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**STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
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TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 72ND SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**- GENERAL DEBATE -
OCTOBER 4, 2017, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to you, Ambassador Aluloom, on your assumption of the Chairmanship to this important and challenging First Committee. I assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation, and look forward to closely working with you, your team, and all colleagues to carry out our common tasks.

Mr. Chairman,

As the only country ever to have experienced nuclear devastation during war, Japan has promoted nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation particularly through **raising awareness across borders and generations** based on the reality of the atomic bombings as well as their humanitarian consequences.

We believe that nuclear disarmament and national security are entirely interlinked. It is neither feasible nor effective to pursue disarmament without regard for existing international security concerns. Disarmament

improves the regional and global security environment while also enhancing confidence among States. Therefore, our common question now is, **“how do we advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, while in parallel improve our security environment?”** All states need to redouble their efforts toward this goal. In the following statement I would like to articulate Japan’s views on this point.

First of all, in order to promote nuclear disarmament, **rebuilding cooperation and trust among nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States is indispensable.**

Second, therefore, it is essential for us to concentrate on **revitalizing practical and concrete measures for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation** rather than criticizing the approaches.

Mr. Chairman,

In this vein, let me illustrate **which practical measures Japan believes are effective and relevant** in the current circumstances.

First, we once again call upon the nuclear-weapon States to take further concrete disarmament measures towards the **2020 NPT Review Conference** by implementing the agreed steps contained in the past Final Documents of the Review Conferences. Among other things, Japan underscores the importance of **transparency and risk reduction**. It is necessary to strengthen efforts to increase the level of transparency in nuclear arsenals, particularly through providing more frequent and further detailed reports with numerical data on nuclear forces. We also urge all nuclear-weapon

States and states possessing nuclear weapons to take appropriate measures, including reducing the risk of accidental use of nuclear weapons.

Second, Japan regards a FMCT (Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons or other Nuclear Explosive Devices) and the CTBT (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty) as the most practical building blocks for nuclear disarmament. We welcome the first session of the High Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group and are convinced that this group will add value to the work already carried out by the FMCT GGE so that it can lead to the immediate commencement of a negotiation.

Third, the CTBT. Although it has yet to come into force, universalization of the treaty has been progressing. Japan is determined to continue our effort with a view to contributing to the entry into force. In this regard, Japan welcomes the outcome of the Tenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT in New York last month.

Fourth, Verification. The principle of verifiability, along with transparency and irreversibility, must be applied to all nuclear disarmament processes. Japan welcomes the establishment of the GGE on nuclear disarmament verification next year in the UN. Furthermore, we commend the efforts of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV). These initiatives have become solid platforms where both nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States can work together to deepen their understanding about the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

DPRK's nuclear and missile programs represent a grave and unprecedented challenge to the international community.

Japan condemns in the strongest terms the repeated nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches conducted by the DPRK, including the nuclear test conducted on September 3rd and two ballistic missile launches on August 29th and September 15th, which flew over Japan. This is in flagrant violation and disregard of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and other commitments.

Japan strongly urges the DPRK to immediately cease its nuclear and ballistic related activities, to refrain from conducting further provocative actions and to abandon all nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. **The international community must reinforce all possible measures unitedly and robustly against this security threat.**

Mr. Chairman,

Bearing in mind these points, Japan once again will submit to this committee its resolution entitled, "United Action with Renewed Determination towards the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons." We hope that this will garner even more wide-ranging support from Member States than it has in previous years.

During the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference, Japan announced the establishment of the Eminent Persons Group for Substantial Progress on Nuclear Disarmament. The first meeting of this group will be held in Hiroshima on November 27-28. Participants will include a wide-range of experts from both nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States. We anticipate this meeting will yield a fruitful outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

Aside from nuclear weapon issues, Japan has been committed to pursuing other disarmament efforts, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), as well as conventional weapons and emerging issues, including cyber warfare and nuclear terrorism.

Japan welcomes the successful outcome of the Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held in Geneva this September. Japan has assumed the Presidency of the Fourth Conference of States Parties, which is considered to take place in Japan from 20th to 24th August 2018. As Presidency, Japan is determined to pursue effective and robust implementation, as well as to promote transparency, confidence building, and universalization. We are looking forward to cooperating with all and would-be States Parties as well as civil society and industries to reach our common goal of regulating the international trade in conventional arms and to reduce human suffering.

Japan will submit to the committee two important resolutions entitled, “The Arms Trade Treaty” and “The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects.” These resolutions define measures that we believe are most important as the ATT and small arms and light weapons are closely interrelated. We expect that they will gain wide support among Member States.

Mr. Chairman, before closing, it is true that the Conference on Disarmament hasn’t been able to overcome a serious deadlock for more than two decades. We must make every effort to begin negotiations in the CD; taking advantage of a series of substantive and in-depth discussions from the Way Ahead Working Group this year. Certainly, strong political will with high-level political attention is required to resume real work in the CD.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me stress three important R’s that we believe are the key to success in the 2020 NPT Review Cycle.

1 **Rebuild** cooperation and trust among all States, nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States.

2 **Revitalize** concrete and practical approaches towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

3 **Reinforce all possible measures** unitedly and robustly against security

threats, in particular that of North Korea, thus advancing nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.