

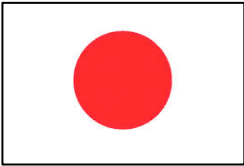
Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
CD Plenary, January 26, 2023

Mr President,

Allow me to start by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the first Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament for the 2023 session. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all new colleague ambassadors who have recently arrived to this august body. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their valuable supports to the CD. In order to advance substantive work in the area of arms control and disarmament, Japan hopes that the Conference will adopt a program of work as early as possible under your able leadership so that the CD will be able to resume its role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

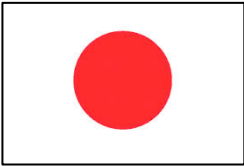
Mr. President,

The Government of Japan revised its “National Security Strategy” in December 2022. Behind the revision is the recognition that the free, open, and



stable international order is now at stake with serious challenges amidst historical changes in power balances and intensifying geopolitical competitions. In the course of almost a century, humanity has invested itself in defining a fundamental international principle of the general prohibition of the use of force. However, Russia has overtly trampled on this very principle with its aggression against Ukraine since February 2022. In the vicinity of Japan, military buildups, including of nuclear weapons and missiles, are rapidly advancing, coupled with mounting pressures by unilaterally changing the status quo by force.

Under this recognition, Japan, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings in war, will continue to spearhead international efforts in realizing a "world without nuclear weapons". Also, Japan will spare no effort for maintaining and strengthening the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, with the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) as its cornerstone, and steadily promote practical and realistic efforts. In addition, with regard to biological, chemical, and conventional weapons, Japan will actively engage in multilateral rule-making efforts, including those on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS).

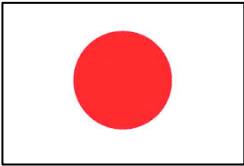


Mr. President,

Building upon the previous work of the CD, we should revitalize this disarmament forum and break its prolonged stalemate. We need to prioritize its substantive work according to the degree of maturity of each subject. From this perspective, Japan reiterates the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. In addition, Japan calls for voluntary moratoriums on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices to be declared or maintained, without waiting for the start of the FMCT negotiations.

Japan will also remain strongly committed to the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and will spare no effort to this end. In this regard, Japan urges all non-signatory States, including the remaining States listed in Annex 2 to the CTBT, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay.

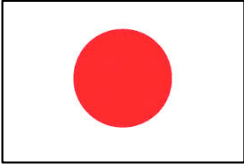
With regard to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, we appreciate that appropriate discussions have been conducted in the OEWSG in order to address



the increasing risks for the sustainable and stable use of space, according to the resolution “Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours”, adopted by the UN General Assembly. We hope this exercise will result in tangible outcomes. In this regard, in September last year, Japan decided to commit to not conducting destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite (ASAT) missile testing. Japan will continue to play an active role to achieve secure, stable and sustainable space.

It was extremely encouraging to see the final document adopted by consensus at the 9th BWC Review Conference at the end of the last year under the able leadership of the Italian Presidency, Ambassador Bencini. We appreciate the BWC regime was strengthened, even in a relatively modest way compared to our high expectation after our common experience of the pandemic.

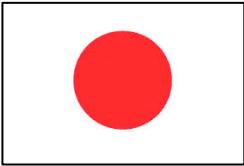
On the other hand, it was regrettable that the final document of the 10th NPT Review Conference was not adopted due to the objection of only one country. However, this bitter outcome should not by any means hinder our joint courses of action toward a world without nuclear weapons. To this end, in October 2022, Japan submitted to the First Committee a resolution titled “Steps to building a



common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons”, which reflected the discussions of the 10th NPT Review Conference. This resolution was adopted at the UN General Assembly in December 2022 with 147 supporting votes, including from three nuclear-weapons States, namely, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. We would like to express our appreciation to the countries that co-sponsored the resolution and to other supporting countries. We hope that the concrete actions proposed by the resolution will contribute to achieving meaningful outcomes in the review process leading to the eleventh Review Conference.

Mr. President,

In December 2022, the first meeting of the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons, which Japanese Prime Minister Kishida proposed to establish, was held in Hiroshima. The members of the Group from both nuclear weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States had candid discussions regarding various issues such as priorities on the nuclear disarmament front. Japan hopes that the Group will deepen their discussions on concrete measures to bring

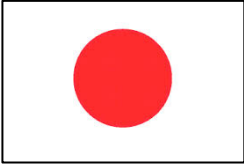


the harsh “reality” closer to the “ideal” and achieve meaningful outcomes, with an eye on the next NPT Review Conference.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May this year, Japan, as G7 Chair, hopes to deepen discussions so that we can send a strong message toward a world without nuclear weapons. We will also take realistic and practical steps in line with the “Hiroshima Action Plan” announced by Prime Minister Kishida at the 10th NPT Review Conference which is rooted in the following five actions: (1) a shared recognition on the importance of continuing the record of non-use of nuclear weapons, (2) enhancing transparency, (3) maintaining the decreasing trend of the global nuclear stockpile, (4) securing nuclear non-proliferation and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and (5) encouraging visits to the affected communities by international leaders and others.

Mr. President,

The DPRK’s accelerated development of nuclear weapons and missiles, including the recent ballistic missile launches with unprecedented frequency and



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techniques as well as its escalatory rhetoric on the use of nuclear weapons all pose a serious challenge to the international community. Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. Japan urges the DPRK to abide by all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and return at an early date to full compliance with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

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

(END)