

**Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education
Delivered by H.E. OGASAWARA Ichiro, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on
Disarmament
10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-
Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Main Committee I (Nuclear Disarmament)
New York, 5 August, 2022**

Mr. Vice-Chair,

On behalf of 89 States Parties to the NPT – Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, and my own country Japan, I would like to deliver a joint statement on

disarmament and non-proliferation education.

It gives me great pleasure to note that 13 new States Parties to the NPT have joined this statement since the last Review Conference in 2015, which proves the growing recognition of the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Mr. Vice-Chair,

We emphasize that disarmament and non-proliferation education is a useful and effective means to advance the goals of the NPT in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. In this regard, it is essential for us to raise awareness among the public of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, the threat of diverse risks posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as steps required to overcome these challenges.

Education provides knowledge and skills to individuals to empower them to make contributions to the achievement of concrete disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. For this reason, disarmament and non-proliferation education should nurture critical thinking skills that enable people to consider how to steadily advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Vice-Chair,

The international community notably recognizes the value of disarmament and non-proliferation education. The Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference underscored education as a useful and effective means to advance the goals of the Treaty in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. In addition, Action 22 of the 2010 NPT Action Plan encouraged all States Parties to implement the 34 recommendations contained in the report from the Secretary-General on the “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education” (A/57/124). The same point is reaffirmed in the biennial UN General Assembly resolutions “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education” (A/RES/75/61), “United Nations Information Programme” (A/RES/75/80) and “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation” (A/RES/76/45), all of which are adopted without a vote.

In the resolution adopted last year at UN General Assembly entitled “Joint courses of action and future-oriented dialogue toward a world without nuclear weapons”, disarmament and non-proliferation education is presented as one of the Joint Courses of Action. The resolution encourages all UN Member States *“to facilitate efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, inter alia, 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 hibakusha”, irrespective of their nationalities and origins, and other people affected by nuclear weapons. In this connection, we welcome the recent visits to such areas by political leaders.

Mr. Vice-Chair,

Disarmament and non-proliferation education and awareness raising should be undertaken in an inclusive and collaborative manner. Various actors, including educational and research institutions, think tanks, the scientific community, the civil society, the private sector, media, local municipalities, international organizations and governments, should learn from one another and create synergies to advance educational initiatives.

Achieving a world without nuclear weapons requires continuous efforts, and therefore, educating and empowering individuals of all generations and genders is vital. Diversity both guarantees sustainable engagement with disarmament and non-proliferation issues and increases the potential for innovative ideas. We believe that promoting and ensuring the equal and meaningful participation of women and men is a meaningful step forward in ensuring that all voices are included. Engaging younger generations is equally important in raising awareness on various topics related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. To this end, we must

make efforts in order to raise awareness of the public, in particular of younger and future generations, as well as of leaders, disarmament experts and diplomats, on all topics relating to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including through interactions with and directly sharing the experiences of the people and the communities affected by nuclear weapons, to know their humanitarian impact.

Mr. Vice-Chair,

We firmly believe that disarmament and non-proliferation education plays an indispensable role in strengthening all aspects of the NPT, as well as in fostering a global culture of peace and security. In this regard, we would like to recall that the year 2020, when the tenth NPT Review Conference was originally scheduled, commemorated the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT and seventy-five years since the use of nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Now that we are finally holding the tenth NPT Review Conference, we aspire to draw all States Parties closer to the Treaty's common goal by utilizing education and awareness raising more effectively. Believing in its potential, we call on all States Parties, both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states, to continue to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education and to share progress made in this important endeavor within the NPT review process.