

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 2 SPECIFIC ISSUE: -
REGIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING WITH RESPECT TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1995 MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION
VIENNA, 8 MAY 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor during this focused debate on the issue of the Middle East and implementation of the 1995 Middle East Resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan views that the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction would greatly enhance the integrity and sustainability of the NPT. We are also cognizant of the historical intricacies of this issue with the indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995.

The agreement reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference to hold a conference in 2012 on this issue was a milestone achievement in the history of the NPT. We welcome the appointment of H.E. Ambassador Jaako Laajava as the facilitator and commend his strenuous efforts to ensure the success of the conference.

Needless to say it is important that the 2012 Conference be represented by all the states of the region and the three depository states as the sponsoring states of the 1995 Middle East Resolution. However, all the States Parties, whether

states of the region or not, have a stake in the implementation of the Middle East Resolution. We believe that states outside the region can also make contribution to the success of the conference as well as to the goal of the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

Given the complex political reality on the ground in the region, we have no illusion about the immediate establishment of such a zone. Rather, it will surely require a long and pain-staking process. To begin with we should try to find practical steps that contribute to confidence building within the region.

In this regard, Japan stands ready to support the work of the facilitator. As such, we are considering devoting one of the sessions to this issue at the Global Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education, which we will hold this year from 10 to 11 August in Nagasaki in cooperation with the United Nations University.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me reiterate that Japan will spare no effort in providing whatever assistance and cooperation necessary in support of the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.