

STATEMENT BY H.E. Mr. WASHIO Eiichiro
STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN
2021 High Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament
22 February 2021, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express our appreciation and reaffirm our support and cooperation to Your Excellency Ambassador MELLO MOURÃO, President of the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. President,

The CD is the only multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament with the participation of key stakeholders, including all nuclear weapon possessing countries. Inclusiveness is key in ensuring that future outcomes become universal. Against the backdrop of prolonged stalemate of the CD, we need to build upon previous discussions and focus on mature agenda items. From this perspective, Japan reiterates the importance of commencing negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). Moreover, the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is vital. We will continue to support the P6 members and fully contribute to substantive discussions and early fulfillment of the CD's mandate. We also look forward to appropriate discussion on outer space to address growing risks against its sustainable and stable use.

Mr. President,

As the only country to have suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan is fully aware of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. It is our solemn responsibility to lead international efforts towards their total elimination. Currently, there are divergent approaches towards a world without nuclear weapons. It is vital to seek concrete measures which can serve as common ground to work together, while addressing both real security threats and humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons.

Mr. President,

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation

regime, and it is crucial to maintain and strengthen it. I would like to reconfirm the responsibility of all NPT States parties for the full and steady implementation of the Treaty, including its Article VI. Japan will continue to fully contribute to realizing a meaningful outcome of the next Review Conference, by making concrete proposals as a common ground for countries with divergent views. This includes our United Nations General Assembly resolution on Nuclear Disarmament, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) and the Stockholm Initiative, as well as a track 1.5 meeting for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament.

Mr. President,

Japan welcomes the extension of New START, which is expected to contribute to discussions building up to the next Review Conference. I would like to express our strong hope that this extension will lead to the development of a broader framework of arms control, which involves not only the U.S. and Russia but other countries and covers a wider range of weapon systems.

We should also work together on non-proliferation. In this regard, the full implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions is indispensable for achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to Ms. Valovaya, Secretary-General of the CD and her team for their valuable work, as COVID-19 has changed usual working methods. Japan will continue to strive and cooperate closely with CD members to promote nuclear disarmament.

Thank you for your attention.

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