



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the First Committee of the 80th Session of the General Assembly
--General Debate--
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Mr. Chair,

I would like to start by congratulating Ambassador Maurizio Massari, on his assumption as the Chairperson of this session of the First Committee. I assure Ambassador Massari, you Mr. Chair, and the bureau of my Delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

The severe international security situation and deepening divisions within the international community are making the path towards a world without nuclear weapons even more challenging. Russia's aggression against Ukraine continues to pose a blatant challenge to the international order based on the rule of law. The rapid expansion of nuclear arsenals, including that of China for which there is a lack of sufficient transparency, could spark a new arms race, and such risk is now higher than at any time since the height of the Cold War.

Japan is seriously concerned about the advancement of the DPRK's nuclear and missile activities and its military cooperation with Russia. It is essential for the international community to be united and fully implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. Japan urges Pyongyang to abide by all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and fully comply with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

We mark the 80th year since the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki must never be repeated. With the NPT Review Conference coming up next year, we call on the international community to embrace the spirit of dialogue and cooperation for its success. Japan will submit a draft resolution titled "Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons" to present a common approach on nuclear disarmament again this year. We hope it will garner the widest possible support from Member States.

Mr. Chair,

Japan has been a staunch supporter of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and its core objective, and it is a great honour for me to hold the Presidency of its 22nd Meeting of States Parties. In this capacity, Japan, together with Cambodia and Zambia, will submit a draft resolution on "Implementation of the APMBC" and calls for the widest support to it. I would also like to call for strong support and cooperation of the APMBC States Parties for the success of the 22nd Meeting of States Parties in December.

Urgent action is needed to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Together with Colombia and South Africa, Japan will once again submit a draft resolution on "the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" and strongly hopes to adopt this resolution by consensus again this year to demonstrate our collective commitment.

Any use of biological or chemical weapons is unacceptable under any circumstances. In this light, Japan supports the activities of the Working Group on strengthening the BWC, and the OPCW's efforts in addressing concerns over the use of chemical weapons in recent years.

Mr. Chair,

We are also facing a pressing need to address a number of challenges deriving from the development of new technologies and new domains. Japan considers that military use of emerging technologies should be examined comprehensively, taking into account both humanitarian considerations and security perspectives. In this regard, Japan appreciates the substantive progress made in the GGE LAWS under the CCW and will spare no effort for the fulfillment of its mandate. Japan strongly supports the continuation of international considerations of this important issue under the framework of the CCW. In accordance with the mandate of the GGE to formulate a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature, and other possible measures, we intend to participate constructively and actively in the GGE LAWS discussions.

Japan is firmly committed to ensuring a free, fair and secure cyberspace. Japan welcomes the adoption of the Final Report of the UN OEWG on cybersecurity by consensus, and looks forward to the General Assembly's endorsement. Japan will spare no effort in cooperating with other Member States to further discuss action-oriented and cross-cutting cyber issues in the future Global Mechanism.

Last but not least, Japan strongly supports the continuation of discussions on reducing space threats through norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviour. This is aimed at seeking common ground among Member States in disarmament fora to channel international efforts towards an effective and truly meaningful instrument to prevent an arms race in outer space.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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