

General Statement by H.E. Mr. Shunsuke TAKEI,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
The First Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference
(31 July 2023, in Vienna, Austria)

Mr. Chairperson,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair. Japan will fully support your work.

Although the last Review Conference failed to adopt a final outcome document, there was a strong will among State Parties to maintain and strengthen the NPT. The discussions last week on further strengthening the NPT review process are also testament to this will.

With the path towards a world without nuclear weapons becoming more severe, such as deepening division within the international community and Russia's nuclear threat, maintaining and strengthening the NPT is in the interest of the entire international community.

In this regard, "G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament" issued at the G7 Hiroshima Summit this May has provided a solid platform to work towards a world without nuclear weapons. Japan will continue to advance realistic and practical efforts in line with the "Hiroshima Action Plan".

Mr. Chairperson,

The international community is facing a severe situation that the decreasing trend of the global nuclear stockpile could be reversed by a rapid expansion of nuclear arsenals for the first time after the Cold War. Left unchecked, a world without nuclear weapons will become even more difficult to achieve. This should not be allowed.

We must first enhance transparency which is the foundation of all nuclear disarmament measures. With the NPDI, we call on nuclear-weapon States to promote effective and responsible transparency measures, through providing data on their

nuclear forces and the objective size of their nuclear arsenal.

We must also breathe new life into discussions on an FMCT. To refocus political attention on it, Japan will co-host a high-level event with the Philippines during the UN General Assembly this year.

Mr. Chairperson,

A world without nuclear weapons cannot be achieved without nuclear non-proliferation. We will cooperate with the international community to advance efforts on nuclear non-proliferation including the issues regarding North Korea and Iran. Transparency of the management of civil plutonium must also be maintained and we underscore the importance of the implementation of the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium, INFCIRC 549.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan is committed to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the international community. From this perspective, I would like to update you on the situation with the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

I reiterate that Japan will take all possible measures to ensure the safety of the discharge of the ALPS treated water, and we will not conduct any discharges that would endanger human health and the environment around the world. By undergoing the IAEA review, Japan has been thoroughly explaining its safety to the international community, based on scientific evidence in a transparent manner. We will continue to make such efforts. This month, the IAEA published its Comprehensive Report on the Safety Review of the ALPS treated water at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. The report concluded that Japan's approach is consistent with relevant international safety standards. It also concluded the discharge of the ALPS treated water will have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment.

Mr. Chairperson,

Sound science should always be our guide in our approach in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Undermining the authority of the IAEA is not. The IAEA is authorized to establish and provide for the application of safety standards under its Statute. Therefore, it is important that any understanding on the discharge of the ALPS treated water into the sea be fostered rationally based on the fact that the IAEA has made a conclusion from an independent scientific standpoint.

Mr. Chairperson,

Conveying the reality of the atomic bombings to the world is the starting point of all efforts toward nuclear disarmament. With the Hibakusha, we will continue to convey the realities of nuclear weapons use beyond generations, including through our “Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons”.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons. They will be explaining their “Message” for this Committee at a side event.

Mr. Chairperson,

I wish this committee will have a meaningful discussion for its success of the 2026 Review Conference.