



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA
at the Signing Ceremony of extension of the Exhibition
“Toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons”

Today marks the 76th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, I reverently express my sincere condolences to the souls of the great number of atomic bomb victims.

I am pleased that the signing ceremony is being held today, here at the United Nations Office at Geneva, to extend the Exhibition titled “Toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons” for another 10 years. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, for her leadership and efforts of her team to realize the extension of this important exhibition.

The devastation that took place in Nagasaki and Hiroshima and the human suffering that resulted from it must never be repeated. As the only country to have experienced the horror of nuclear devastation in war, Japan has the unceasing mission of advancing steadily, step-by-step, the efforts of the international community towards realizing “a world free of nuclear weapons”.

In the midst of the severe security environment and the gaps in countries’ standpoints on nuclear disarmament that we see today, it is

imperative that countries eradicate distrust through mutual engagement and dialogue and make efforts over time to forge a common foundation. Furthermore, in the strive towards realizing “a world free of nuclear weapons”, it is increasingly important to pass down experience of the devastation and inhumanity of using nuclear weapons to future generations and beyond borders.

The Exhibition “Toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons” is to demonstrate that the matter of nuclear devastation is of universal nature for all humankind, not just a matter of a specific nation or a people. It conveys the reality of the devastation and inhumanity of using nuclear weapons and emphasizing the importance of nuclear disarmament.

This exhibition includes 13 items of atomic bombing materials, such as pottery melted by the heat rays of the atomic bomb and a part of the outer wall of Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki. To our delight, over the past 10 years, a number of people including government officials, UN officials, journalists, young people have come to this exhibition. Deeply convinced of its value, the Government of Japan is willing to continue to work with Nagasaki City, Hiroshima City, and the United Nations Office at Geneva for this exhibition.

I sincerely hope that this exhibition will continue to give an excellent opportunity to visitors to learn from the serious experience of Nagasaki and Hiroshima portrayed here and to take a moment to reflect upon it, which, I believe, would certainly contribute to deepen their understanding, and to the

realization of “a world free of nuclear weapons.”

Thank you for your attention.

(End)