

General Statement by Mr. KOMURA Masahiro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Japan
The Second Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference
(22 July 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland)

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Participants,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you, Deputy Minister RAKHMETULLIN, on your assumption of the Chair. Japan will fully support your efforts.

Mr. Chair,

The international community is now at a turning point in history. The security environment is rapidly becoming more severe. That is why Japan, as the only country that has ever suffered atomic bombing during war, has been leading the international community's efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons, with the NPT as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We will promote realistic and practical measures under the “Hiroshima Action Plan” announced by Prime Minister KISHIDA at the 2022 Review Conference.

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to share with you Japan's positions on the three pillars of the NPT.

Let me start with nuclear disarmament. The non-use of nuclear weapons must be maintained. Russia's threats of nuclear weapon use, let alone its use of nuclear weapons are unacceptable.

Furthermore, we must enhance transparency, which is the foundation of all nuclear disarmament measures. 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 arsenals.

We reiterate the importance of the immediate start of FMCT negotiations. This is to prevent a reversal of the trend in decreasing nuclear stockpiles in the world, which never happened after the Cold War. This March, Japan hosted the UN Security Council Ministerial Meeting on “Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation” as the Presidency of the UNSC and pronounced the establishment of the “Friends of FMCT”. Today, I am pleased to announce that Japan will co-host a side event on an FMCT after this session. We hope you will join us.

We are also strongly committed to the universalization and the early entry into force of the CTBT. We call on all states, especially the remaining states that are required for entry into force, to sign and ratify the Treaty.

As the starting point for all measures toward nuclear disarmament, it is important to have an accurate understanding on the realities of nuclear weapons use. Last year, in the G7 Hiroshima Summit, the world leaders have learned the reality of the atomic bombing.

In Nagasaki, we held the meeting of the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons. Participants from both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States, together, had discussions. Next year, this group plans to present the final recommendations for the next Review Conference.

Furthermore, participants of the “UN Youth Leader Fund for a World Without Nuclear Weapons”, to which Japan has contributed to the UN, will visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki next month. We will continue to convey the realities of nuclear-weapons-use beyond generations and borders.

Next, I would like to talk about nuclear non-proliferation. Japan will cooperate with the international community to advance efforts on nuclear non-proliferation, including issues regarding North Korea and Iran.

We remain seriously concerned about North Korea’s nuclear and missile activities. Japan reiterates its strong commitment to achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of all of North Korea’s weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges.

Finally, the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Japan has actively engaged in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to bring the benefits of nuclear technology to more people, in a wide range of fields, and in a safer manner. For instance, we have been contributing to the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) and technical cooperation projects. Japan will continue our contribution in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

The path toward a world without nuclear weapons is becoming more severe, and the interest of the entire international community is to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime.

I hope that the States parties unite and send a strong message of our commitment to maintaining and enhancing the NPT during this Committee. I have great hopes this Committee will have a meaningful discussion for the success of the 2026 Review Conference.

Thank you for your attention.