



**Statement by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament**

**Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2026 NPT Review Conference
- Cluster I: Nuclear Disarmament -
2 May 2025, New York**

Mr. Chair,

The NPT is the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, and of our common efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. The path of our efforts is becoming more severe, given the serious challenges posed to the international security environment, including the series of destabilizing and escalatory rhetoric and acts by the Russian Federation in its aggression against Ukraine.

Against this backdrop, Japan will continue to advance a realistic and practical approach to nuclear disarmament, maintaining and strengthening the NPT. I would like to explain six key actions under this approach.

First, we must extend the record of the non-use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear-weapon States must honor their crucial commitment that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”, as stated in the P5 Joint Statement issued in January 2022. In this context, Japan encourages nuclear-weapon States to promote meaningful discussions to reduce nuclear risks.

Second is enhancing transparency. The NPDI has submitted an updated working paper on enhancing transparency and accountability with concrete recommendations. We should make every effort to decide on concrete measures at the next Review Conference, including reporting of comparable and numerical information on their nuclear arsenals by the nuclear-weapon States and interactive discussions on these national reports, as outlined in the NPDI working paper.

Third, we should avoid a nuclear arms race, the risk of which is higher than at any time since the height of the Cold War. The rapid buildup of nuclear arsenals by a certain country could spark a nuclear arms race. Japan urges the Russian Federation to return to full implementation of the New START Treaty. Further, Japan also calls for the realization of dialogues leading to the development of a broader framework for nuclear arms control and disarmament, which involves not only the U.S. and Russia but also China.

Forth, it is now more imperative than ever to limit the quantitative development of nuclear weapons. Japan emphasizes the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT). Japan is determined to continue its efforts to heighten the political momentum for commencing negotiations on an FMCT. Pending the entry into force of an FMCT, Japan also calls upon all relevant states to declare or maintain moratoria on fissile material production for the aforementioned purposes.

Fifth, Japan urges all states to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, particularly the remaining States listed in Annex 2. Pending the CTBT's entry into force, Japan urges all relevant states to declare new or maintain existing moratoria on any nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.

Sixth, we should redouble our efforts to raise awareness of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons. This year marks the 80th year since the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This tragedy must never be repeated. Japan will continue to work tirelessly to convey the realities beyond borders and generations. I delivered the joint statement on disarmament and non-proliferation education on behalf of 95 States Parties as Yemen joined the 94 countries I mentioned yesterday. We look forward to more States Parties joining this statement at the Review Conference next year.

Mr. Chair,

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan stands ready to further cooperation with NPT States Parties to promote practical and concrete measures towards a world without nuclear weapons.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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