

STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR
THE 2020 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS (NPT)

- CLUSTER I: NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT -

25 APRIL 2018, GENEVA

Mr. Chairman,

Japan subscribes to the statement by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), as well as the statement made on behalf of the Broadly Like Minded (BLM) countries. I will now make some additional points from a national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

The worsening international security environment, including North Korea's nuclear and missile-related activities, and the difference of approaches to nuclear disarmament among states, cast uncertainty on the prospect of nuclear disarmament. However, **all NPT State Parties** regard the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and **fully agree on the importance of sustaining and strengthening the NPT**. Now, what is most important towards a meaningful outcome of the 2020 NPT RevCon is **the fulfillment of Article VI obligations** as well as **the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan and of the final documents agreed on in the previous Review Conferences in 1995 and 2000**. Among other things, the work towards the entry into force of the CTBT, towards FMCT negotiations, and towards the adoption of a program of work in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) should be continued. In order to achieve these objectives, **during this Review process**, we should **identify and implement concrete measures** in which State Parties would be united for advancing nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

As our Foreign Minister, Taro KONO, explained in his general statement yesterday, the recommendations by “the Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament” outline various ambitious and concrete measures. Japan is confident that, inter alia, **the establishment of a reporting mechanism in accordance with transparency and the development of a nuclear disarmament verification mechanism** represent clear opportunities for advancing nuclear disarmament through cooperation and collaboration with all states. Furthermore, these serve as confidence-building measures and as a basis for a stable international and regional security environment.

Mr. Chairman,

First, **the recommendations** propose to “**convene a session at the third PrepCom, at which nuclear-weapon States explain their national reports, followed by an interactive discussion with other states and civil society participants.**” This idea is worth exploring not only for increasing transparency on the number of nuclear warheads each state possesses and on its nuclear doctrine, but also in relation to accountability as part of strengthening the review process through an interactive exchange. In this respect, Japan, as a member of the NPDI, submitted **a working paper entitled “NPDI Proposals to Enhance Transparency for Strengthening the NPT Review Process.”** This paper encourages all State Parties to make use of NPDI’s reporting template and to submit regular reports. It also stresses the linkages between greater transparency and the strengthening of the review process. **Japan, bearing in mind the importance of full implementation of NPT obligations, urges all states to explore the full potential of the reporting mechanism in the NPT Process.**

Furthermore, **the recommendations confirm the need to intensify efforts to develop verification and compliance mechanisms through bilateral and multilateral efforts as well as under the auspices of the UN.** The principle of verifiability, along with transparency and irreversibility, must be

applied to the nuclear disarmament process. Effective verification capabilities will provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament. **We should steadily work together in the GGE on nuclear disarmament verification and the IPNDV.**

From the perspective of weapons-usable fissile material, the recommendations call for an end to the production of FM for nuclear weapons, as well as propose on the one hand to ensure physical protection and security for existing stocks and on the other hand to develop techniques for irreversible and verifiable disposal of excess materials. Such measures focusing on technical aspects can be quickly implemented. In this regard, Japan will actively contribute to the agreement of a final report at the meeting of the high-level FMCT expert preparatory group next month. The final report should lead to further concrete and substantive work. Moreover, **until the entry into force of an FMCT, we strongly urge all nuclear-weapon States and states possessing nuclear weapons to declare or maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.**

Mr. Chairman,

In order to narrow differences and seek common ground, an interactive discussion is indispensable. All States Parties, including nuclear weapon States, are encouraged not to deliver recycled statements, **but to discuss and improve understanding about transparency, verification, threat and risk reduction, security concerns raised during the nuclear disarmament process, as well as the relationship between security and disarmament.** We must fully **utilize existing frameworks, including the NPT and the CD, and seriously consider effective ways** to enable intensive discussions both formal and informal settings while also including the active participation of experts.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, as the only country to have ever experienced atomic bombings during war, Japan has been engaged in building practical and concrete measures on the basis of cooperation between nuclear-weapon States and

non-nuclear weapon States, while not losing sight of a clear recognition of the humanitarian aspects of the use of nuclear weapons and an objective assessment of the severe international security environment. This PrepCom is the halfway mark to the 2020 NPT Review Process and I strongly believe that we should, **with a sense of urgency and ownership, redouble our efforts to identify and implement concrete disarmament measures towards our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.**

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.