



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA

at the CD Plenary Meeting

May 20th 2021

Thematic Debate under Agenda Item 2:

“Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters”

Mr. President,

Japan would like to express its sincere gratitude to you, Ambassador Yuri Borissov STERK, for setting the thematic debate under Agenda Item 2, “Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters”. I also greatly appreciate the excellent presentations by three presenters at the outset of today’s meeting. Today, I would like to share Japan’s position on FMCT.

Mr. President,

Every year since 1994, Japan has submitted draft resolutions on the elimination of nuclear weapons to the First committee of the UN General Assembly. These resolutions have been based upon a realistic and pragmatic approach to realize a world without nuclear weapons. Among the realistic and practical disarmament measures, which the international community should aim for at this juncture, Japan attaches particular importance to two of them, namely, the early entry into force of the CTBT and an early commencement of negotiation on an FMCT. The former is key to a

qualitative capping of nuclear weapons development through a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. And the latter is key to a quantitative capping to be accomplished by a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. As such, Japan continues to strongly advocate for an early commencement of negotiation for an FMCT within the CD.

Mr. President,

As stated in its Working Paper (CD/1774), submitted to the CD in 2006, as well as Japan's views on an FMCT pursuant to UNGA Resolution 67/53 in 2013, Japan is of the view that the core purpose of an FMCT is to stop any increase in the amount of fissile material available to any state party for nuclear weapons beginning from the entry into force of the treaty. Any activity that increases the amount of fissile material for nuclear weapons should be treated as being effectively synonymous with "production". Therefore, the core obligations under an FMCT must include obligations, not only to prohibit "production" of fissile material for nuclear weapons, but also, inter alia, to close down or to dismantle any production facilities for fissile material for nuclear weapons or to convert them to civil purposes.

Regarding verification within an FMCT, Japan is of the view that verification should confirm that production of fissile material is not taking place, but it should not be limited to this purpose. Other obligations that

could fall under the treaty should also be verified to the extent possible.

As to how to deal with existing stocks of fissile materials for nuclear weapons, one of the most controversial issues of a possible FMCT, Japan is of the view that this issue should be solved during negotiations. The inclusion of existing stocks within the scope of an FMCT should not be a condition for commencing negotiations.

Mr. President,

Many countries, including Japan, have expressed respective positions on an FMCT and have engaged in discussions within the CD over time. While FMCT negotiations have not started, many valuable documents were adopted in the last several years, including the reports of the Group of Governmental Experts in 2015 (A/70/81) , the High-Level Expert Preparatory Group in 2018 (A/73/159) and Subsidiary Body 2 in the CD (CD/2139) in 2018. Japan highly values these important works presenting substantive elements and material of a possible treaty and deems them as providing a solid foothold for future negotiations.

Based on these points, Japan believes FMCT is the most matured topic ready for the negotiation. I would like to recall that the immediate commencement of negotiations on an FMCT has been also agreed on by NPT States Parties in the following: OP4.(b) of Decision 2 ‘Principles and

Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament' agreed at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference; Step 3 of the Practical Steps agreed at the 2000 Review Conference; and Action 15 of the Action Plan agreed at the 2010 Review Conference.

The draft resolutions on the elimination of nuclear weapons submitted by Japan to the UN General Assembly that have been adopted by an overwhelming majority of Member States every year also emphasize the importance of an immediate commencement of negotiations on an FMCT. Japan calls upon all nuclear-weapon States and States possessing nuclear weapons to declare or maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for the use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices until an FMCT takes effect. In this regard, I appreciate reconfirmation of this moratorium just made by Ambassador Wood of the United States of America in his intervention.

Mr. President,

The preparations for the commencement of negotiations have been amply addressed. The only remaining factor is that of political will. In view of repeated commitments to this goal, I have just highlighted, I would like to call again on all Member States to exert political will to commence negotiations within the CD as soon as possible.

I thank you, Mr. President.