

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE
ON DISARMAMENT**

The 1434th Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 23th January 2018

Thank you, Mr. President,

Allow me to congratulate Sri Lanka and the other five countries on the assumption of the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament during the 2018 session, which is a very important year. I assure you of my delegation's full support. I would also like to thank, Ms. Izumi NAKAMITSU, for the important remarks on behalf of the UN Secretary-General. We also commend, the Secretariat for their support to the Conference.

Mr. President,

Last year, various approaches to nuclear disarmament were highlighted in this august body. It was also a year in which the international security environment became increasingly severe. Moreover, over the past two years, the DPRK has carried out three nuclear tests and launched 40 ballistic missiles, including long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles that can reach the east coast of the United States. It has become evident that nuclear and missile development of the DPRK is a grave and imminent threat to the international community. In order to work towards denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, it is necessary for the international community as a whole to coherently cooperate and maximize pressure on the DPRK.

As we begin 2018, we are required to set the foundation in order to reinforce measures, rebuild trust, and enhance cooperation among all states and to make substantive progress in nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

I would like to focus on the CD and pose 2 basic questions in this context.

Question 1: Why has the CD, the only multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiating forum, stagnated for more than 20 years? I joined the CD just a short year ago and have actively participated in the valuable discussions, but I also have a strong impression that many countries consider this deadlock business as usual, or a natural state of the CD, in which it cannot make progress. I believe that all 65 Member States have a duty and a unique responsibility to concretely advance nuclear disarmament negotiations.

What we need in order to move the CD forward is **a strong sense of urgency**. If the CD impasse is to continue, the so-called “CD divergence scheme” would strengthen, and consequently, the CD would start collapsing. Concrete nuclear disarmament efforts have already taken place outside the CD. However, the CD is the only forum where non-nuclear weapon States and nuclear weapon States can collaborate to advance nuclear disarmament negotiations. It is indispensable that each country responds constructively with an ardent sense of crisis that this is our last chance for overcoming the deadlock.

Mr. President,

In order to advance the CD, we specifically need an urgent agreement and implementation of **the program of work**. Our predecessors, over the past 20 years, have proposed many POWs, in which some were agreed upon or had nearly reached agreement. Therefore, I believe it is not necessary to begin our work this year from scratch.

I would like to pose **the second question: Why haven't our efforts to agree on POWs been successful for a long time?** Apart from the fact that each country has its own security environment and priority, it is mainly because we tend to consider POW proposals based on what I call the “**exclusive method**.” To put it more simply, if a Member State is not satisfied with a specific item, it will tend to say NO to any POW, which includes anything insufficient for them. However, if Member States consider POWs proposals based on an “**inclusive method**,” the situation might change. We could compromise by saying YES to the POWs, which includes priority items that interest each Member State. Therefore, I would like to suggest that this year all the CD Member States consider the program of work based on an “inclusive method,” possibly with slight areas of convergence, while exercising **maximum flexibility with a compromising spirit**.

From this point of view, it is encouraged not to pursue one or two specific agenda items, rather to consider **a wide and balanced agenda** taking into account each country's interests. As for Japan, the FMCT must be emphasized among the

main 4 items, but we are ready to respond flexibly to the other agenda items, such as nuclear disarmament, PAROS, and NSA.

Mr. President,

It is also important to earnestly discuss a way for **revitalizing the CD**. It goes without saying that the CD mechanism should adjust according to the needs of the challenges we are facing.

Keeping these two questions in mind, Japan will commit its utmost efforts, in cooperation with this year's CD Presidents, the Secretariat, and all CD Members.

In conclusion, it is expected that the CD should make some positive developments before the UN Secretary General announces the disarmament agenda. Collective action is needed with transparency and trust.

Thank you, Mr. President.