

STATEMENT BY JAPAN
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 75th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- THEMATIC DEBATE: OTHER DISARMAMENT MEASURES AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY -
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First, cyberspace is a place where we can freely create and share a wide variety of information and data across borders, regardless of location and time constraints. Anyone who is active in this space is able to create new value and freely interact with other entities. In other words, cyberspace is the foundation of socio-economic development, and a frontier for creating infinite value.

Cyber security is a matter of international peace and security and requires close international cooperation. Japan is committed to cooperating with UN Member States for the common goal of securing a free, fair and secure cyberspace.

The outbreak of COVID-19 seems to be accelerating the trend of mankind's increased reliance on ICT while accentuating the risks and the problems caused by malicious use of ICTs. Japan cannot condone cyberattacks and malicious cyber activities which take advantage of the crisis, including, as reported, ransomware striking medical institutions and authorities, as well as distributed denial of service attacks against medical research facilities.

It is difficult for any single country to respond to these threats of cyberattack alone. Therefore, countries need to build a rules-based international order in cyberspace, closely collaborating with each other. At the same time, each country needs to act as a responsible stakeholder in accordance with rules and reinforce them by doing so.

All UN Member States agree that existing international law including the UN Charter in its entirety applies to cyberspace. Japan is of the view that UN Member States should renew their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for human rights, peaceful settlement of disputes and prohibition of use of force, and should explicitly recognize that state responsibility, the inherent right of self-defense as well as humanity apply to cyberspace. Such recognition is important for prevention of conflicts and deterrence in cyberspace. The Security Council should be ready to act under

Chapter 6 or Chapter 7 of the Charter to prevent or to respond to a grave situation involving cyber activities.

Norms of responsible state behavior in cyberspace also play an indispensable role to ensure stability and predictability of the international community, complementing the application of existing international law. All UN Member States have agreed to a set of norms regarding responsible state behavior proposed by the Governmental Group of Experts in 2015. They must be respected. Japan strongly supports the GGE process and would like to contribute to building additional layers of common understanding on the agreed content in previous GGE reports. Japan is also actively involved in the discussions at the Open-ended Working Group with a goal to deepen understanding of the past achievements of the GGE and the need for their implementation. Japan hopes that the GGE and the OEWG will play mutually complementary roles and conclude consensus reports respectively.

Second, regarding disarmament and non-proliferation education, Japan believes in the power of education. Education plays a fundamental role in fostering understanding on nuclear weapons and their humanitarian consequences. Disarmament and non-proliferation education is crucial in breaking the current stalemate and making a progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Education helps us to think critically on our own, encouraging us to get into action at the national, social and individual levels. This is why we strongly believe in the power of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Especially, active engagement of younger generations is essential in realizing our common goal of realizing “a world without nuclear weapons.” The Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference highlighted education as a useful and effective means to advance nuclear disarmament and encouraged all States to implement the 34 recommendations contained in the 2002 report of the Secretary-General on “the United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.”

Furthermore, Japan welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education and encourages Member States to continue considering developing and implementing policies and educational programs for young people to increase and facilitate their constructive engagement in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Japan firmly believes in the potential of disarmament and non-proliferation education and the power of younger generations to achieve our common goal - realization of “a world without nuclear weapons.” Japan will continue to take the lead on this issue and encourages all Member States to join our effort.

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