

STATEMENT BY JAPAN
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 77th SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- THEMATIC DEBATE: OTHER DISARMAMENT MEASURES AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY -
OCTOBER, 2022, NEW YORK

Mr. Chair,

Cyberspace has become an indispensable economic and social infrastructure for all activities, and so is a "public space" for all citizens to participate in. This economic and societal transformation has also made us vulnerable to cyberattacks which pose a major security risk to all. From a national security standpoint, we are particularly concerned about malicious cyber activities emanating from other States that damage critical infrastructure, whether supported by these States or not. It is difficult for any one country to respond to these cybersecurity threats alone. Cooperation and collaboration among states is paramount to protect and enhance a free, open and secure cyberspace.

On the issue of how international law applies to cyber operations, Japan's position is clear: existing international law is applicable to all such operations. We also strongly support the development of voluntary norms of responsible State behavior. Establishing the rule of law in the international

community is of great significance for stabilizing relations between countries and realizing the peaceful settlement of disputes. Japan promotes bilateral and multilateral rule-making as well as the proper implementation of these rules in various fields, including security, economic and social affairs and criminal justice. Based on this stance that existing international law is applicable to cyber operations, Japan considers it important to promote the rule of law in cyberspace as well.

In order to promote the rule of law in cyberspace and realize a free, fair and secure cyberspace, Japan welcomes the annual progress report adopted by consensus in the Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of ICTs 2021–2025. As an action-oriented process, it is important for the OEWG to achieve concrete results based on the accumulation of past discussions reflected in the GGE and OEWG reports. In this regard, we strongly support the OEWG Chair's decision to endorse the annual progress report.

We also support the draft resolution on the Programme of Action to Advance Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace presented by France.

Mr. Chair,

I would also like to address the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation education, which Japan has been promoting as a useful and

effective means to advance towards 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 any 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.

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. It is in this perspective that Japan is proposing to mention some concrete initiatives heading in this direction in operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution “Steps to building a common road map towards a world without nuclear weapons” that Japan submitted to this committee.

Japan has been actively engaging in various disarmament and non-proliferation education efforts. Notably, at the NPT Review Conference in August, Prime Minister Kishida announced the, “Youth Leader Fund for a world without nuclear weapons”. Japan also took the lead of the Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education in the Conference, which gathered support from 89 States Parties to the NPT.

Japan firmly believes in the power of disarmament and non-proliferation education and the potential for future generations to achieve our common goal, the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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