



**Statement delivered by Counsellor NAMEKAWA Hirochika**

**Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament**

**Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament**

**28 March 2023**

Thank you, Madam President,

Since this is our first time taking the floor under your Presidency, allow me to begin by congratulating you, Madam President, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. I would also like to thank Madam President, your team and the Secretariat for organizing this important panel discussion on nuclear risk reduction.

As many of the previous speakers pointed out, we are now facing serious challenges posed to the international security environment. This includes the series of destabilizing and escalatory rhetoric and acts taken by Russia, as well as the rapid and extensive enhancement of China's military power, including its nuclear and missile capabilities without sufficient transparency. Therefore, we believe that it is increasingly important and relevant to discuss ways to reduce nuclear risks.

First, Japan absolutely cannot accept Russia's nuclear threats, let alone its use of nuclear weapons, under any circumstances. Japan condemns the remarks by President Putin about Russia's decision to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in

Belarus, which further increases the tension while Russia continues its aggression against Ukraine. Japan calls on Russia and Belarus to refrain from taking such actions that will only further exacerbate the situation.

Moreover, efforts on arms control frameworks are valuable for nuclear risk reduction. In this regard, the New START Treaty contributes to strategic stability between the U.S. and Russia and represents important progress in the nuclear disarmament efforts of both countries. Nevertheless, Russia announced the suspension of its implementation of the Treaty last month. I would like to join others in expressing grave concern over Russia's decision and emphasizing the importance of full implementation of the Treaty. In addition, we express strong hope for dialogue leading to the development of a broader framework for arms control, which covers a wider range of weapon systems and involves not only the U.S. and Russia but also other countries.

Also, we would like to strongly urge China, which is rapidly building up its nuclear arsenal in an opaque manner, to contribute to arrangements that reduce nuclear risks, increase transparency and advance nuclear disarmament.

Madam President,

How to avoid an escalation caused by miscalculation or by misunderstanding is another vital issue to be addressed in the context of nuclear risk reduction. Given the current international security environment and the emergence of new technologies, the relevance and urgency of this issue continues

to increase. It is for this reason that Japan's Resolution entitled "Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons", adopted by the UN General Assembly with 147 votes in favor last year, calls on all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to commit to further identifying, exploring and implementing effective risk reduction measures necessary to mitigate risks relating to nuclear weapons use that arise from miscalculation, misperception, miscommunication or accident. Such measures include, inter alia, intensifying dialogue among and between the nuclear-weapon States and with the non-nuclear weapons States; developing and making every effort to implement effective crisis prevention and management arrangements, mechanisms and tools; maintaining the practice of not targeting each other or any other state with nuclear weapons and keeping them at the lowest possible alert levels. These actions should be taken by all nuclear-weapon States, regardless of the size of their nuclear forces. Smaller sized forces cannot be used an excuse for not conducting measures to improve transparency and dialogue.

Madam President,

The statement delivered by the delegation of China at the previous CD plenary last week included some references to the discharge of ALPS-treated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station of the Tokyo Electric Power Company into the sea, using the expression "discharge of contaminated water" without any scientific basis. Japan has been carrying out this process under the IAEA's independent and rigorous review and will never allow any discharge in a manner that adversely affects human health or the marine environment.

Japan will continue to make preparations for the discharge of the ALPS-treated water into the sea while ensuring objectivity and transparency through undergoing reviews by the IAEA, within which Chinese experts also participate. We strongly urge China to communicate with Japan on this matter from a scientific standpoint.

I thank you, Madam President.

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