

STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
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TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 74TH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- THEMATIC DEBATE: NUCLEAR WEAPONS -
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Mr. Chairman,

Japan aligns itself with the statement made by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), as well as the statement made on behalf of the Broadly Like Minded (BLM) countries. I will now make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Although various approaches exist to achieve the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, the NPT remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Japan stays committed to maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime. All States Parties should **reaffirm their commitment to the NPT and take concrete steps in line with past agreements to achieve a successful outcome of the 2020 NPT Review Conference**. Taking the lead on these steps, Japan encourages all states especially nuclear-weapon states to **implement the following six courses of action, which will tangibly advance the nuclear disarmament efforts in line with Article VI of the NPT**¹.

First is transparency. Efforts to increase transparency and accountability through reporting on the nuclear arsenals, doctrines and policies, including concrete disarmament measures taken and to be taken, will contribute to increasing trust and confidence among all States Parties. States parties, in particular, nuclear-weapon states, should utilize the reporting format suggested by the NPDI and provide regular, detailed reporting on their disarmament efforts at the 2020 NPT Review Conference, which will provide an opportunity to discuss these reports.

¹ UN Disarmament Agenda Action 1 "Facilitate Dialogue for nuclear disarmament" for which Japan is a Supporter.

Second is nuclear risk reduction. Given the deteriorating international security environment and the impact of recent scientific and technological developments in areas such as AI and cyber, Japan is convinced that dialogue among nuclear-weapon states should be held regularly and concrete actions should be taken to reduce the risks of nuclear detonation occurring either by miscalculation or by misunderstanding.

Third and fourth, we reaffirm the importance of all efforts towards FMCT negotiations including substantive discussions at the CD and the entry into force of the CTBT². Japan calls upon that all nuclear-weapon States and states possessing nuclear weapons declare or maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices until an FMCT takes effect. In addition, we, the CTBT ratifying states should continue our efforts to urge the non-signatory and non-ratifying States to sign and ratify the 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 states possessing nuclear weapons should declare or maintain a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions.)

Fifth is nuclear disarmament verification. Developing verification capabilities will provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament obligations. Japan attaches great importance to the final consensus report of the GGE on nuclear disarmament verification and commend the efforts of the IPNDV. We sincerely hope that the concrete work to establish an effective disarmament verification mechanism will move forward based on this GGE report as well as the useful inputs from the IPNDV.

Sixth is disarmament and non-proliferation education. All States should explore opportunities for youth to learn about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and the diverse risks posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Such experience will contribute to fostering “critical thinking” skills and encourage youth engagement with disarmament and non-proliferation efforts as envisioned in the UNSG’s Agenda for Disarmament³.

² UN Disarmament Agenda Action 4 "Bring the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty into force" for which Japan is a Champion.

³ UN Disarmament Agenda Action 38 "Establish a platform for youth engagement" for which Japan is a Champion.

Mr. Chairman,

These actions should not be limited to the NPT process, but should be taken up and discussed in all relevant disarmament fora such as this committee, the CD and the UNDC. In this regard, Japan calls on the States not Party to the NPT to take concrete disarmament measures on a voluntary basis and accede to the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon states without conditions.

Mr. Chairman,

Subsequently, Japan deeply regrets North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches which are in violation of relevant UNSCRs (United Nations Security Council resolutions). Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to the goal of achieving CVID of all of North Korea's nuclear weapons, existing nuclear program, and related facilities as well as ballistic missiles of all ranges, in accordance with relevant UNSC Rs. Japan calls on North Korea to take concrete steps towards denuclearization. We also call on all Member States to fully implement relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament and security are mutually reinforcing and we must move forward together. The recent meeting of the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament (EPG) emphasized this point. The group also stressed the need to study both the positive and negative impact that scientific and technological developments bring on nuclear disarmament. We believe that **future-oriented dialogues on these topics will set the foundation for a stable international security environment.**

Mr. Chairman,

We will submit (submitted) a new resolution this year which focuses on the aforementioned six practical and concrete actions and stresses the importance of future-oriented dialogue in order to promote disarmament along with a set of initiatives focusing on strengthen the NPT. This resolution seeks to establish a common ground related to nuclear disarmament towards the 2020 NPT Review Conference. **We strongly**

encourage that all UN Member States to extend their valuable support to our new resolution “Joint Courses of Action and Future-oriented Dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons”.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.