



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by Ambassador Ichiro OGASAWARA

at the CD Plenary Meeting

August 12th 2021

Youth and Disarmament

Madame President,

At the outset, Japan would like to express its sincere gratitude to you, Ambassador NORTON, for taking the initiative of setting this important topic “Youth and Disarmament” for today’s discussion in the CD. I would also like to extend heartfelt welcome to the United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth and Youth Disarmament Champions as well as other young speakers who have taken or will take the floor today to this august body. I am listening to them expressing their precious and inspiring views with great interest.

The Government of Japan believes that it is Japan's responsibility to all humankind to pass on experiences of the devastation and humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons to the world and to the future generation. For this reason and as the Champion of Action 38 of the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, “Establish a platform for youth engagement”, Japan attaches great importance to disarmament and non-proliferation education, especially on encouraging the next young

generation to reflect upon the international security as well as disarmament and non-proliferation matters and to act over these matters. The atomic bomb exhibition titled “Toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons” held at the United Nations Office at Geneva is one of such initiatives. I am pleased that we could agree to extend the exhibition period for another 10 years on 9th August with the United Nations Office at Geneva, thanks to the leadership of Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Madame President,

Japan has submitted a draft resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons every year to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. The resolution of the last year was entitled “Joint courses of action and future-oriented dialogue toward a world without nuclear weapons” and was adopted with 150 votes in favor. The disarmament and non-proliferation education is presented in this resolution as one of the Joint Courses of Action. The resolution encourages all UN member states *“to facilitate efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, inter alia, efforts in which the young generation can actively engage, including through dialogue platforms, mentoring, internships, fellowships, scholarships, model events and youth group activities, as well as to raise awareness of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons, including through, among others, visits by leaders, youth and others to and interactions with communities and people,*

including the hibakusha (those who have suffered the use of nuclear weapons) who pass on their experiences to the future generation”.

Japan had also the pleasure of leading the Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education at the 2010 and 2015 NPT Review Conference. We plan to deliver a new Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education at the upcoming NPT Review Conference. We hope the joint statement leads to concrete results in this field. Further consultations would be conducted with Member States on this matter in due course.

Madame President,

The Government of Japan launched a program entitled “Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons” with a view to sharing with the world the experience on devastation and humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons. Given the aging of hibakusha (those who have suffered the use of nuclear weapons) and fully aware of the necessity to pass their experience over to the young next generation, the Government of Japan has supported young people in their efforts to share the results of their activities and research in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation through this program. As of the end of July 2021, a total number of 482 Youth Communicators on 36 diverse occasions have been dispatched around the world. They have delivered their own messages and views to the world.

Today, I would like to ask Ms. Rio Sasaki, one of the “Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons” to express her opinion. Ms. Sasaki was born in Hiroshima and is currently a high school student. She is the granddaughter of a woman who survived the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, and has been working as a Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Messenger for the elimination of nuclear weapons and for the realization of a peaceful world. With the permission of Madam President, I am proud of inviting her to take the floor as a member of my delegation.

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