



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement delivered by TSUKAMOTO Kohei
First Secretary, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
United Nations Disarmament Commission
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Mr. Chair,

At the outset, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Akan Rakhmetullin and the Government of Kazakhstan on the assumption of the Chairmanship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). I assure you the full support and cooperation of my delegation. Japan hopes meaningful discussions will be held during this year's meeting.

Mr. Chair,

As this is the venue to discuss the issue of international security, I cannot but to start by stating Japan's position with regard to the situation in Ukraine. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a clear violation of international law and an outrageous act that shakes the very foundation of the international order. Any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force is totally unacceptable in any region of the globe.

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan absolutely cannot accept Russia's nuclear threats, let alone its use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. The 77 years of history since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, during which time no nuclear weapons have been used, must not be ignored.

Japan will show our strong determination to firmly reject any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force as well as the threat and the use of nuclear weapons. We will also reaffirm our resolve to uphold the international order based on the rule of law.

Japan also condemns the remarks by President Putin about Russia's decision to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, which further increases the

tension while Russia continues its aggression against Ukraine. Japan calls on Russia and Belarus to refrain from taking such actions that will only further exacerbate the situation.

Mr. Chair,

We need to note that in the vicinity of Japan, military buildups, including of nuclear weapons and missiles, are rapidly advancing in an opaque manner, coupled with mounting pressures by attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force.

Japan is seriously concerned about North Korea's intensified nuclear and missile activities including its recent ballistic missile launches with an unprecedented frequency and in an unprecedented manner, in addition to its escalatory rhetoric on the use of nuclear weapons. North Korea has already launched ICBM-class ballistic missiles twice this year including the one which landed within Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Such activities pose a serious challenge to the international community. Japan reiterates its strong commitment to the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of North Korea's all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. Japan urges North Korea to abide by all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and return at an early date to full compliance with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Mr. Chair,

As the only country to have suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan is strongly committed to leading international efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons. Convening this year's G7 Summit in Hiroshima is a demonstration of such conviction. Last year, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio participated in the Tenth NPT Review Conference for the first time as Japanese Prime Minister. At the Conference, he presented the "Hiroshima Action Plan", which would take us from the "reality" of the harsh security environment to the "ideal" of a world without nuclear weapons.

On 4th and 5th, the Second Meeting of the "International Group of Eminent

Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons,” established by the Government of Japan, will be held in Tokyo. Members from both nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon States will have frank and candid discussion towards a world without nuclear weapons. Japan will continue to advance realistic and practical efforts including "Hiroshima Action Plan", taking wisdom from this Group.

At the Tenth NPT Review Conference, the final outcome document could have been adopted, had it not been blocked by a member state. This reflects the shared recognition of States parties of the importance of maintaining and strengthening the NPT as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We will spare no efforts to constructively engage in the First Session of the Preparatory Committee scheduled this summer.

Mr. Chair,

To avoid a possible reversal of the continued downward trend of the number of nuclear weapons, Japan reemphasizes the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons based on the Shannon Mandate. Approximately three decades have already passed since the adoption of its negotiating mandate at the CD in 1995. We must gather collective wisdom to break this impasse without any further delay.

Japan welcomes the adoption of GA resolution 77/68 regarding “Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices” last December. In line with this resolution, Japan calls upon all relevant states to declare or maintain moratoriums on fissile material production for the aforementioned purposes.

Furthermore, Japan urges all states, particularly the remaining States listed in its Annex 2, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which has not entered into force for the past 25 years. Pending its entry into force, Japan urges all relevant states to declare or maintain existing moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions.

Mr. Chair,

Nuclear risk reduction is another important topic. It is true that the only way to eliminate all risks associated with nuclear weapons is through the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and nuclear risk reduction is not a substitute for nuclear disarmament. However, how to avoid an escalation caused by miscalculation or by misunderstanding is another vital issue 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 this issue continues to increase.

It is for this reason that the importance of nuclear risk reduction has been emphasized in the resolution entitled "Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons" (A/RES/77/76) adopted by the UN General Assembly with 147 votes in favor last year, as well as in the framework of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, NPDI and the Stockholm Initiative in which my country participates.

Furthermore, in addition to disarmament measures, arms control frameworks that take into account the international security environment are crucial. Nevertheless, Russia announced to suspend its implementation in this February. We are gravely concerned over Russia's decision and re-emphasize the importance of full implementation of the Treaty. In addition, we express strong hope for dialogues leading to the development of a broader framework of arms control, which involves not only the U.S. and Russia but other countries and covers a wider range of weapon systems.

Mr. Chair,

Accurate understanding of the realities of the nuclear weapons use is the starting point for all efforts towards nuclear disarmament. Understanding of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons should underpin efforts in nuclear disarmament. In this regard Japan calls on political leaders and young people across the world to see with their own eyes and feel with their own hearts the realities and consequences of the use

of nuclear weapons.

In this regard, Japan contributed 10 million US dollars to the UN for establishing the "Youth Leader Fund for a World Without Nuclear Weapons" on which Prime Minister KISHIDA announced at the NPT Review Conference last August. This is for the purpose of creating a global network among the youth towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, by inviting future leaders from both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states to Japan and providing them with opportunities to learn firsthand the realities of nuclear weapon use in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This programme will launch sometime this year, and Japan hopes that this will contribute to efforts for disarmament and non-proliferation education in support of a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

Today all states are reliant on space for their peace and prosperity. Space systems provide fundamental services for daily life and security. At the same time, we are witnessing an increasing number of both state and non-state space actors and diversification of their activities, the development and deployment of counterspace capabilities as well as insufficient transparency regarding space doctrines, policies and activities.

Japan is strongly committed to maintaining outer space as a peaceful, safe, secure and sustainable environment and look forward to advancing discussions and actively participating in the OEWG on reducing space threats through establishing norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors, based on the UN General Assembly resolutions 75/36 and 76/231. In this regards, Japan reiterates its commitment not to conduct destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite (DA-ASAT) missile testing as a first step in articulating responsible behaviors. We look forward to achieving tangible outcomes at the OEWG and emphasize the importance of following up on this important matter.

Mr. Chair,

Japan also underlines the importance of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) as pragmatic measures to increase trust and prevent misunderstanding and miscalculations in space activities. We look forward to having meaningful discussions during this UNDC session, building upon the work of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on TCBMS in Outer Space.

Mr. Chair,

It is important for us to continuously work together to produce constructive outcome in accordance with its original mandate.

Japan will endeavor to ensure, in cooperation with the Chair and Member States, that this year's session of the UNDC, which is the final year of the current triennial cycle, leads to a positive outcome.

Thank you.