



**Statement by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament**

**2026 NPT Review Conference
-Closing session -
22nd May 2026, New York**

Mr President,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, let me first express our sincere appreciation to you, Mr President and your team, for the truly tireless efforts in seeking a consensus outcome for this Conference. I would also like to commend the work done by the Chairs of the Main Committees and Subsidiary Bodies, the co-facilitators of the informal consultations on the Strengthening of the Review Process as well as the Secretariat for facilitating the deliberations of States Parties during this Conference.

Mr President,

This NPT Review Conference has been convened at a time when we are confronted with an increasingly severe international security situation and growing nuclear risks and threats posed by nuclear weapons, while at the same time witnessing growing momentum for nuclear energy. Under these circumstances, the Japanese delegation spared no effort, including in close cooperation with both NPDI and WEOG members as well as with other like-minded States Parties, toward the success of this Conference. Through the joint statement on disarmament and non-proliferation education, 116 States Parties, including Japan, were able to send a strong message on the importance of conveying the realities of the use of nuclear weapons beyond borders and generations. This demonstrates that countries from various regions and with diverse views can build common ground through joint efforts.

However, it is extremely regrettable that this Conference was not able to adopt a final document by consensus.

We also regret that many issues that are of crucial importance to the Treaty were not adequately addressed in the latest draft of the final Document. While

Japan understands that the paragraph on non-compliance covers also North Korea's nuclear issue, Japan strongly calls for the complete dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs in accordance with all relevant UN Security Council resolutions. North Korea's unlawful nuclear and missile development is flagrantly challenging the integrity and credibility of the NPT. We reiterate once again that North Korea cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon state under the Treaty.

We also reiterate the importance of ensuring non-proliferation through IAEA safeguards, notably the additional protocols.

Furthermore, the latest draft did not address the concerns over nuclear safety and security in Ukraine, caused by Russia's aggression and its seizure of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Japan reiterates its call for adherence to the "seven indispensable pillars" and "five concrete principles" and continues to support the IAEA's activities in Ukraine.

Mr President,

Regarding the proposal by the United States to make a decision on the Strengthening of the Review Process, currently paragraphs 37 to 43 of the latest draft, although the measures contained therein are not perfect, we support the retention of these paragraphs in the form of a separate decision to reflect the efforts by States Parties in the past 4 years in this important area, in particular on transparency and accountability.

Mr President,

The NPT is the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, the basis for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the foundation of our common efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. Japan, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, is and will continue to be a staunch supporter of the NPT. We will continue to work together with both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime.

Thank you Mr President.