

**Statement by Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
at the NPT Review Conference, 12th Plenary Meeting
(August 22, 2022)**

Mr. President,

Thank you for allowing me to take the floor. I would like to thank you and your team for the tireless efforts to lead us towards finding consensus as we enter the fourth and final week of this Conference.

Distinguished Delegates,

From the outset of this Conference, we were all aware of the task ahead of us. We expected a difficult and heated debate, which is exactly what we have seen in the third week.

As Prime Minister KISHIDA stated in his speech at the general debate, the path to a world without nuclear weapons has become even harder.

However, this is why we must all recommit ourselves to the NPT. I think we can all agree that the NPT has served well as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Without it, the world would have been a far more dangerous place. Because of it, we have attained the 77 year-record of the non-use of nuclear weapons.

Distinguished Delegates,

From today to Friday, we have a chance – a prime opportunity. An opportunity to let the world know that despite our differences, we can still find common ground for the sake of the greater good of making the world a safer place, and taking a step closer to a world without nuclear weapons.

I am here under the direct instructions and on behalf of Prime Minister KISHIDA, who firmly believes that we cannot give up on achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

The world is not a perfect place. Far from it. But it is nevertheless the only one we have. And we have a collective responsibility to the next generation that we keep it free from the scourge of nuclear weapons.

Distinguished Delegates,

The text in front of us is not a perfect one. But we must remember our shared mission from Day 1. Our mission is not perfecting the text. Our mission is finding a consensus that will take us forward towards a world without nuclear weapons. That is what we came here to do.

Let us make the best of the remaining days to show to the world that we can still be united, and that we care in moving towards our common goal.

Mr. President,

I want to be clear that the Delegation of Japan stands ready to engage in any way possible over the next 4 days so that we can find consensus and recommit ourselves to the NPT, and together pave the way to come closer to a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you, Mr. President.