

**Intervention of Ambassador Ogasawara Ichiro, PR of Japan to the CD,
at the Track 1.5 Meeting for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear
Disarmament on March 9, 2021**

Every year since 1994, Japan has submitted a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament to the UN General Assembly, calling on the international community to implement concrete and realistic measures towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Last year, we observed conspicuous gaps still remained between the positions of State Parties on the issues of nuclear disarmament, while the 10th Review Conference was approaching. Japan found it necessary to make a concrete contribution to the success of the Review Conference by promoting common ground languages and to bridge the gaps among different groups with different sensitivities.

Japan has, hence, submitted a draft resolution “Joint courses of action and a future-oriented dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons” (A/RES/75/71) to the First Committee of the 75th UNGA. The content of this draft resolution was greatly inspired by the outcome documents produced by the Group of Eminent persons for Substantial Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament. The Resolution was adopted with 150 votes in favor, 4 against and 35 abstention at the General Assembly in last December.

This Resolution is composed of two main parts. In the first part, it identifies six concrete nuclear disarmament measures for which both NWS and NNWS can and should work together immediately, especially at the coming Review Conference. These six measures are;

- a) Transparency,
- b) Nuclear risk reduction,
- c) FMCT,
- d) Cessation of all nuclear tests, such as through ratifying CTBT,
- e) Nuclear disarmament verification, and
- f) Disarmament and non-proliferation education.

These are the elements that Japan had believed, as drafter, most close

to a consensual language. We hoped the language of this Resolution on these 6 measures may eventually be integrated in the final documents of the Review Conference. Yet, a separate vote was requested for 5 of these 6 measures. The only paragraph which was dispensed from a separate vote was that of Transparency. The language for the Nuclear risk reduction can also be regarded as being most consensual one as far as the NPT State Parties are concerned, since only a non NPT State party voted against it in the separate vote. This result of votes demonstrated how challenging our task of consensus-building would be at the coming Review Conference. This Resolution, we believe, contributed to consolidate a momentum towards a meaningful outcome of the coming Review Conference. One of the merits of the Resolution is that it provides textual material for the Rev. Con. on key issues. The degree of admissibility of proposed languages to Member States was tested and demonstrated in separate votes.

In the second main part, this Resolution proposes to encourage, among others, all States to conduct dialogue regarding the possible impacts of developments in science and technology on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as well as to conduct candid dialogue on the relationship between nuclear disarmament and security. True to this proposal, Japan has taken initiative to reinvigorate the work of this 1.5 track process as well as those of the Group of Eminent Persons. The views presented on those occasions are of great value. Fresh ideas and deep insights from the eminent persons are most welcome, especially in order to show a break through when we, diplomats, are entrapped in exoteric debates leading to a stalemate.

In addition to our national initiative of submitting a draft Resolution to the UNGA, Japan also joins in the collective efforts led by NPDI as well as by the Group of Stockholm Initiatives. As composition of these groups are cross regional, they are well placed to make tangible contributions to a success of the NPT Review Conference. To this end, the two groups have already presented many useful documents and proposals. We believe the mutual resonances between this 1.5 track and these groups would also add a great value to our common goal.