

STATEMENT BY H.E. Ms. IKUINA Akiko

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

2025 High Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I am honored to make a statement on behalf of my government during the period when my country, Japan, is serving as the president of the Conference on Disarmament. Japan expresses its deep appreciation to the representatives of the Member States, Madam Secretary-General, and the members of her office for their contributions to discussions in the CD.

Madam President,

This year marks the eightieth year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Opportunities to directly learn from Hibakushas, or atomic bomb survivors, about the realities of the atomic bombings are getting gradually more scarce year by year. During the past eight decades, many stakeholders are actively preserving and sharing the testimonies and memories of those who have been impacted by nuclear weapons use and testing among different generations and countries. Such stakeholders include national governments, IGOs, academic and

educational institutions, and civil society, such as Nihon Hidankyo, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year. Let me take this opportunity to express my country's respect and appreciation for those endeavors. Indeed, the global voices calling for a world without nuclear weapons are rising thanks to disarmament and non-proliferation education.

At the same time, the CD has been struggling to deliver a tangible outcome for many years. "A New Agenda for Peace," proposed by UN Secretary-General Guterres, points out the deadlock of existing disarmament institutions and the need to reinvigorate them.

Today, the international community is at a turning point in history and faces division and confrontation. With Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the DPRK's nuclear weapons and missile development and other activities, and the situations in the Middle East and other regions, each country faces a severe security environment. Nuclear disarmament and other agendas are also facing more complicated situation. If the stagnation continues in the CD, the world will be further divided on disarmament and arms control.

In this regard, Japan welcomes the adoption of a Decision on the Work of the CD on such an early date this year and expresses its respect for the efforts made by those involved. My government calls on its Member States to advance our work based on this decision and maintain continuity from this year to the next.

Japan strongly believes that maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime—the foundation of the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture—and making concrete progress step-by-step under this regime is the only realistic way towards a world without nuclear weapons. My country advances its initiatives with a sense of mission as the only country anywhere in the world to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war.

The eleventh NPT Review Conference will be held next year. It coincides with the fiftieth anniversary since Japan's ratification of the NPT. My country commits to contribute to dialogue and discussions at the Review Conference and maintain and strengthen the NPT regime so that the international community can get closer to “a world without nuclear weapons.” From this perspective, my government is ready to contribute to the discussion at the NPT 3rd Preparatory Committee this year.

In the CD, Japan reemphasizes the importance of the early commencement of negotiations on an FMCT. We should overcome the stagnation of an FMCT by combining our wisdom and materialize our substantial discussions accumulated over more than thirty years. At the same time, Japan remains firmly committed to the early entry into force of the CTBT, which was negotiated in the CD.

Madam President,

In addition to these efforts in nuclear disarmament, Japan places importance on conducting the military use of emerging technologies in a responsible manner, maintaining the “human-centric” principle. In this regard, my government reiterate its firm support to advance discussions on lethal autonomous weapon systems within the framework of the CCW. It also look forward to deepening understanding on the responsible use of AI in the military domain.

Furthermore, concerning PAROS, Japan hopes that the international community will deepen its understanding of how international norms should be in this field through dialogue and discussions, including those on responsible space behaviors.

My government will contribute to dialogue and discussions in the Open-Ended Working Group on PAROS in all its aspects.

Madam President,

Responsible engagement with disarmament measures and arms control frameworks benefit the international community. Negotiations on disarmament measures and arms control frameworks are the process of dialogue through which we can cultivate trust and confidence between countries.

Even in this challenging security environment, Japan hopes that countries hold broad dialogues for the advancement of disarmament measures and arms control frameworks involving a wider range of countries and weapon systems. My government will certainly contribute to these.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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