

International Group of Eminent Persons
for a World Without Nuclear Weapons (IGEP)
The 2026 NPT Review Conference Side Event
Closing Remarks
by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kunimitsu
April 27, 2026

Ambassador Zlauvinen,
Professor Akiyama,
Distinguished panelists,

Thank you very much for your highly insightful discussion.

To pave the way towards a world without nuclear weapons, we must address many challenges, such as how to deal with the proliferation risks in an environment where know-how of making nuclear weapons is widely known.

To this date, however, we have not yet seen a convergence in those discussions, while the international community has shared the goal of a "world without nuclear weapons" and an awareness of the risks they pose.

Japan places importance on dialogue and values a "step-by-step" or realistic and practical approach because it believes that nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States must tackle these challenges together. Otherwise, we cannot build the trust and confidence that must serve as the foundation of security diplomacy in a world without nuclear weapons.

I hope that our esteemed experts here will continue to engage in this daunting challenge ahead of us. I sincerely hope that your discussions at this side event and the recommendations will reinvigorate the debates at the NPT Review Conference. I also hope that they serve as a first step in carving out a path for the next decade towards a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you very much for your time today.

End.