Chairman,

Among those elements, the following three measures are most relevant and State Parties are invited to take them into account in developing their education programs.

First, in accordance with the call for strengthening partnerships for disarmament contained in the 2018 UNSG’s Disarmament Agenda, disarmament and non-proliferation education should be undertaken in a collaborative way with all relevant stakeholders. It should also take place in all States and regions. We emphasize the necessity of the promotion of further cooperation and collaboration among a diverse range of actors, such as governments, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, educators, school and university students and the private sector, in order to learn from each other, create synergies, and maximize educational initiatives.

Second, since the publication of the 2002 report that recommended using new information and communications technologies, significant developments in science and technology have enriched and broadened the way people communicate and access information. This makes it even more relevant today to use new technologies and communication channels as educational tools. We therefore encourage Member States to further use the communicative and interactive functions of the Internet and social media to provide relevant material on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation to people worldwide, including teachers and students.

Third, as achieving a world without nuclear weapons requires enduring efforts, educating and empowering people, with special attention to diversity including gender perspectives, is vital. It is essential for us to raise awareness among the public, especially the young generations, of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, the threat of diverse risks posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as steps required to overcome these challenges. In this respect, more education and training opportunities should be provided for youth to enable them to actively engage in disarmament and non-proliferation issues. We welcome the commitment of the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs to establish a youth engagement platform as a contribution to the Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda. We hope that the younger generations, taking advantage of their prolific use and good command of new information and communication technologies, while applying critical thinking, will take over the main responsibility for efforts towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

We firmly reiterate that education on disarmament and non-proliferation is crucial to achieve the objectives of this Treaty. Believing in the potential of education, we call on all State Parties – nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States alike – to continue to build upon their knowledge and expertise and share their progress within the review process.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.