



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by delivered by Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Represenataive,
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Conference on Disarmament

Subsidiary body 5
29 March 2022

At the outset, since this is my first time taking the floor at the Subsidiary Body 5, I would like to state Japan's position on the situation in Ukraine.

Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force and shakes the very foundation of international order. It constitutes a serious violation of international law and is totally unacceptable.

Russia has raised the alert level of the preparation of its nuclear deterrence units, which is a dangerous act that may lead to further destabilization of the situation.

Furthermore, Japan condemns any acts that compromise the safety of nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes, and in this context, strongly urges the Russian Federation to immediately cease all attacks, especially at and in the direct vicinity of Ukraine's nuclear facilities.

Mr. Coordinator,

Belarus has allowed Russian troops to pass through its territory, and is clearly involved in Russian aggression. Japan strongly condemns this.

Mr. Coordinator,

Today, the development of science and technology, as well as the corresponding

military applications, are evolving at breakneck speed. It is now difficult to overstate the impact of technological innovations, not only on our economy and society, but also on security issues.

Indeed, some of today's emerging technologies have been fundamentally changing military operations and may become game-changers in the field of security. At the same time, the dazzling speed of these technological advancements makes it even more difficult to consider effective control measures of arms involving these technologies and their applications. These observations underline the increasing importance of dialogue, transparency, and confidence-building measures between states, given the impact of emerging technologies on security.

It is of great importance to accurately understand the impact of new technologies and the risks associated therein, to promote common understandings and future-oriented discussions on these issues. Japan is confident that the CD is an important venue for such discussions.

Regarding cybersecurity and lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), we are pleased that our joint effort is unfolding the discussions within the relevant frameworks of the United Nations and the CCW. We also hope that the discussion on responsible behavior in space will make further progress under the newly established open-ended working group. Japan is actively participating in these discussions.

Japan welcomes the adoption by consensus of the GGE report on cybersecurity in May, 2021. Within the ongoing Open-Ended Working Group on Cyberspace, Japan attaches great importance on deepening considerations and discussions on guidance

directly related to the practice of agreed norms in the GGE report. We strongly support promoting confidence building measures and capacity building assistance in order to develop responsible state behavior in cyberspace.

Regarding LAWS, it is notable that the Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference includes, for the first time in history, criteria under which a weapon system based on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS “must not be used” if it is incapable of being used in accordance with international humanitarian law.

It is important to consider the application of LAWS within existing international laws, such as International Humanitarian Law, in view of the further development of emerging technologies and to promote concrete discussions on international rule-making that seeks to strike a balance between consideration of military necessity and of humanity.

Having jointly proposed “Principles and Good Practices on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems” together with Australia, Canada, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States, Japan will continue its constructive contribution to the discussion on LAWS

Mr. Coordinator,

In the field of new science and technology, arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, there are a wide range of issues that could be the subject of our future discussions. Japan deems the following three points particularly relevant and in need of special consideration, no matter which issue we may discuss.

The first point is the application of the existing international law and international

norms. Japan attaches a great importance to the rule of law in the international community and believes it to be imperative to comply with international law including International Humanitarian Law, especially when it comes to the use of force - this includes any new types of weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, improved transparency, strengthened confidence-building measures, and better communication between countries are also of great value. In this regard, I would like to reaffirm the importance of enhancing domestic implementation of International Humanitarian Law through, among other measures, weapons reviews as prescribed in Article 36 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

The second point is the dual-use nature of technologies. Including in the fields of space, cyberspace, and artificial intelligence, many emerging technologies have both civilian and potential military applications. While emerging technologies may have significant military and security implications, the benefits of civil use of these emerging technologies to the economy and society are also immeasurable. Therefore, it is advisable not to impose unreasonable restrictions on the development of useful technology in the name of arms control. Here, the key is learning how to strike the optimal balance between these two different requirements.

The third point is the multiplicity of stakeholders. As is clear within the AI and cyber domains, private actors are playing an increasingly significant role in technological innovations that may have major security implications. Therefore, in order to conduct a meaningful discussion, participation from multiple layers of stakeholders is even more important. In the same vein, inputs from the experts are most welcome from both governments and the private sector.

This is why Japan's UNGA Resolution entitled "Joint courses of action and a future-oriented dialogue" (A/RES/76/54) "encourages all States to conduct dialogue regarding the possible impacts of developments in science and technology on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation". We hope that substantive discussions will make progress based on common understandings, while avoiding duplication with other fora.