



Statement by Ms. Nana Nagai, First Secretary
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament
Thematic discussion on Youth and Disarmament
10 August 2023

Mr. President,

At the outset, Japan would like to express its sincere gratitude to you, Ambassador Göbel, for taking the initiative of setting this important topic “Youth and Disarmament” for today’s discussion at the CD. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of the young speakers who have taken the floor today. I listened to them expressing their inspiring views with great interest.

Mr. President,

Achieving a world without nuclear weapons requires long-term commitments and constant efforts. In this regard, disarmament and non-proliferation education is an effective means in support of achieving that goal. Japan welcomes each State’s efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, inter alia, efforts in which the younger generations can actively engage, including through dialogue platforms, mentoring, internship, fellowship, scholarships, model events and group activities. Today’s session is also one of such efforts and this delegation would like, once again, to express deep appreciation to the President, Ambassador Göbel for this.

We believe that it is Japan's responsibility to all humankind to pass on the experiences of the devastation and humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons to the world and to the future generation. Given the aging of the hibakusha (those who have suffered the use of nuclear weapons), the necessity not only to pass their experience over to the next generation but also to engage the future generations cannot be over-emphasized. From this point of view, the involvement of young people, such as those who participated in today's session, is extremely important. Among them, I am particularly pleased to see Ms. Gokan who shared the experience of devastation and humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons, as a Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Messenger, disseminating the message of the hibakusha in her own way.

The Government of Japan launched a program entitled "Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" with a view to sharing the experience of the realities of nuclear weapons with the world. As of 10th August 2023, a total number of 669 Youth Communicators have been dispatched around the world on 46 diverse occasions to deliver their own messages and views to the world. Ms. Gokan is one of these Youth Communicators.

Mr. President,

At the G7 Summit held in Hiroshima in May this year, the G7 leaders visited the city bombed by nuclear weapons, listened to the voices of hibakusha, and directly touched upon the reality of the use of nuclear weapons and the aspirations

of the people for peace. Following the visit, the leaders of the G7 countries reaffirmed their determination to continue to work toward a world without nuclear weapons and issued the G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament. In this Hiroshima Vision, the leaders underscored the importance of the 77-year record of non-use of nuclear weapons and affirmed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

Mr. President,

At the 10th NPT Review Conference in August last year, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio announced Japan's intention to contribute toward establishing the "Youth Leader Fund for a World Without Nuclear Weapons" as a new initiative related to disarmament and non-proliferation education. The primary goal of this program is to bring future leaders from both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States to Japan to learn first-hand the realities of nuclear weapons use. It also aims to create a global network of diverse international cohorts of future leaders and other key actors from governments, civil society, education, academia, media, industry, and other sectors. We are grateful for the numerous applications to this innovative learning program.

Japan has also had the pleasure of leading and delivering the Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education at the 10th NPT Review Conference in 2022, on behalf of 89 State Parties. This is the largest number of countries subscribing to this Joint Statement delivered at the NPT

Review Conference since the first. Furthermore, Japan has also submitted the working paper “Disarmament and non-proliferation education” to the first Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference, which is currently being held in Vienna, detailing the Japan’s continued efforts and initiatives in this area.

Mr. President,

Finally, Japan is determined to continue its efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation education and encourages other countries and international and civil society organizations to join efforts in this field. This would contribute to reinforcing a culture of peace to building bridges through dialogue and to forming an alliance of civilizations as a basis for peace and a sustainable future.

Thank you.

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