

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. OGASAWARA ICHIRO
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
The 1527th Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament
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Japan would like to express our sincere gratitude for the tireless work of the CD president, Ambassador Belbaki and the other P6 +2 members, to explore the consensus on how to start substantive discussions, which are of utmost importance for Japan.

Although there are issues that remain to be settled, we are of the view that the three documents, namely, a draft proposal for the POW; a draft decision for its implementation; and a draft Presidential statement on the improved and effective functioning of the Conference are a good package for the CD actions this year. Japan appreciates the inclusive and well-balanced approach through which you have reached this package of documents.

Japan supports the received draft proposal for POW which is now presented before us. And the content of which is closer to the decision of 2018 which was taken by consensus. In particular, Japan welcomes the establishment of subsidiary body 5 on new types of WMD and new systems of such weapons, and emerging technology. It is an issue with increasing significance and draws commensurate attention in the international community, and deserves its own subsidiary body for discussion.

Japan also welcomes a draft decision for the implementation on the POW and the attached timetable, which specifies the period of each subsidiary body and the issues to be covered by each subsidiary body, in the same manner as the CD/2126 decision in 2018. These documents provide us with more detailed guidelines so that our future discussion be better articulated and conducted, taking into account the success of our system in the subsidiary bodies of 2018.

Since the improved and effective functioning of the Conference has been the most contentious issue, we have carefully studied your draft statement. Japan is happy to express our support to it. Bearing also in mind that the CD has been criticized for not having produced any tangible and substantial outcomes for decades, Japan fully supports this draft statement as the start of a discussion and we do not see any problems in appointing an ambassador to hold informal open-ended consultations and draft a report in their personal capacity at a formal meeting of the CD. For the sake of an early commencement of substantial discussion in the CD, Japan supports the adoption of such presidential statement as a part of the framework of activities this year, during the first presidency.

Japan reiterates our full support to your proposals. We also request other members of the Conference to exercise their utmost flexibility so that the valuable efforts undertaken by the P6 could bear tangible results to enable us to discharge our collective responsibility. We sincerely hope that we can start as soon as possible our substantial discussions on the issues of our common interests and concerns.