



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ambassador Ogasawara
at the CD plenary on March 17th

Madame Chairperson,

Japan would like to express its sincere gratitude to you for your excellent leadership that allowed us to engage in substantive work at this crucial juncture in the history of the Conference on Disarmament by, first, adopting a Decision on the work of the CD fully in accordance with the Rules of Procedures. Japan reiterates its full support for the decisions taken under your chairmanship and also for the actions taken by the Secretariat to liaise the work of this august body to a wider international audiences. I appreciate also the flexibility you have shown when you chaired the high-level segment of the CD, flexibility that enabled our Foreign Minister, Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa to participate in it remotely but meaningfully to be supplemented by me from the floor.

Madam Chairperson,

With regard to the situation in Ukraine, which has a direct bearing on the work and also on the value of this august body, Russia's aggression against Ukraine is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force and shakes the foundation of the international order, for the improvement of which we have toiled tirelessly in this Conference.

As the nuclear disarmament is the key issue to be discussed at this

Conference, I would like to draw your attention, Madam Chairperson, to the fact 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.

Madam Chairperson,

I also present our high appreciation to the proactive role that, Madam Chairperson and your team are playing here in Geneva not only in the CD but also in the field of the fight against landmines as the Chair of the Meeting of the States Parties of the Anti-Personal Landmines Convention. Japan is happy and willing to cooperate further with you and your team as well as with Columbia in these multilateral disarmament fora.

Thank you for your kind attention.