



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative,

Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

Conference on Disarmament

Subsidiary body 4

24 March 2022

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 Febrian Ruddyard, on your assumption of this important responsibility. I assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation as you carry out your duties.

Mr. Coordinator,

Earlier today, North Korea launched a ballistic missile, which is likely to be a new ICBM-class ballistic missile, and it fell within Japan's EEZ. Japan resolutely condemns this impermissible and outrageous act.

Mr. Coordinator,

Japan provides its basic support to the negative security assurance (NSA). At the signing of the NPT, Japan underscored that, "the nuclear-weapon States must not have recourse to use of nuclear weapons or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States" and this position

remains the same today. Japan believes that effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (NSA) could serve as a step towards our ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

I would like to recall what has been achieved so far regarding the NSA, including the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 984 and the Final Documents of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, especially Actions 7 and 8 of the 2010 Action Plan. More recently, the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> of January has jointly declared that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, and recognized that "nuclear use would have far-reaching consequences".

Mr. Coordinator,

However, in the speech delivered on 24<sup>th</sup> of February, President Putin stated that "today's Russia remains one of the most powerful nuclear states" and that "in this context, there should be no doubt for anyone that any potential aggressor will face defeat and ominous consequences should it directly attack our country". This statement not only erodes drastically the value of the multilateral documents I have referred to above, but also contradicts squarely the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States which was issued only two month ago. Furthermore, 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.

The series of actions and statements by Russia also run counter to the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances. The paragraph 2 of the Memorandum reaffirms the obligation "to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine". Japan urges the Russian Federation to honor its own commitments and its declared obligation in terms of security assurances, especially related to nuclear weapons.

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,

Given the ongoing challenges to the international peace and security, Japan recognizes the legitimate interest of NNWS parties to the NPT that are in compliance with their nuclear-non-proliferation obligations to receive security assurances. It is our belief that NSAs, in order to serve as a step for all states, need to be examined with due consideration and assessment of the

security environment. To this end, we think that realistic, practical and focused discussions are required. Moreover, Japan considers that NSAs can contribute to reducing the role of nuclear weapons.

We also believe that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can contribute to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime. As noted in Action 9 of the 2010 NPT Review Conference Final Document, we encourage the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the states of the region concerned and in accordance with the 1999 Guidelines of the Disarmament Commission. By signing and ratifying relevant protocols that contain negative security assurances, NWS would undertake individual commitments with respect to the status of such zones to not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States that are party to such protocols. These commitments will contribute to further improving the security environment and to strengthening the global non-proliferation regime.

In the context of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, the resolution entitled "Joint courses of action and future-oriented dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons" (A/RES/76/54), submitted by Japan to the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and then adopted by the General Assembly with 158 votes in favor last year, also encourages the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, and reaffirms support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear

weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

I thank you, Mr. Coordinator.