

**Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference
on Disarmament,
at the NPT Review Conference, Meeting of Main Committee I
(August 12, 2022)**

Mr. Chair,

Japan provides its basic support to the negative security assurance (NSA). At the signing of the NPT in 1970, Japan underscored that, "the nuclear-weapon States must not have recourse to use of nuclear weapons or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States" and this statement underpins our position even today.

I would like to recall what has been achieved so far regarding the NSA, including the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 984 and the Final Documents of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, especially Actions 7 and 8 of the 2010 Action Plan. More recently, the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races issued on January 3rd has jointly declared that "*a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought*", and recognized that "*nuclear use would have far-reaching consequences*".

Mr. Chair,

On the contrary, President Putin's speech on Russian nuclear force delivered on February 24th, in the context of the aggression against Ukraine, not only drastically erodes the value of key multilateral documents that I have just referred to, but also squarely contradicts the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States issued in January. Furthermore, Russia has raised the alert level of the preparation of the nuclear deterrence units, which is a dangerous act that may lead to further destabilization of the situation. Japan condemns these words and actions by the Russian Federation in the course of its aggression against Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

The series of actions and statements by Russia also run counter to the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances. Paragraph 2 of the Memorandum reaffirms the obligation to "refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine". Japan urges the Russian Federation to honor its own commitments and its declared obligation in terms of security assurances, including related to nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons, once used, cause extensive and tremendous devastations. As the only country to have suffered atomic bombings during

war, Japan is fully aware of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Such tragedy must never be repeated again.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.