

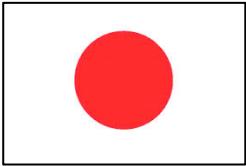
Statement by Counsellor NAMEKAWA Hirochika
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament
6 June 2023

“Transparency on nuclear doctrines and arsenals”

Madam President,

The previous NPT Review Conferences acknowledged the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability. In our view, 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. In this context, to ensure the irreversibility of nuclear disarmament as well as to improve predictability and enhance accountability, enhanced transparency on nuclear doctrines and arsenals is essential for both advancing nuclear disarmament and reducing nuclear risks.

Japan welcomes actions already taken by the United States, France, and the United Kingdom to promote effective and responsible transparency measures through providing data on their nuclear forces and the objective size of their nuclear arsenal. As stated in the “G7 Leaders’ Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament” issued last May, we call on nuclear-weapon States that have not

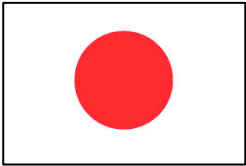


yet done so to follow suit. To promote transparency, we also call on nuclear-weapon States that have yet to do so to engage with non-nuclear-weapon States in a meaningful dialogue on transparency regarding their nuclear arsenals and limiting nuclear competition, including through an open explanation of national reports coupled with an interactive discussion with non-nuclear-weapon States.

Madam President,

As also stated in the “G7 Leaders’ Hiroshima Vision, China’s accelerating build-up of its nuclear arsenal without transparency nor meaningful dialogue poses a concern to global and regional stability. We urge China to engage promptly in strategic risk reduction discussions with the U.S. and to promote stability through greater transparency of China’s nuclear weapon policies, plans, and capabilities.

We also emphasize that the transparency of the management of civil plutonium must be maintained. We oppose any attempt to produce or support the production of plutonium for military programs under the guise of civilian programs, which undermines the objectives of the NPT including the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We call on all states that committed to reporting annually their holdings of all plutonium in peaceful nuclear activities to the IAEA to fulfill those commitments.



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Madam President,

We are aware that, on the 25th of May, Russia and Belarus signed a deal formalizing the procedure for the deployment of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of Belarus, and that President Lukashenko mentioned that Russia had begun moving tactical nuclear warheads for storage to Belarus. We condemn such a deal and remarks as they further increase the tension while Russia continues its aggression against Ukraine. Japan cannot accept Russia's nuclear threats, let alone its use of nuclear weapons, under any circumstances. Japan calls on Russia and Belarus to refrain from taking such actions that will only further exacerbate the situation.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that Japan will continue its efforts to contribute to enhancing transparency on nuclear doctrines and arsenals in various fora, including the CD, the NPT review cycle which include our joint efforts by the NPDI, and the First Committee of the UN General Assembly.

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

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