



**Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the
2026 NPT Review Conference
11 August 2023, Vienna**

Mr. Chair,

First of all, my delegation would like to express our sincere appreciation for your effective leadership in guiding us during the discussions at the Working Group on further strengthening the review process and the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the current Review Cycle.

We found the Working Group to be meaningful in the sense that we could engage in deep discussions on substantial matters in an interactive manner, and that we observed a great deal of convergence in views of States parties on many issues, while it was regrettable that any consensus was not reached on recommendations of the working group. In this connection, Japan highly appreciates your working paper (NPT/CONF.2026/PC.I/WP.34) which includes various useful recommendations proposed by States Parties and will serve as an excellent basis for future discussions on this issue.

With respect to the first session of the Preparatory Committee, we appreciate the draft “factual summary” prepared by the Chair, which well captured the overview of the discussions held during the session in a balanced manner with great degree of divergence of views. This document could have constituted an

important contribution in the process leading to the 2026 Review Conference. It is truly regrettable that you had to decide not to submit this document. We are very much concerned by the deviation from the well-established practice in the Review Process.

We also consider the Chair's "reflection paper" to be valuable in the sense that it will strengthen continuity between the first session and the second session of the Preparatory Committee as it will be handed over to the Chair of the second session. This idea of having "rolling texts" was discussed during the Working Group on further strengthening the review process, and garnered wide support among the States Parties. Although the recommendations of the Working Group were not adopted, we appreciate that the Chair has taken his initiative to realize this idea by issuing the reflection paper under his own responsibility.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to highlight that Japan is ready to contribute to advancing our joint work throughout the current review cycle, without watering down the level of ambition we have reached at this session of the Preparatory Committee. Also, we would like to express our full support to the Chair of the second session of the Preparatory Session, and look forward to continuing to engage in further discussions with colleagues toward the 2026 Review Conference.

I thank you, Mr. Chair, for your kind attention.

(END)