

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. TOSHIO SANO
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Mr. President,

Since this is the first time for me to take the floor under your Presidency, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of this high post. I appreciate your efforts to organize these substantive discussions on the core issues, and I assure you of my delegation's full support as you lead the CD.

Mr. President,

The overall objective of nuclear disarmament is to achieve a safer world without nuclear weapons, and for that purpose, it is important to take realistic and practical steps in a progressive manner.

The Japanese Foreign Minister Kishida has proposed that we should work towards "three reductions" in nuclear disarmament and "three preventions" in nuclear non-proliferation, namely reductions in the number of nuclear weapons, the role they play, and the incentive to possess them, and preventions of the emergence of new nuclear weapons states, the proliferation of nuclear-weapons-related materials and technologies, and nuclear terrorism. We are determined to make further efforts to accumulate building blocks towards a world without nuclear weapons, while keeping in mind these "three reductions and preventions."

States may differ on the means or sequencing for achieving a secure world free of nuclear weapons. However, the international community should focus not on differences but on common ground by identifying concrete and practical measures, including the early entry into force of the

CTBT and the universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol. We recognize that there is steady progress on these issues. Here in Geneva, the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations is our highest priority. There are no short-cuts to achieve effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament, taking into account the prevailing severe international security environment.

Mr. President,

Our journey towards a secure world free of nuclear weapons requires enduring will and enormous energy from the people on a global scale. Therefore, it is all the more crucial to foster a broad and deep understanding of the importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the minds and hearts of the people. In this regard, Japan places great emphasis on the significance of education, i.e., spreading awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences across national borders and generations.

Japan has participated in three conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and believes that this important issue of a catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should be inclusive and universal, as well as a catalyst, instead of a dividing factor, for a united global action towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. It fundamentally underpins all nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation work, including progressive approaches, in pursuit of a more secure world, particularly through the NPT. It is vital to avoid mutual distrust, lack of confidence, and fragmentation of the international community which would counter sincere, effective disarmament and non-proliferation efforts and delay the entire process of nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

Seventy years have passed since the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and in a few months the NPT Review Conference will take place. It is crucial that all states more resolutely and urgently fulfill their disarmament commitments and work together towards a world without nuclear weapons. Japan is fully committed to achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and we intend to continue to steadily promote practical steps and effective measures for this end.

I thank you, Mr. President.