

STATEMENT BY KAZUHIRO NAKAI
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TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- THEMATIC DEBATE: OTHER DISARMAMENT MEASURES AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY -
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Mr. Chairperson,

First, I would like to address the issue of cyber security under this agenda item. Cyberspace has continued to expand and develop globally through the initiatives of multi-stakeholders, many of them private. Now, cyberspace is the foundation of socio-economic development, and a frontier for creating infinite value.

However, while we have enjoyed the use of cyberspace, the threat of cyberattack has been rapidly increasing in recent years. It is difficult for any single country to respond to these threats of cyberattack alone. Therefore, the countries need to build a rules-based international order in cyberspace, closely collaborating with each other. At the same time, each country needs to act as a responsible stakeholder in accordance with the rules and reinforce them by doing so.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan's cyber diplomacy consisting of three pillars will aim at maintaining a free, fair, open and secure cyberspace which is necessary for our democracy, freedom, and to create new values, economy, and culture.

The first pillar is "promotion of the rule of law" in cyberspace. Japan is of the view that the existing international law including the inherent right of self-defense, as well as international humanitarian law, applies in cyberspace. And Japan has contributed to promote common understanding that 11 norms recommended in the 2015 GGE report provides a solid foundation on this issue.

The second pillar is "the development of Confidence Building Measures". In order to prevent an escalation of tensions in cyberspace caused by miscalculation and

misunderstanding, Japan is engaged in the promotion of information sharing through bilateral and multilateral framework such as the ASEAN Regional Forum.

The third pillar is “capacity building”. Japan has actively carried out capacity building projects, in particular, but not limited to Asian countries in the field of cyber security, ranging from cybersecurity trainings and exercises, to seminars and workshops about the protection of critical infrastructures.

Mr. Chairperson,

The UN Cyber Group of Governmental Experts, GGE has played an important role, reaffirming the applicability of existing international law to cyberspace, as well as developing voluntary norms of responsible state behavior. The Open-Ended Working Group is another forum which provides the opportunity to discuss this issue. Last month, its 1st session was held in NY. Japan considers it a progress that most members reaffirmed that the past GGE reports should be the foundation of further discussion without rolling back from what we achieved in the past GGEs. We also hope that the GGE and the OEWG will play a complementary role.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan strongly supports the international engagement to develop a consensus on responsible state behavior in cyberspace. And we believe all states can enjoy the benefits enabled by cyberspace through our effort and cooperation to uphold the rules-based international order in cyberspace.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would also like to address the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation education, which Japan recognizes as of primary importance to achieve our common goal of “a world free of nuclear weapons.”

Quality education not only exposes people to a wide range of ideas and viewpoints, but also enables them to critically analyze any given situation. Critical thinking is key in any initiative aimed at fostering dialogue and bridging political differences among various actors. This skill is also necessary to break the current stalemate in the nuclear disarmament field and encourage people to think about how obstacles can be overcome to advance the nuclear disarmament. This is why we firmly believe in the power of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Mr. Chairperson,

Active engagement of the younger generations is essential for disarmament and non-proliferation education. In this regard, Japan welcomes “An agenda for disarmament” presented by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, which emphasizes the importance of empowering younger generations. Japan is committed to implementing this Agenda and is a champion of Action 38. We fully support with the Republic of Korea’s new resolution this year, entitled “Youth, Disarmament, and Non-proliferation”, as an original co-sponsor.

The Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference 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. Furthermore, we are of the view that the 2002 report might require updates to better suit the current situation, and we believe that it is high time that we begin discussing the matter. In addition, we appreciated the extensive support from the 55 States Parties to our statement on disarmament and non-proliferation education at the last NPT Preparatory Committee meeting. We hope to make a statement again at the upcoming NPT Review Conference and we will seek to promote the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education with like-minded States Parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

We believe in the potential of disarmament and non-proliferation education to make a significant contribution to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. Japan will continue to take the lead on this matter and calls on all Member States to join our effort.

Thank you.