

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. MARI AMANO
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY
ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

- CLUSTER I: SPECIFIC ISSUES -
SECURITY ASSURANCES
VIENNA, 4 MAY 2012

Mr. Chairman,

In this session, I would like to focus my statement on security assurances.

Mr. Chairman,

On signing the NPT in 1970, Japan underscored in its official statement that, “the nuclear-weapon states must not have recourse to use of nuclear weapons or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states.” That position remains unchanged, and Japan lends its basic support to the concept of negative security assurances (NSAs).

In order to be assured of this, it is fundamentally important that all states possessing nuclear weapons diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their national security strategies, as indicated in Action 5 of the 2010 Final Document. We should recognize, in this connection, that negative security assurances can make a significant contribution to reducing the role of nuclear weapons.

NSAs are in the legitimate interests of non-nuclear-weapon states. Nuclear-weapon states should make their existing NSA pledges credible to the rest of the world and should provide stronger assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states that comply with the NPT. In this regard, we commend the Nuclear Posture Review of the United States and the Strategic Defense and Security Review of the United Kingdom. They provide strengthened assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states that are party to the NPT and in compliance with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan also believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, is a practical step to promoting and realizing legally binding security assurances. As noted in Action 9 of the 2010 Final Document, all concerned states, which encompass both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states, are encouraged to constructively consult and cooperate to bring about the entry into force of the relevant legally binding protocols of all nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties.

Taking this into account, Japan is pleased with the successful conclusion of negotiations last November between the ASEAN countries and the nuclear-weapon states on the Protocol of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty. Japan strongly hopes the five nuclear-weapon states sign and ratify the Protocol by an early date. Nuclear-weapon-free zones have also been established in the South Pacific, Africa, and Central Asia, and Japan appeals to all the parties concerned to work together constructively in order to bring about the expeditious entry into force of the respective protocols of each zone.