



**Statement by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA
at the CD Plenary Meeting (May 17th 2023)
“Transparency in armaments”**

Madam President,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, Ambassador KAUPPI, for holding this thematic debate on “Transparency in armaments”, as transparency is of fundamental importance in arms control and disarmament. First, let me touch upon the transparency in the nuclear disarmament. The previous NPT Review Conferences acknowledged the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability. Actually in our views, the principle of transparency underpins the other two principles, as without transparency, nuclear disarmament cannot be verified, nor would States have sufficient confidence that nuclear disarmament measures have been implemented in an irreversible manner. Bearing in mind such significance, Japan is proud to have submitted all of the requested reports under the disarmament treaties and conventions to which Japan is party and calls upon all Member States to do the same, for the purpose of our mutual and collective interest.

Madam President,

Under the NPT regime, non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-

weapon States are placed under different sets of obligations. Non-nuclear-weapon States are bound to conclude an IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. By fulfilling the obligations of these Safeguards Agreements, non-nuclear-weapon States provide impressive amounts of information so that the IAEA Secretariat can issue an assurance as to the exclusively peaceful nature of the nuclear activities of such States. The compliance with the IAEA safeguards obligations is the utmost guaranty of transparency for the non-nuclear-weapon States. As this is not the case with nuclear-weapon States, the gap in terms of transparency between nuclear-weapons States and non-nuclear-weapon States remains considerable. This gap should be addressed, especially with actions from the nuclear-weapon States in terms of their transparency.

At the same time, great discrepancy between the reports submitted by the five nuclear-weapon States is also to be noted and requires further efforts, such as inclusion of quantitative information. In this regard, Japan commends the efforts made by the U.S, U.K and France to enhance transparency. We urge other nuclear weapons states to follow the lead of these countries and commit further efforts to enhance transparency.

Madam President,

Japan, both in its national capacity and also as a member of the Non Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (the NPDI), has made consistent contribution to enhance transparency within the NPT regime. In this regard,

our aim is three fold. First, to request nuclear-weapon States to provide more substantive and detailed information on their respective nuclear arsenals; second, to enhance opportunities for interaction between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapons States, by proposing specific times within the NPT review process to discuss the reports submitted by the nuclear-weapon States; third, to firmly embed transparency and reporting to strengthening of the Treaty review process, especially by proposing a standardized format which could contribute to ensuring baselines and establishing a common frame of reference. In this regard, the working paper submitted by the NPDI in 2017 (NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.17) presents a very useful draft standard reporting form which can be used by all States parties. The NPDI envisages submitting a working paper on transparency and accountability to the First Preparatory Committee of the 2026 NPT Review Conference.

Madam President,

On this occasion, allow me to recall another Japanese initiative for enhanced transparency in the nuclear disarmament field. Last year, Japan submitted a resolution to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly entitled ‘Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons’, which was adopted with 147 votes in favor. The paragraph pertaining to transparency in this resolution is widely inspired by our threefold efforts I just outlined.

By virtue of this resolution, I would like to recall, the General Assembly, I quote, “calls upon all the states, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of their Treaty obligations; to immediately peruse enhanced transparency measures by providing information in line with action 21 of the 2010 action plan related to the complete data on the nuclear arsenals and capabilities, without prejudice to the national security, as well as national measures related to nuclear disarmament, including their nuclear policies, doctrines and nuclear risk reduction measures, including status of production of fissile material for used in nuclear weapons or other explosive devices; and to provide frequent and detailed reporting on the implementation of the Treaty and opportunities for discussion of these reports, taking into actions 20 and 21 of the 2010 action plan and paragraph 187(35) of NPT/CONF.2020/WP.77 as a usual reference”.

Madame President,

As transparency is the basis upon which confidence among states should be built, it is also important to enhance transparency in other areas of disarmament and arms control. Here, let me touch briefly upon the conventional area and biological area.

Regarding conventional weapons, Japan has been one of the most eager advocates for open and honest transparency in terms of conventional arms trade. Japan is proud to have played a leading role in the initiative to launch

the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) and leading to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The UNROCA requires UN Member States to provide information on the import, export, military holdings, and procurement through national production of conventional weapons. Japan calls upon all UN Member States to provide the Secretary General of the UN with the requested information, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. In this context, Japan highly appreciates the successful outcome achieved by the meeting of Group of Governmental Experts, under the able chairpersonship of India on the UNROCA last year to update the list of arms to be reported.

Transparency and confidence building measures are equally vital in the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention. To this end, Japan has made a meaningful contribution by funding several workshops and seminars held by the UNODA especially for ASEAN countries to better understand the purpose and effectiveness of CBMs in the previous BWC review cycle. In the current Working Group established by the Review Conference last year, enhanced transparency remains one of Japanese priorities. On this occasion, allow me to reiterate our call on State Parties to submit their annual report containing information on research centres and laboratories; research programs; outbreaks of infectious diseases; domestic legislation, regulations and other measures, as well as vaccine production facilities as requested in the Working Paper submitted by the UK, co-sponsored by Switzerland and Sweden

I thank you, Madam President.