

**STATEMENT BY MR. NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

The 1417th Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 16 May 2017

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time that I take the floor under your presidency, let me congratulate you, Ambassador SECK, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference. I assure you the full support and cooperation of my delegation for the revitalization of the CD.

Mr. President,

Last Sunday, May 14th, despite the strong calls from the international community including at the the first session of the 2020 NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee last week, the DPRK launched a ballistic missile, in a clear violation of a series of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) and against the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. This launch is totally unacceptable. It constitutes a grave and increasing threat not only to Japan but also to regional and international peace and security. We strongly condemn the DPRK and urge the DPRK to immediately and fully implement relevant UNSCRs and other commitments without taking further provocative actions.

Mr. President,

Japan believes the Conference on Disarmament has a vital role to play in advancing nuclear disarmament; therefore, it is imperative to revitalize and overcome its deadlock. In this regard, Japan welcomes the initiatives by the Chair of the Way Ahead Working Group, Ambassador Lynn, and his proposal to hold consultations with regional groups this week. Japan strongly hopes that the discussions and deliberations in the Working Group will enhance our common understanding and help lead us to the adoption of a programme of work with a negotiation mandate. Also I believe that a Geneva based interactive working relationship with professional knowledge and experience should be really contributing to the constructive and substantive discussions. Japan remains ready to make an active participation and contribute to the deliberations of the Working Group.

Thank you, Mr. President.