



**Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the
2026 NPT Review Conference
- CLUSTER I: Nuclear disarmament and security assurances –
3 August 2023, Vienna**

Mr. Chair,

At the signing of the NPT in 1970, Japan underscored that, "the nuclear-weapon States must not have recourse to use of nuclear weapons or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States" in its statement. This statement underpins our position even today.

Japan believes that effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons could serve as a step towards our ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, and that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can also contribute to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime.

As noted in Action 9 of the 2010 NPT Review Conference Final Document, we encourage the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the states of the region concerned and in accordance with the 1999 Guidelines of the Disarmament Commission. By signing and ratifying relevant protocols that contain negative security assurances, nuclear-weapon States would undertake individual commitments with respect to the status of such zones not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States that are party to such protocols. These commitments will contribute to further improving the security environment and to strengthening the global non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chair,

In the wake of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the series of actions and statements by the Russian Federation run counter to the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances. Paragraph 2 of the Memorandum reaffirms the obligation to "refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine". Japan urges the Russian Federation to honor its own commitments and its declared obligation in terms of security assurances, including related to nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

Given the ongoing challenges to the international peace and security, Japan recognizes the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-Weapon States Parties to the NPT that are in compliance with their nuclear-non-proliferation obligations to receive proper security assurances. In order to serve as a meaningful step for all states, NSAs need to be examined with due consideration on and assessment of the security environment. In order for NSAs can contribute to reducing the role of nuclear weapons, realistic, practical and focused discussions are required.

Nuclear weapons, once used, cause extensive and tremendous devastations. As the only country to have suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan is fully aware of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Such tragedy must never be repeated again.

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

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