



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ICHIKAWA Tomiko
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At the First Committee of the 79th Session of the General Assembly
- THEMATIC DEBATE: NUCLEAR WEAPONS -
21 OCTOBER 2024, NEW YORK

Madam Chair,

Japan fully aligns itself with the joint statement of the group of countries delivered by the Netherlands, and I deliver the following statement in my national capacity.

The path towards our common goal to achieve a world without nuclear weapons is becoming more severe, given serious challenges posed to the international security environment, including the series of destabilizing and escalatory rhetoric and acts of the Russian Federation over its illegal, unprovoked aggression against Ukraine, as well as China's accelerating build-up of its nuclear arsenal without transparency nor meaningful dialogue.

Japan is also seriously concerned about the advancement of the DPRK's nuclear and missile activities and its military cooperation with Russia. It is essential for the international community to be united and fully implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of the DPRK's all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. Japan urges the DPRK to abide by all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and fully comply with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Madam Chair,

Maintaining and strengthening the NPT, the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, is in the interest of the entire international community. This year again, Japan submitted a draft resolution titled "Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons". This resolution presents a pragmatic way forward towards a world without nuclear weapons under the current international circumstances. Japan hopes that the realistic and practical approach proposed in this resolution will gain the widest possible support from Member States. I would like to thank those Member States that already became co-sponsors, and invite others to join.

Japan will continue to work unwaveringly with the international community toward the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons, through realistic and practical efforts. This includes the early entry into force and universalization of the CTBT and early commencement of the negotiation of an FMCT, two instruments that realize most effectively qualitative capping and quantitative capping, respectively. Japan calls on all states, especially the remaining states required for its entry into force, to sign and ratify the CTBT. We will work with Member States to maintain and raise political attention and expand the support for early commencement of negotiations on an FMCT.

Furthermore, it is imperative to enhance transparency surrounding nuclear arsenals, which is the foundation of all nuclear disarmament measures. We call on nuclear-weapon States to promote effective and responsible transparency measures, including through providing numerical and qualitative information on their nuclear arsenals.

Madam Chair,

Next year marks the 80th year since the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki must never be repeated. It is significant that the Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 to Nihon Hidankyo, Japan's nation-wide grassroots movement of the Hibakusha, for their efforts to raise awareness of the realities of the use of atomic bombings. Understanding the reality of the atomic bombings is the starting point of all efforts toward nuclear disarmament. Japan will continue to work tirelessly to convey this reality of the atomic bombings beyond generations.

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Thank you.

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