

# **Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy**

**April 2004**

Edited by

Directorate General, Arms Control and Scientific Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In cooperation with

The Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation,  
Japan Institute of International Affairs

Note. This booklet is published originally in Japanese in April 2004 mainly to promote better understanding of ordinary citizens on Japan's disarmament and non-proliferation policy, and it covers, in principle, developments in these fields till April 2004.

## Introduction

The international situation concerning disarmament and non-proliferation has changed drastically since the first edition of the “Japan’s Disarmament Policy” was published in May 2002. The world is facing threats of development, possession, and use of weapons of mass destruction namely nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, as well as missiles, by terrorist organizations or states of proliferation concern. The characteristic of terrorist organizations or states of proliferation concern is that deterrence is ineffective or less effective to them and, because of this characteristic, these actors are perceived as “new threats”. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 in the United States made us realize the reality of these issues as threats to our daily lives. Moreover, the development of weapons of mass destruction and missiles by North Korea and Iraq aroused serious concerns in the international community in 2002 and 2003. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was identified as one of the most significant issues in international politics in 2003.

In order to ensure the peace and security of Japan and the world under the new security circumstances, considerable importance lies in the maintenance and reinforcement of international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. With respect to the weapons of mass destruction, international treaties on nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons have been adopted as a result of long-term diplomatic efforts. Particularly with respect to nuclear and chemical weapons, verification mechanisms are put into place to monitor compliance with the treaties. In addition, an international rule against the proliferation of ballistic missiles has also been set forth. In order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, it is primarily important that as many countries as possible adopt and adhere to the treaties and the rules, which enable the international community to move step by step toward the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Japan, as an ardent advocate for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons, is taking diplomatic approaches to non-state parties of relevant treaties as well as working on various measures to strengthen the functions of these treaties. In addition, since necessary legal frameworks

to domestically implement obligations under such treaties have yet to be developed in many countries, Japan encourages and assists them to develop those frameworks. Along with these efforts, various international regimes for non-proliferation have been established to prevent materials and devices that could be used for the development of weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorist organizations or states of proliferation concern. While implementing strict export control restrictions, Japan is actively involved in the international regimes for non-proliferation.

In the face of a series of ethnic and other types of conflicts in the post Cold War world, small arms and light weapons as well as landmines have become grave concerns and threats to the security of the people's life. Many victims of small arms or landmines include civilian women and children, creating serious humanitarian problems. Even after the cease-fire agreement, the existence of small arms and landmines continues to torment the people, endangers the ceasefire, and results in an obstacle to post-war reconstruction. Japan, having a role as a peaceful nation, does not export arms and has called upon the world community to control illicit arms trafficking. The UN Register of Conventional Arms, which makes the transfer of conventional weapons more transparent, and the UN Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which outlines comprehensive approaches to the small arms issues, emerged out of the UN General Assembly resolutions that Japan submitted based on such stance. Solving the small arms and landmine problems is considered to be one of the major pillars in the concept of "Consolidation of Peace," which is promoted by Japan. In 2003, The First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects was held and chaired by Ambassador Kuniko Inoguchi, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, and as a result, the international efforts put forth in this area moved forward substantially.

It will be of great significance for Japan to further strengthen its diplomatic approaches toward disarmament and non-proliferation. Sections in charge of disarmament and non-proliferation (Directorate General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be reorganized and promoted as a department in August

2004, to take a more strategic and active approach.

For the publication of the second edition, the word “Non-Proliferation” is added to the original title, to become “Japan’s Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy,” in view of the international movements described above. This booklet serves as a resource to promote deeper understanding on Japan’s diplomatic policy in the area of the disarmament and non-proliferation. To this end, the specific measures that Japan has taken in the past are described in detail and some background on the international movements is also mentioned. With respect to individual measures taken by Japan, it addresses such points as how important these measures are in terms of national interest of Japan and how they are assessed in the international community. Moreover, important diplomatic documents that have been recently issued in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation are listed for the convenience of the readers.

This booklet aims to give a bird’s-eye-view on the overall picture of current disarmament and non-proliferation policy, and it does not specify the applicable period of the statement. Post-war history is reviewed wherever necessary, and special emphasis is placed on significant movements, such as the Proliferation Security Initiative and the G8 Global Partnership, that emerged after the publication of the first edition (May 2002). Furthermore, we have introduced a new section on regional situations to discuss them in independent and in detailed manners.

As far as the descriptions are concerned, we try to use the simplest words and phrases as much as possible, with many figures and photos. In principle, abbreviations are not used except for the ones commonly used in newspapers and the like. If abbreviations are used at all, the formal nomenclature is introduced at the first appearance.

END