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**STATEMENT BY KAZUHIRO NAKAI
MINISTER OF THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON
DISARMAMENT
AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 73RD SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

***THEMATIC DEBATE: OTHER DISARMAMENT MEASURES AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY***

OCTOBER 30, 2018, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairperson,

First, I would like to address the issue of cyber security under this agenda item.

Japan recognizes cyberspace is an artificial domain for the free exchange of ideas without being constrained by national borders; it is an intangible frontier of definite values generated by intellectual creations and innovations inspired by the ideas globally exchanged.

Now cyberspace is an essential foundation of socio-economic activities of every country. For the purpose of the protection of the freedom of expression, the creation of innovation, and the improvement of socio-economic vitality, cyberspace is required to be a space where freedom is assured without unnecessary restrictions and in which all actors who wish to access are neither discriminated nor excluded without any legitimate reason.

However, the threat of cyber-attack is growing. The malicious use of cyberspace by not only state but also non-state actors including terrorists has increased and we are in the situation where means of cyber-attack can easily proliferate.

The falsification, theft, destruction of information and property as well as the disruption of social systems can threaten the people's living and the international community as a whole.

It is necessary to ensure a secure cyberspace through each actor's cooperative and self-motivated activities. On the other hand, we should not take arbitrary measures for the sake of countermeasures to threats.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan will make its utmost effort to create and develop “a free, fair, and secure cyberspace”.

Japan recognizes international law and in particular the charter of the UN plays an important role in legal stability and predictability of the international community. Moreover in addition to addressing the application of international law, it is important for us to promote the non-binding and voluntary norms for responsible states, to enhance the stability and predictability of cyberspace.

Japanese efforts consist of the following three pillars; (1) promoting the rule of law in cyberspace, (2) confidence building measures, and (3) capacity building.

With regard to the rule of law, Japan proactively contributes to international discussion to promote common understanding that the existing international laws are applicable in cyberspace as well as to develop non-binding and voluntary norms of responsible state behavior.

As for confidence building measures, Japan is engaged in the promotion of information sharing and confidence building through bilateral dialogue and multilateral framework such as the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Since we believe that capacity building is also important to strengthen international response to cyber threats, Japan is actively engaged in human resource development assistance and technical cooperation focusing on ASEAN region.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan highly appreciates the activities of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in the past and welcomes the further discussion of cyber issues on the basis of the UN GGE report (2010, 2013, and 2015).

Japan looks forward to future dialogue on these issues with the international community and strongly hope international engagement to develop a consensus on responsible state behavior in cyberspace, based on the Charter of the UN and existing

international laws.

Mr. Chairperson,

Finally, Japan believes all states can enjoy the benefits enabled by cyberspace through our effort and cooperation to strengthen the deterrence to cyber-attacks and malicious use of cyberspace.

Next, I wish to touch up on the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation education

Mr. Chairperson,

The international community shares the common goal of moving towards “a safer world free of nuclear weapons.” Japan reiterates that this endeavor has been and will be fostered by disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Mr. Chairperson,

Disarmament and non-proliferation education provides people with a variety of perspectives, enabling greater engagement and fostering dialogue and cooperation among a wide range of actors.. Thus, it has significant potential to bridge political, regional and technical differences, consequently crystalizing into concerted efforts. In particular, we recognize that “critical thinking” empowers people to use reason when considering important issues. Critical thinking concerns how to think rather than simply what to think. In other words, it requires how to make things happen rather than what to do. Sound judgments through critical thinking can pave the way for people to take appropriate actions. We need to train ourselves so that we are able to analyze the current international situation and put forward concrete ways to overcome any obstacles in order to achieve our common goal.

Mr. Chairperson,

Active engagement with the younger generation is essential. In this regard, Japan welcomes “An agenda for disarmament” presented by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, which emphasizes the importance of empowering younger generations.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference highlighted

education as a useful and effective means to advance nuclear disarmament. It also encouraged all States to implement the 34 recommendations contained in the 2002 report of the Secretary-General on “the United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.” Japan reaffirms the significance of those recommendations and encourages all UN Member States to put them into practice. We are further of the view that the 2002 report might require updates to better suit today’s situation, and we believe that it is high time to begin discussing the matter.

Mr. Chairperson,

We believe that disarmament and non-proliferation education has a significant potential to help achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. Japan will continue to take the lead in this area and calls on all Member States to join our effort.

Thank you.