

## **Conference on Disarmament**

### **Right of Reply**

Delivered by Ambassador YOON Seongmee  
On behalf of the ROK, the United States and Japan

Geneva, 31 January 2023

Mr. Chairman,

I am delivering a right of reply on behalf of the United States, Japan, and my own country to the statement by the DPRK made last Thursday during the general debate of the Conference on Disarmament.

Our delegations feel compelled to reiterate that last year alone, the DPRK fired almost 70 ballistic missiles, including 8 ICBMs. At the same time, Pyongyang appears to be ready to conduct a seventh nuclear test waiting only a political decision to do so. The DPRK's unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programmes are clear and blatant violations of multiple UN Security Council resolutions and a significant threat to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, the region and beyond.

Moreover, on top of threatening the pre-emptive use of tactical nuclear weapons, the DPRK also publicly stressed the “exponential increase of its nuclear arsenal”, “development of another ICBM system whose main mission is quick nuclear counterstrike” and “mass production of tactical nuclear weapons” on the very first day of this year.

It is clear to anyone who is threatening whom.

The ROK-US deterrence and defense posture as well as that of Japan and the U.S., including our bilateral and trilateral exercises, are defensive measures conducted in accordance with international law and reflect the responsibilities of our governments to further peace and stability in the region.

In addition, as we have heard repeatedly in this chamber last week, the international community has been consistent and resolute that the DPRK cannot and will never have the status of a nuclear weapon state under any circumstances.

Despite the DPRK's repeated provocations and threats, the path to dialogue remains open, as our leaders reiterated last November. We are committed to resolving the DPRK's nuclear and missile issues in a peaceful manner through dialogue.

We reiterate our governments' commitment to engage in dialogue and diplomacy to achieve complete denuclearization of the DPRK and sustainable peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, including through support for the aims of the ROK's Audacious Initiative.

We call on Pyongyang to accept that abandoning all its nuclear weapons and nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner is the only viable way toward its security and prosperity. /END/

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### **Right of Reply**

Delivered by Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Representative,  
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr. President,

In addition to the joint statement on behalf of Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Yoon of the Republic of Korea as an exercise of right of reply, I am delivering a statement to exert right of reply in my national capacity to the unfounded allegations made by the DPRK on the defense policy of my country during the general debate last Thursday.

Under its Constitution, Japan has adhered to the basic precept of maintaining the exclusively defensive nature of our national defense policy, not becoming a military power that poses a threat to any country, and observing the Three Non-Nuclear Principles.

These basic principles of our national security and defense policy also remain unchanged within the new national security strategy and the new defense strategy adopted in December last year.

Japan, under these precepts, will never change the course it has taken as a peace-loving nation. Our defense capability is and will continue to be geared for Japan's own defense purposes. Japan also continues to ensure transparency regarding the content of our defense policy and defense-related expenditure and to adhere to the strict civilian control of the military.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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