

STATEMENT BY JAPAN
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 75th SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

- THEMATIC DEBATE: DISARMAMENT MACHINERY -
OCTOBER, 2020, NEW YORK

Japan strongly recognizes the important role of the UN disarmament machinery, namely, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament (CD), and the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), which were all established in 1978 by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD-1) and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

In particular, Japan appreciates the significant work done by UNIDIR, which marks its 40th anniversary this year. The UNIDIR is increasingly important as an autonomous institution established for the purpose of undertaking independent research on disarmament and related problems, particularly international security issues. The institution's rich expertise on top of its unique status within the United Nations system enables them to provide ideas and advice that could enhance meaningful and interactive dialogues in various multilateral arms control and disarmament fora. This February, Japan collaborated with UNIDIR in organizing a seminar on the Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone. Japan is keen to promote further collaboration with UNIDIR and take advantage of their invaluable expertise.

The CD is the only multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, which brings together key stakeholders, including all nuclear-weapon possessing countries. As members of such an essential body, it is our shared responsibility to achieve tangible results. However, the CD has been in a stalemate for more than two decades. The CD was not able to agree on a programme of work (POW) during this year's session.

The CD should be a venue where the Member States are willing to understand divergent views and to compromise while seeking a common ground. Building upon previous negotiations, we need to prioritize substantive discussions on agenda items according to their degree of maturity. From this perspective, Japan reiterates the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-

Off Treaty (FMCT).

Additionally, we consider that the following could be highlighted as the potential topics for further discussions: (1) Transparency, (2) Nuclear Risk Reduction, (3) CTBT, (4) Nuclear Disarmament Verification, and (5) Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. Japan is convinced that advancing substantive discussions on these specific issues will help increase the positive momentum in the CD and is crucial for the adoption of a POW at next year's session.

In order to make substantive progress, robust cooperation and coordination among CD presidents is indispensable. We expect Belgium, the first President of the CD in 2021, to take proactive, collective and concrete steps by holding informal consultations with all relevant stakeholders and further strengthening P6 coordination. Japan is determined to promote and contribute to such endeavors so that the CD will be able to move forward to fulfill its own mandate.

Japan stands ready to cooperate with the UN and its Member States to make strides towards strengthening the work of the existing disarmament machinery. In this context, Japan hopes fruitful discussions will be made in the 2021 session of the UNDC.

Last, but certainly not least, Japan remains to be a close partner of the UNSG's agenda for disarmament. Japan believes that the UNSG's agenda for disarmament provides us with useful perspectives and guidance for promoting disarmament, including the re-emphasis on effective partnership to take action towards gender equality within relevant bodies, empowerment of women and youth, and cooperation with civil society.

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