

(Provisional Translation)
Closing Remarks by Prime Minister Kishida
at the High-Level Meeting to Launch
the Friends of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT Friends)
September 23, 2024

I thank all the high-level representatives of the FMCT Friends founding members for attending the launch meeting today. I am very encouraged to hear directly from you all about your country's enthusiasm to expand support for the start of FMCT negotiations.

My staff always warns me to keep my remarks short, but when it comes to nuclear disarmament, I can't help but be greedy to say more.

Looking ahead to next year, the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and toward the 2026 NPT Review Conference, we need to demonstrate through our actions that the NPT regime is the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Now that the international security environment is becoming increasingly severe, we must advance nuclear disarmament under this NPT regime.

The FMCT Friends are, let's say, three C's in this regard—a "core" of the dialogues between the relevant countries, a "communicator" between countries with different interests, and a "catalyst" to accelerate dialogues—toward the start of the stalled FMCT negotiations.

As a citizen of Hiroshima, the city that was devastated by atomic bombing, I have a strong desire for nuclear abolition. At the same time, as a responsible politician from Japan, the only country to have suffered atomic bombings in war, I am fully aware that Japan has a mission to advance realistic and practical efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons.

The NPT regime is the only universal framework for a world without nuclear weapons, with broad participation from both nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states. Under this regime, it is now more than ever that we must advance realistic efforts, step by step. Among these, I am convinced that a FMCT is truly indispensable.

To all founding members of the FMCT Friends, let us continue to work together toward our common goal so that we can absolutely commence the FMCT negotiations.

Thank you very much.

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