



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Statement delivered by Ambassador Ichiro Ogasawara  
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Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament  
Subsidiary Body 2  
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Mr. Coordinator,

We are now facing a deliberate threat of use of nuclear weapons, by a nuclear weapon state, which is completely unacceptable. As Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio stated on various occasions in the context of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which is a clear violation of international law, neither nuclear weapons coercion as we currently witness, nor, needless to say, use of nuclear weapons can ever be tolerated. Nuclear-Weapon States must live up to their important commitment that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, enshrined in the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races issued on the 3rd of January this year.

In this Joint Statement, the five leaders stated "the avoidance of war between Nuclear-Weapon States and the reduction of strategic risks are our foremost responsibilities". However, raising the alert level of the preparation of its nuclear deterrence units by Russia is a dangerous act that may lead to further destabilization of the situation and to an escalation, which remarkably increases the risk of the use of nuclear weapons. This dangerous act by Russia is in clear contradiction to the spirit of this statement, particularly in terms of nuclear risk reduction.

Efforts towards nuclear risk reduction contribute to preserving and promoting international peace and security as well as building trust and confidence conducive to further cooperation towards realization of a world free of nuclear weapons. Yet, nuclear risk reduction efforts do not provide a substitute for nuclear disarmament. Instead, nuclear risk reduction efforts should complement and be coupled with sustained nuclear disarmament efforts.

How to avoid an escalation caused by miscalculation or by misunderstanding is another vital issues to be addressed in the context of nuclear risk reduction. Given the current international security environment and emergence of new technologies, the relevance and urgency of such issues continues to increase. It is for that reason the Resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons (A/RES/76/54) that Japan proposed and was adopted by the UN General Assembly last year is encouraging all States possessing nuclear weapons to take actions to reduce the risks of nuclear detonation occurring, inter alia, by miscalculation or by misunderstanding, and to make further efforts to this end. The measures envisaged to this purport in this resolution include transparency and dialogue on nuclear doctrines and postures, military-to-military dialogues, hotlines, information and data exchanges. We proposed this language as agreeable elements for the outcome documents of the upcoming NPT Review Conference. These actions should be taken by all nuclear-weapon States regardless of the size of their nuclear forces. Smaller sized forces cannot be an excuse for not conducting measures to improve transparency and dialogue.

In 2017, Japan launched the Eminent Persons Group process. In October 2019, the Group published its Chair's report, full of insights and inspiring thoughts illustrating further steps towards nuclear disarmament.

The report also makes a variety of proposals, for example, it states that Nuclear-armed States should take measures to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons, including by ensuring the security of their weapon-usable nuclear materials, and associated production infrastructure. Japan has submitted this Chair's report as a working paper to the 10th NPT Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.45).

Meaningful discussions related to nuclear risk reduction are also taking place across various cross-regional groups such as the NPDI, the Stockholm Initiative and the CEND, all of which Japan has actively participated in. Some of these discussions have resulted in valuable concrete recommendations as shown, for example, in the working papers 'A nuclear risk reduction package' (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.9) submitted by the Stockholm Initiative and 'Recommendations for consideration by the 10th Review Conference' (NPT/CONF.2020/WP.10) submitted by the NPDI. In addition, we appreciate also the working paper on Strategic Risk Reduction submitted by the 5 nuclear weapon states. Japan hopes that those valuable documents contribute to the convergence of views on nuclear risk reduction among State Parties, especially at the 10th NPT Review Conference, which should be properly reflected in its outcome document as well as in the report of this Subsidiary Body.