

Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament
16 May 2023

Madam President,

First of all, I would like to thank you, Madam President, for convening today's meeting dedicated to the nuclear disarmament. I would like also to extend a heart-felt welcome to the new Algerian Ambassador.

As Japan chairs the G7 meetings this year, I have the honor to refer to the G7 Foreign Ministers' Communiqué which was issued by the G7 Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union at their meeting in Karuizawa, Japan, on April 18. This G7 Communiqué touches upon extensively major issues in the area of the disarmament and non-proliferation as well as the regional issues affecting disarmament and non-proliferation regimes, and was circulated to all CD member states on April 21.

Madam President,

The NPT regime, the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, is constantly exposed to multiple threats, which may lead to

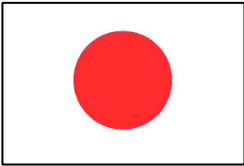
undermining its credibility and authority. We need to restore the resilience of the regime by calling for concerted measures when the regime is seriously challenged.

The 77 years of history since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, during which time no nuclear weapons have been used, must not be ended. As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan absolutely cannot accept Russia's irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and its threat to deploy nuclear weapons in Belarus, let alone its use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

Madam President,

In the vicinity of Japan, military buildups, including of nuclear weapons and missiles, are rapidly advancing, coupled with mounting pressures by attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force.

North Korea has intensified nuclear and missile activities, including its recent ballistic missile launches with an unprecedented frequency and in a new manner. Such activities pose a great threat to international peace and security. We demand North Korea refrain from any other destabilizing or provocative actions, including any further nuclear tests or launches that use ballistic missile technology. Japan urges North Korea to abide by all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and to abandon its all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, as stipulated in the resolutions.



Madam President,

To achieve a world without nuclear weapons, Japan advocates for a realistic and incremental approach to nuclear disarmament. Japan has been submitting a resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly every year since 1994 to present concrete measures under this approach.

In this regard, we call for the immediate commencement of long-overdue negotiations of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT) while urging all states that have not yet done so to declare and maintain voluntary moratoria on the production of such material.

In addition, Japan urges all states, particularly the remaining States listed in its Annex 2, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Pending its entry into force, Japan urges all relevant states to declare or maintain existing moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions.

With regard to the Tenth NPT Review Conference, the final outcome document could have been adopted, had it not been blocked by a member state. This reflects the shared recognition of States parties of the importance of maintaining and strengthening the NPT as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Japan calls on all NPT States

parties to constructively engage in the First Session of the Preparatory Committee scheduled this summer.

At the preparatory committee, Japan looks to further progress, especially, in our joint efforts to materialize the three principles of nuclear disarmament: namely, transparency, verification, and irreversibility. It is vital to enhance transparency including through developing further the standard reporting including quantitative information about nuclear arsenals and capabilities, as well as nuclear policies, doctrines and nuclear risk reduction measures. We will elaborate on this matter during the general debate on “transparency in armaments” at the plenary tomorrow. Regarding verification, we hope that tangible results will be achieved at the ongoing GGE on nuclear disarmament verification. Moreover, concerning irreversibility, we would like to commend the efforts of the U.K. and Norway on this issue, including the relevant conferences at Wilton Park in March 2022 and March 2023.

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

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