

(Please check against delivery)

STATEMENT BY NOBUSHIGE TAKAMIZAWA
AMBASSADOR OF THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 74rd SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THEMATIC DEBATE: DISARMAMENT MACHINERY
OCTOBER 31, 2019, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan believes that the UNSG's agenda for disarmament provides us with useful perspectives and guidance for promoting disarmament, including a re-emphasis on effective partnership to address gender considerations, empowerment of women and youth, and cooperation with the civil society. In addition, it is evident that emerging issues and new challenges listed in the agenda for disarmament will affect various cross-cutting fields and stakeholders, which requires us to take collective action in multilateral fora. Japan stands ready to cooperate with the UN and other Member States to make strides towards strengthening the work of the existing disarmament machinery, including the UNGA First Committee, the CD, the UNDC and the UNIDIR.

In particular, the UNIDIR is increasingly important as an autonomous institution established for the purpose of undertaking independent research on disarmament and related problems, particularly international security issues. Given the changing international security environment, Japan highly appreciates UNIDIR's significant contributions such as publishing issue-focused papers and convening activities in a broad range of areas including nuclear risk reduction, LAWS and cyber security. The institution's rich expertise on top of its unique status within the United Nations system enables them to provide ideas and advice that could enhance meaningful and interactive dialogues in various multilateral arms control and disarmament fora. Japan is keen to promote further collaboration with the UNIDIR and take advantage of their invaluable expertise.

In addition, regional cooperation is imperative. Japan believes that UN Regional Centers for Peace and Disarmament can play an important role in enhancing the capacity of disarmament and non-proliferation institutions in the region, through coordination with regional partners. In this regard, last year we committed to providing more than half a million dollars for the

UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, or UNREC, in Lome, Togo, for a project on Small Arms and Light Weapons. We will continue our cooperation with the regional centers and hope others will also join our efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

The CD plays a crucial role as it is the unique multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament. Despite the increasing urgency to achieve substantive progress on nuclear disarmament, we, the member States of the CD, were unable to agree on a programme of work during this year's session. In light of this reality and of the deteriorating international security environment, we believe it is important to hold more substantive discussions on specific disarmament-related issues. In this regard, we encourage the member States to continue our discussions on the four core issues, namely, (1) Nuclear Disarmament, (2) Fissile Material, (3) Preventing an Arms Race in Outer Space, and (4) Negative Security Assurances.

Additionally, we consider that the following could be highlighted as the potential topics for further discussion: (1) Transparency, (2) Nuclear Risk Reduction, (3) CTBT, (4) Nuclear Disarmament Verification, and (5) Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. Japan is convinced that advancing substantive discussions on these specific issues will help increase the positive momentum in the CD and is crucial for the adoption of a POW at next year's session.

In order to make substantive progress during the 2020 session, robust cooperation and coordination among CD presidents is indispensable. We expect Algeria, the first President of the CD in 2020, to take proactive, collective and concrete steps by holding informal consultations with all relevant stakeholders and further strengthening P6 coordination. Japan is determined to promote and contribute to such endeavors. Schedule of activities will facilitate pragmatic and professional approach and enable us to have substantive discussions and bring about concrete results.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.