

Statement by JAPAN
At the First Committee of the 75th Session of the General Assembly
— Thematic Debate: Nuclear Weapons —
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This year marks the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT. At this important juncture, Japan renews its commitment to maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime, which serves as the cornerstone of the international regime for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Japan will spare no effort to achieve a successful outcome of the 10th NPT Review Conference. This year also marks the 75th year of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan reaffirms its commitment to contributing to substantively advancing nuclear disarmament. For this purpose, Japan encourages all states, especially nuclear armed states to implement the following six courses of action.

First is transparency. Increased transparency, through enhancement of the reporting mechanism, the submission of NPT national implementation reports and the discussion of these reports, helps build confidence and trust, and establishes common ground that can facilitate nuclear disarmament. States parties, in particular, nuclear-weapon states, should provide detailed reporting on their disarmament efforts at the 10th NPT Review Conference, which will provide an opportunity to discuss these reports, and use all available opportunities to further explain and share information regarding topics covered in their perspective reports.

Second is nuclear risk reduction. Concrete actions should be taken to reduce the risks of nuclear detonation occurring either by miscalculation or by misunderstanding. Japan encourages all nuclear-weapon states and states possessing nuclear weapons to take actions to reduce the risks of nuclear detonation and to make further efforts to this end including transparency and dialogue, hotlines, or information and data exchanges.

Third and fourth are FMCT and CTBT. Substantive discussions towards the FMCT negotiation, various efforts to promote the entry into force of the CTBT without delay through the signing and ratification of the CTBT, continued support for the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO are also examples of actions that can be jointly undertaken by all member States. Japan calls upon all nuclear-weapon states and states possessing nuclear weapons to declare or maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for the use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices until an FMCT takes effect, adopt and maintain moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and declare their political will to do so.

Fifth is nuclear disarmament verification. Japan underscores the indispensable role of effective and credible nuclear disarmament verification, and has made substantive contributions to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

Sixth is disarmament and non-proliferation education. Japan encourages all member states to facilitate efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, efforts in which the young generation can actively engage, including through dialogue platforms, mentoring, internships, fellowships, scholarships, model events and youth group activities, as well as to raise awareness of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons, including through, among others, visits by leaders, youth and others to and interactions with communities and people, including the hibakusha who pass on their experiences to the future generations.

In March this year, Japan organized a meeting with the attendance of government officials both from nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states as well as non-governmental experts, which built on discussions of the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament, established by the Government of Japan in 2017. The meeting, focused on “hard questions” that are unavoidable in ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons.

Subsequently, Japan is deeply concerned about North Korea’s continued development of nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities. Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to the goal of achieving 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. Japan calls on North Korea to take concrete steps towards denuclearization. We also call on all member states to fully implement relevant UNSCRs.

This year, as well as in the past, Japan has submitted to the first committee a resolution “Joint Courses of Action and Future-oriented Dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons.” The resolution focuses on six practical and concrete actions and stresses the importance of future-oriented dialogue in order to substantively advance nuclear disarmament. This resolution seeks to present a common ground where both nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapons states can work together, which is critical for the success of the NPT Review Conference. We strongly encourage that all UN Member States extend their invaluable support to our resolution.

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