

(as delivered)

Statement by Nobushige Takamizawa
Ambassador of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the First Committee of the 74th Session of the General Assembly
— General Debate —
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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Ambassador Llorenty, 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 remains committed to working with the international community so as to realize a world free of nuclear weapons. We are living in a severe and unstable security environment with growing international tensions, a changing global power balance, recurrent attacks by terrorists and violent extremists, and emerging technologies that create new challenges including cyber and outer space. Under these circumstances, considering that international security and disarmament are mutually reinforcing, we must promote concrete and realistic measures together with both the nuclear weapon states and the non-nuclear weapon states. One of the most important efforts in this regard is to maintain and strengthen the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) regime. It is clear that the erosion of the existing international disarmament and non-proliferation order is not beneficial to any State. We should improve the international security environment and pursue substantive advancement for nuclear disarmament under the NPT towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary since the NPT entered into force in 1970. We encourage all member States to recall the commitments and obligations under the NPT in all aspects including Article VI, to develop convergence of views and to find common ground for a successful outcome at the 2020 Review Conference. In this regard, enhancement of transparency and mutual confidence through reporting, actions of nuclear risk reduction, deepening of substantive discussions towards the FMCT negotiation, various efforts for the early entry into force of the CTBT, practical contributions to nuclear disarmament verification, and disarmament and non-proliferation education are examples of actions that can be jointly undertaken by all member States. What is more, joint efforts on those actions shall contribute to rebuilding cooperation and mutual trust among the member States.

Japan will submit a new resolution titled “Joint Courses of Action and Future-oriented Dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons” which focuses on the upcoming NPT Review Conference. This resolution includes these six actions and stresses the need for sincere dialogue on medium and long-term issues, that is, issues that are difficult to resolve immediately in the current security environment such as the way in which we treat nuclear policy and doctrines within nuclear disarmament discussions. We hope that this resolution will garner wide support from the member States.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan welcomes the Stockholm ministerial meeting on nuclear disarmament held in June as well as the CEND plenary meeting held in July. The Stockholm meeting contributed to building momentum towards nuclear disarmament through participation at the political level, and the CEND contributed to confidence building through interactive discussions among participants. We hope that the outcomes of these meetings will be shared with all member States and will promote further discussions not only in the NPT forum but also in other disarmament fora including the CD. Furthermore, Group of Eminent Persons meetings have been held five times since 2017 and they have discussed the forward-looking guidelines for nuclear disarmament. We hope to utilize chair’s report which will soon be released, to make concrete proposals at the NPT, CD and other disarmament fora.

Mr. Chairman,

In face of situations that hinder the progress of nuclear disarmament, Japan deeply regrets North Korea’s repeated ballistic missile launches which are in violation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs). Japan reaffirms its 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 UNSCRs. Furthermore, we call on all member States to fully implement relevant UNSCRs.

Mr. Chairman,

Characterized by global tensions, regional conflicts, and other pressing challenges, the deteriorating international security environment underscores the importance of international norms prohibiting weapons of mass destruction such as biological and chemical weapons. The use of chemical weapons in the world has become a serious and urgent issue in recent years and Japan fully supports the role of the OPCW in identifying the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons. Japan is also committed to the strengthening of the BWC regime and has made significant contribution to UNODA to facilitate seminars and workshops for that purpose. Japan remains committed to tackling the threats related to weapons of mass destruction through the existing disarmament architecture.

Mr. Chairman,

Given the potential impact of accelerating scientific and technological developments on

conventional weapons, we welcome the active discussions on LAWS held at GGE within the CCW framework and will continue our contribution to the thorough and constructive discussions. Japan supports the ATT CSP6 President's prioritization of promoting transparency and information sharing to prevent diversion, and continues to engage with the States not parties to the Treaty in particular in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament is a useful initiative, which paves the way towards disarmament by providing various options. We consider the Agenda as an excellent initiative that can promote dialogue and enhance trust-building. Japan is ready to translate its implementation plan into concrete actions, together with the UN and its member States.

Mr. Chairman,

I believe we need to focus on implementation, interaction and initiative through proactive, professional, and pragmatic approaches so that we will be able to foster united action at this important juncture.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman