

Statement by TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
August 26, 2022

At the Plenary session of the Review Conference of the Parties  
to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Mr. President,

First of all, we must thank you and your team for guiding us all this way, for not only this conference, but also for the past 2 and half years which you have skillfully guided us through the most difficult times of the pandemic.

Mr. President,

It is extremely regrettable that we could not reach a consensus because of the objections from the Russian delegation. We reiterate our strongest condemnation of the ongoing unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Japan expresses deep disappointment over yet another Russian action taken today that threaten to undermine our joint effort toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

But we must redouble our efforts. I support the President's proposal to create a new working group to strengthen the review process. After 4 weeks of working together face to face, by working towards consensus that would bridge our differences, all of us here, I believe, must have sensed the importance of bringing back the momentum to move towards a world without nuclear weapons. This is of great importance. Especially, the very importance of upholding and strengthening the NPT as the cornerstone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

The togetherness of ours created here after the sound and intensive debate gives us an opportunity to build momentum towards the Preparatory Committee next year. We can't afford to stand still. Japan will spare no effort to maintain the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Mr. President,

The Delegation of Japan would like to express its appreciation and respect for the selfless and tireless work by you and your team.

We thank you, Mr. President.