

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. MARI AMANO
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

THE 1258TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
“Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament” and on “Prevention of
nuclear war, including all related matters” with a general focus on nuclear disarmament
GENEVA, 22 MAY 2012

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that I take the floor under your presidency, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of this high post. While the Government of Japan believes that agreeing to a Program of Work is imperative to achieving progress and responding to the strong expectations of the international community, we appreciate all your efforts to organize these substantive discussions on the core issues. I assure you of my delegation's full support as you lead the CD.

Mr. President,

In the field of nuclear disarmament, there have been a number of recent achievements. Notably, the two states with the largest nuclear arsenals, the United States and the Russian Federation, ratified the New START Treaty and France and the United Kingdom announced unilateral nuclear reductions. In addition, the five nuclear-weapons states have established a working group to continue working on an agreed glossary of definitions for key nuclear terms. Japan welcomes these voluntary measures and encourages the nuclear-weapon states to continue to make progress.

Despite these developments, however, it is indispensable for all the states possessing nuclear weapons to make disarmament efforts on a multilateral basis in order to achieve the goal of a world without nuclear weapons. In order to realize this ultimate objective, Japan believes that practical and effective measures

taken in a step-by-step manner are necessary. In this regard, we are willing to participate, with a longer perspective, in discussions on how a multilateral nuclear disarmament framework or a nuclear weapons convention should look like in the final phase of nuclear disarmament. However, the total elimination of these weapons cannot be achieved over night or by a single convention, indeed, it will require a cumulative process. In this regard, we consider that the following two steps are the most urgent.

Firstly, as I mentioned in a previous plenary meeting this year, Japan recognizes a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) as the next logical step on our path to a peaceful and secure world without nuclear weapons. I will cover this topic in more detail during another session.

Secondly, we view the entry into force of the CTBT as essential. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the ratification of the CTBT by Indonesia in February this year. We

have seized every occasion to urge all non-states parties, particularly the Annex II states, to promptly sign and ratify the Treaty, and we intend to continue such activities. Furthermore, we urge all the states possessing nuclear weapons to maintain existing moratoriums on testing and call upon all states to refrain from any tests pending the entry into force of the Treaty.

While awaiting the realization of multilateral and global nuclear disarmament, we also appeal to all states possessing nuclear weapons to make an early commitment to reducing, or at least not increasing their nuclear holdings.

Mr. President,

From the same perspective of practical and effective multilateral measures, Japan considers that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is vitally important. In this context, we attach high value to the Final Document of the 2010

NPT Review Conference, which includes specific nuclear disarmament measures. In the Action Plan, the nuclear-weapon states are called upon to honor their unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and to make further efforts to reduce all types of nuclear weapons. Action 5 is particularly significant as it calls for the nuclear-weapon state to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament and to report their undertakings by the 2014 Preparatory Committee. The five nuclear-weapon states are urged to fulfill this commitment.

These efforts should not be limited only to those five states. Japan calls upon the three non-states parties to accede to the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon states promptly and without any conditions and, pending their accession, to adhere to the Treaty's terms and take practical steps in its support.

We would also like to reiterate that applying the principles of irreversibility, verifiability, and transparency, is critical when implementing any kind of nuclear disarmament measures. Amongst these principles, ensuring transparency is especially vital at this stage, as a confidence-building measure for creating the basis of a stable global security environment. In this connection, we encourage all the nuclear-weapon states to agree as soon as possible on a standard reporting form as called for in the 2010 NPT Action Plan and reiterated in Chairman's factual summary of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, held this month in Vienna. We also encourage all other states possessing nuclear weapons to follow likewise.

Japan continues to work with NPDI member countries to make practical and concrete proposals and to express our political will for the steady implementation of the 2010 NPT action plan.

Before I conclude my statement, I would like to reiterate the importance of the qualitative aspect of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, the nuclear weapon states are called upon to promptly engage with a view to further diminishing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies.

Mr. President,

Japan is fully committed to achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and with this in mind we intend to continue to steadily promote practical steps and effective measures for this end.

I thank you, Mr. President.