

Statement by JAPAN
At the First Committee of the 77th Session of the General Assembly
— Thematic Debate: Nuclear Weapons —
October 2022, NEW YORK

Mr. Chair,

It has already been 77 years since the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ever since that day, it has been Japan's mission to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has made the path towards a world without nuclear weapons an uphill struggle. However, we must not relent in our efforts to make any possible realistic gains towards achieving this goal.

Every effort should be made to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again and to refrain from any inflammatory rhetoric concerning the use of nuclear weapons. In this regard, President Putin's speech on Russian nuclear force, in the context of the aggression against Ukraine, squarely contradicts the Joint Statement by the five nuclear-weapon States leaders in January this year affirming that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Japan urges the nuclear-weapon States, in particular, the Russian Federation, to honor, not by words, but by deeds, their crucial commitment in this Statement. Japan condemns the words and actions by the Russian Federation implying nuclear threats in the course of its aggression

against Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

It is truly regrettable that the Draft Final Document was not adopted at the 10th NPT Review Conference, due to the objection by Russia. There remains, however, an urgent need to cast light upon the way forward to realizing a world without nuclear weapons, as well as to restore and reinvigorate momentum on nuclear disarmament.

Driven by Prime Minister Kishida's strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, Japan decided to submit a new draft resolution entitled "Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons" which presents a basic way forward towards a world without nuclear weapons under the current international circumstances. This draft resolution follows the lines of the "Hiroshima Action Plan" that Prime Minister Kishida announced on the very first day of the 10th NPT Review Conference. Key elements from the "Hiroshima Action Plan" were to a large extent reflected in the Draft Final Document of the Conference. The draft resolution, which we are now proposing, also proposes elements of more robust actions and languages on some aspects than those of the Draft Final Document in order to salvage constructive ideas emerging from the discussion at the Review Conference but not fully reflected in the Draft Final Document.

Japan hopes that this realistic approach proposed by Japan within this draft resolution will gain the widest possible support from

Member States and create new momentum for nuclear disarmament towards the 11th NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chair,

Japan cannot but reiterate its deep concern about North Korea's intensified nuclear and missile development activities. Japan strongly condemns the recent series of launches of ballistic missiles, including the one on October 4th, which flew over the Japanese territory for the first time in five years. Japan calls on all Member States to reaffirm their strong commitment to the goal of achieving complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of all of North Korea's nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs, as well as ballistic missiles of all ranges, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions. We also call on all Member States to fully implement these resolutions.

I thank you, Mr. Chair for your kind attention.

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