



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara

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Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

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Mr. Coordinator,

Since this is my first time taking the floor under your leadership as the Coordinator of this Subsidiary Body, let me begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Ignacio Sánchez de Lerín García-Ovies, on your assumption of this important responsibility. I assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation as you carry out your duties.

At the outset of this Subsidiary Body on "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters", I would like to recall that Russia has raised the alert level of the preparation of the nuclear deterrence units, which is a dangerous act that may lead to further destabilization of the situations. Nuclear weapons, once used, cause extensive and tremendous devastations. As the only country to have suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan is fully aware of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Such tragedy must never be repeated again: neither nuclear weapons coercion as we currently witness, nor, needless to say, nuclear

weapons use can never be tolerated.

Mr. Coordinator,

Since long, Japan has consistently advocated for a realistic and practical approach to nuclear disarmament. Under the leadership of Prime Minister KISHIDA who hails from Hiroshima, Japan prioritizes both quality capping, by comprehensively banning nuclear testing, and quantity capping, by banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. In the CD, Japan calls for the immediate commencement of negotiations on an FMCT as the highest priority, and regrets deeply that this august body failed to start tackling this long overdue task this year again.

The urgency and the need to commence negotiation on an FMCT is widely shared in the international community. The resolution entitled "Joint courses of action and future-oriented dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons" (A/RES/76/54) which Japan submitted to the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and was adopted by the General Assembly with 158 votes in favor last year also encourages the immediate commencement of negotiations on the FMCT. Furthermore, the resolution entitled "Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices" (A/RES/76/51) also states that it "Urges the Conference on Disarmament to agree on and implement at its earliest opportunity a programme of work that includes the

immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein".

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.

Mr. Coordinator,

In regards to the possible elements of an FMCT, 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, 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. 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. Coordinator,

Many countries, including Japan, have expressed respective positions on an FMCT and have engaged in discussions within and outside of 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. Furthermore, the possible reversal of the continued downward trend of the number of nuclear weapons since its peak during the Cold War is a deeply worrying factor. To avoid further deterioration of the current status, Japan reiterates the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons based on the Shannon Mandate. Pending the commencement of negotiations, Japan also calls for a moratorium on fissile material production.

Mr. Coordinator,

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 would like to call again on all Member States to exert political will to commence negotiations within the CD as soon as possible.