
Introduction

Since the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, international efforts toward disarmament and arms control have embarked on a new phase. Specifically, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was adopted in 1992 and the Comprehensive Nuclear - Test - Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. These were milestone accomplishments in the efforts made by the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva as a disarmament negotiating forum to promote international disarmament and non - proliferation. In addition, an indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non - proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was finally agreed upon in 1995 after considerable discussions. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I (START I) was signed between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1991, marking the start of the two countries' efforts to reduce strategic nuclear weapons. Reportedly, the number of deployed nuclear warheads in the United States and the countries of the former Soviet Union, which had exceeded 20,000 in total as of the end of the Cold War, has now been reduced to about 5,000 on each side. Furthermore, in December 2007, the United States announced that it would reduce its nuclear stockpile to a quarter of the number at the end of the Cold War. The United Kingdom and France have also been making nuclear disarmament efforts of their own. Although the CTBT has yet to enter into force, all five nuclear - weapon states as well as India and Pakistan maintain a moratorium on nuclear - weapon test explosions.

On the other hand, in line with new developments in international politics and the progress of globalization, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, has become an increasingly urgent issue. In particular, the nuclear issues of North Korea and Iran are of serious concern to the peace and stability of the international community. North Korea proclaimed it had conducted a nuclear test in October 2006, which the UN Security Council condemned, adopting a resolution obligating North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs. Iran, despite repeated UN Security Council resolutions, has continued and even expanded its uranium enrichment activities which could potentially lead to Iran's acquisition of the capability to develop nuclear weapons forgoing the rebuilding of the confidence of the international community. In addition, there is a constant threat that sensitive nuclear materials and technology could fall into the hands of countries and terrorists plotting to develop nuclear weapons, as can be seen from the unveiling of an underground nuclear proliferation network linked to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan in Pakistan coming to light in 2004, and the fact that illicit smuggling of fissile materials is being still detected. There are also many countries that develop ballistic missiles, which could be used as the delivery means of weapons of mass destruction.

In order to ensure our safety in such a severe international environment, the international community must renew its efforts to address individual problems, including the nuclear issues of North Korea and Iran, in a concerted and appropriate manner and to maintain and reinforce the NPT and the various regimes and initiatives that complement it. While persistent efforts toward universalizing the NPT should be continued, the entry into force of the CTBT and the commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut - off Treaty (FMCT) are also important tasks. With regard to other weapons of mass destruction, it is essential that a greater number of countries join the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the CWC and the States Parties implement the obligations of the Conventions in a truly effective

manner, in order to ensure proper operation of these conventions.

The NPT Review Conference, next scheduled for 2010, is an opportunity once every five years to comprehensively discuss such diverse issues, thereby firmly maintaining and further reinforcing the NPT regime. The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference held its first session from April to May 2007, with Ambassador Yukiya Amano, Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna, serving as the Chairman of that session. In this first session, procedural issues such as the agenda were decided, and the Chairman's working paper, which summarized the views of the States Parties, was produced. It is vital to ensure that this smoothly launched preparatory process leads securely to the success of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Japan intends to make every effort toward making the Review Conference a success. In January 2007, an article entitled "A World Free of Nuclear Weapons" was published. This article, co-authored by former Secretary of State George P. Shultz, former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry, former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and former Senator Sam Nunn, who were all formulators of US nuclear weapons policy, presented new realistic and concrete ideas on nuclear disarmament. Such wide-ranging discussions are likely to have favorable effects on the NPT Review Conference. The accumulation of such arguments on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament is expected to contribute to maintaining international peace and stability and lead to the total elimination of nuclear weapons - an earnest desire of Japan, as a country that has suffered nuclear devastation.

Another noteworthy development is the recent salient trend of so-called "nuclear renaissance." This is a trend where the advantages of nuclear power generation have been reappraised and an increasing number of countries have come to plan to expand or introduce nuclear power generation, against the backdrop of the notable increase in energy demand worldwide and the need to address the global warming issue, among other reasons. Due to the intensification of international competition over uranium resources in particular, association and integration of nuclear-related companies worldwide including Japanese companies have also progressed. At the same time, technology and equipment applied to nuclear power generation and nuclear materials used as fuels need to be controlled appropriately, not only because of the risk of nuclear accidents but also because they can be used for manufacturing nuclear weapons or for nuclear terrorism. At present, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) places importance on ensuring the "3S" (nuclear non-proliferation/safeguards, nuclear safety and nuclear security) with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Japan also consistently regards ensuring the 3S as a vital prerequisite when carrying out international cooperation. Moreover, Japan actively participates in international frameworks and supports 3S-based infrastructure development in various countries, with the aim of ensuring the 3S. In addition, it has been an active participant in international discussions on the assurance of nuclear fuel supply, which have been revisited recently.

The G8 has discussed issues of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as a priority issue on the agenda, and has jointly worked to take concrete actions. At the Kananaskis Summit in 2002, the G8 countries agreed to launch a G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. Under this partnership, Japan cooperates in projects including the dismantling of aging Russian decommissioned nuclear submarines in the Far East, in joint efforts with other countries. Political issues including non-proliferation are also planned to be discussed as one of the major themes at

the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July 2008. Japan will endeavor to send out strong G8 messages as the presidency with the aim of reinforcing the international non - proliferation regime.

In addition to this threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms such as anti - personnel landmines and small arms and light weapons have been causing considerable humanitarian damage to civilians. With regard to anti - personnel landmines, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti - Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction entered into force in 1999. With regard to cluster munitions international efforts have also been initiated to carry out effective regulations on cluster munitions and to strengthen international cooperation for removing their unexploded remnants. With regard to small arms and light weapons, within the framework of the United Nations has been making continuous efforts to tackle the issue of small arms and light weapons, which are often described as de - facto weapons of mass destruction.

Disarmament and non - proliferation are, therefore, not only deeply related to our peace and safety, but also to humanitarian problems. However, it is often said that these issues are difficult for the public to understand and become familiar with, due to the highly specialized terminology and substance Likewise, the concept of ensuring our security through mutual arms control, instead of developing and possessing weapons, may not appear straightforward. Because of this, the importance of disarmament and non - proliferation education has been emphasized in recent years, and the United Nations General Assembly has adopted a resolution encouraging such education. The Government of Japan is making active efforts in this respect by holding the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues with the participation of the general public, in different cities in Japan, and supporting the efforts of civil societies to tell the experiences of suffering from atomic bombing. The Government also supports, and holds talks with, nongovernmental organizations interested in disarmament and non - proliferation, considering their role of providing humanitarian support and presenting visions to be important.

Deepening our understanding of, reflecting and discussing the status quo of the disarmament and non - proliferation, as well as Japan's role therein and the contribution of the Japanese diplomacy in that field to the national interests of Japan, will be of major benefit in promoting further Japan's diplomacy in disarmament and non - proliferation. This booklet, *Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy*, now into its fourth edition, aims to help readers gain a deeper understanding of disarmament and non - proliferation issues.