



**Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament  
At the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the  
2026 NPT Review Conference  
- Peaceful uses of nuclear energy and other provision of the Treaty -  
9 August 2023, Vienna**

Mr. Chair,

The issue of withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) continues to be one of the most critical problems to be addressed for the NPT regime to be effective and credible. I first would like to touch upon Japan's view on the withdrawal provision of the NPT.

Article X of the NPT provides the right of a State Party to withdraw from the Treaty. If, however, a State Party withdraws from the Treaty after acquiring nuclear weapons or nuclear capabilities either by receiving them or manufacturing them while it is bound not to do so, it would have an enormous impact on the credibility and integrity of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the NPT and supported by a universal adherence to it. The States Parties should give significant attention to this issue. Japan also would like to stress that a notice of withdrawal should not and cannot acquit any State Party of any illicit acquisition of its nuclear capability.

Mr. Chair,

On the issue of withdrawal, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), of which Japan is a member, has been proposing the following four concrete measures as contained in its working paper (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.58).

First, the right to withdrawal can be exercised only in the face of extraordinary events, and the procedures in Article X must be fully and strictly followed by any State Party that makes the decision to withdraw from the Treaty.

Second, States Parties exercising their rights under Article X of the NPT will remain responsible under international law for violations of the Treaty committed prior to withdrawal.

Third, nuclear materials, equipment and technology acquired by a State under Article 4 of the NPT prior to withdrawal shall remain under IAEA safeguards even after withdrawal.

Fourth and lastly, Depositories and other States Parties shall exert every diplomatic effort to persuade the withdrawing State to reconsider its decision. The Security Council should also undertake to address all cases of withdrawal from the NPT without delay.

Japan continues to support these four key measures to deter further withdrawal and to minimize the damage and harm a withdrawal would inflict on the NPT regime and international peace and security.

In addition to the measures contained in the NPDI working paper, Japan considers it important to give States Parties incentives to remain under the Treaty.

To this end, tangible progress needs to be made in the implementation of the NPT obligations and the commitments adopted in the past NPT review process, including the 2010 action plan.

It is also useful to clarify jointly how the rest of the States Parties and the UN Security Council should deal with a notice of withdrawal if ever a new one is given in accordance with Article X.

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

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