

**Preparatory Committee for the 2010  
Review Conference of the Parties to  
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation  
of Nuclear Weapons**

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**DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EDUCATION**

Working paper submitted by Japan

**I. Introduction**

1. At the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference last year, Japan submitted the working paper entitled “Japan’s efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation education”(NPT/CONF.2010/PC.1/WP.3).

2. The aim of the present paper is to elucidate the value of disarmament and non-proliferation education in the NPT context, to present points to be discussed on disarmament and non-proliferation education and to provide updates on Japan’s efforts in this area.

**II. The value of disarmament and non-proliferation education**

3. As the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/57/124) regarding the UN study on disarmament and non-proliferation education states, “there is a pressing need to expand and improve disarmament and non-proliferation education and training in order to promote disarmament and non-proliferation and to strengthen international security”. Therefore,

disarmament and non-proliferation education plays an important role as a useful and effective means for addressing disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

4. In the context of the NPT, the value of disarmament and non-proliferation education lies in the following:

- (a) The significant role the NPT is playing in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation should be duly dealt with in disarmament and non-proliferation education. In particular, the promotion of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education should lead to broader awareness among the public on the difficult challenges the NPT regime faces, as well as the benefits of the NPT to international peace and security. This is critical for fostering public support on the maintenance and strengthening of the NPT regime.
- (b) In order to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime and to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, the knowledge and experience of the immense destructive power of nuclear weapons, as well as the injury and death they cause, must be shared worldwide and passed from generation to generation. Disarmament and non-proliferation education should include these aspects.

### **III. Points for consideration in the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation education**

5. The recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/57/124) regarding the ways for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education should be reaffirmed and followed. These recommendations are comprehensive and practical. Japan believes that each State Party could commence its initiatives on disarmament and non-proliferation by implementing them as a first step within existing and available resources.

6. Japan particularly attaches importance to the following points when implementing the recommendations in order to further enhance disarmament and non-proliferation education more effectively:

7. Firstly, humankind, including the future generations, should share as objective information the experiences of nuclear devastation and the persistent effects of radiation on the environment and human health. Civil society is already active in recording, compiling, preserving and further disseminating information using various tools, including narratives, visual media and other forms of communication. Governments should support, where necessary and appropriate, such efforts by civil society.

8. Secondly, efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation in the NPT context should include deepening discussions among security and disarmament experts on the security benefits of and challenges to the NPT regime, and providing knowledge on these issues to the public.

9. Thirdly, we should note the fact that UNSG report includes developing the critical thinking skills in an informed citizenry as one of the objectives of contemporary disarmament and non-proliferation education and training.

10. Finally, experiences in disarmament and non-proliferation education should be shared among Member States, international organizations, and civil society. The website of the United Nations, including the UN CyberSchoolBus site on peace education, provides all governments, organizations and citizens with a useful tool to this end. Relevant international organizations and research institutes could also play a role as hubs for information sharing.

#### **IV. Japan's initiatives**

11. Based on the above-mentioned value of disarmament and non-proliferation (II) and points to be addressed (III), Japan, as a sole country which experienced the devastation of atomic bombs, conducted or is conducting the following initiatives for disarmament and non-proliferation education and intends to continue similar efforts.

##### **Students' debate forum on disarmament and non-proliferation**

12. In August 2007, on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Sapporo, a debate forum on "how to realize a peaceful and safe world free of nuclear weapons" was held with the participation of local university students. The purpose of this debate forum was to provide an opportunity for the young participants to deepen their understanding of disarmament and non-proliferation issues and to develop critical thinking skills.

##### **Support for NGO activities**

13. During the last session of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, Japan extended support to the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security for the screening at the UN headquarters in New York of a film titled "Nagasaki Angelus Bell • 1945".

##### **Whitepaper on disarmament and non-proliferation policy**

14. Japan's whitepaper on disarmament and non-proliferation policy, which includes a chapter on disarmament and non-proliferation education, is available in both Japanese and English on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan's website (<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/un/disarmament/policy/pamphlet.html>).

**Additional initiatives**

15. Collaboration with civil society, which is engaged in various activities on disarmament and non-proliferation education, is indispensable for making these efforts more effective. Japan intends to work together with NGOs and municipalities in order to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education. In the sidelines of the current session of the Preparatory Committee, Japan and UNIDIR are co-organizing a workshop on disarmament and non-proliferation education with the participation of NGOs and citizens. This workshop aims to deal with the theme of how the next generation can preserve the knowledge and experience of the immense destructive power of nuclear weapons, as well as the death and injury they cause.

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