



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Statement delivered by OGASAWARA Ichiro  
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Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament  
CD Plenary  
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Mr. President

First of all, let me reiterate my congratulation to you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the first Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of the full support of my delegation. I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to the new colleagues to the CD. I thank also the Secretariat for enabling us to carry out our activities smoothly despite all the difficulties we are facing due to the COVID 19.

Japan appreciated the close coordination shown by the P6+2 last year, which contributed greatly to enhancing the consistency and continuity of the Conference's work. It is encouraging that this year again such a coordination is conducted by the P6+2.

Given the increasingly harsh and complex security environment, there is a pressing need for the Conference to fulfil its mandate as the single multilateral disarmament-negotiating forum and to resume and advance its substantive work. Japan is ready to show its flexibility and support in favor of any initiatives that may facilitate substantive work and pave the way to multilateral disarmament-negotiations. In this vain, Japan supports the draft package proposed by Belgium President. Japan calls upon all the Member States to show their flexibilities and political will so that the Conference can adopt a basis for its substantive work at the earliest possible.

As for the issue of the observer ship to this august body, I believe the

observer ship of a greater number of UN Members contribute to make the CD's work more relevant to the international community, since our future outcomes will be inevitably an universal nature.

Mr. President,

Building upon previous works of the CD, we need to prioritize its substantive work on agenda items according to their degree of maturity. From this perspective, Japan reiterates the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). Japan calls upon all nuclear-weapon states and states possessing nuclear weapons to declare or maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for the use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices until an FMCT takes effect. Japan is also ready and willing to contribute to the substantive work on any other substantive issues in the CD.

Japan will continue to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, and will spare no efforts to this end. In this regard, Japan calls upon non-signatory States including the remaining Annex II States to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay.

Mr. President,

The way in which the CD's work unfolds would inevitably have repercussions on the upcoming NPT Review Conference in August. For the success of the Review Conference, Japan submitted last year a draft resolution entitled "Joint courses of action and future-oriented dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons" to the United Nations General Assembly, which was adopted with the support of 150 countries. This resolution was based upon a realistic and incremental approach towards our

common goal of the world without nuclear weapons. It tried to present common ground elements with a view to contributing to the success of the Review Conference.

At the same time, realizing a world without nuclear weapons requires the nuclear weapon states to take concrete measures. We welcome the joint efforts made by the P5 on various topics with a view to the success of the next Review Conference.

Mr. President

Japan recognizes the importance of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty), and also recognizes the ongoing dialogue among parties on the potential extension of that Treaty in a way that contributes to strategic stability. Japan also stresses specifically the importance of more transparency among nuclear-weapon States, and reaffirms their special responsibility to initiate arms control dialogues in good faith on effective measures to prevent nuclear arms racing and help prepare the way for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons.

Japan has promoted the activities of the Group of Eminent Persons for the Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament. This Group has issued a Chair's Report in October 2019, which was widely shared with the Members of the CD. Building on the outcomes of this Group, Japan organized a track 1.5 meeting March last year. Japan is also actively engaged in and committed to the joint efforts and the discussions of the NPDI, the Stockholm Initiative and the CEND.

Mr. President,

Japan stresses that this year the Conference should play a role assigned to it by the UNGA resolution “Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors” adopted last year.

Japan is deeply concerned about North Korea’s continued development of nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities. Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to the goal of achieving a complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of all of North Korea’s nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs, and related facilities as well as ballistic missiles of all ranges in accordance with the relevant UNSCRs. Japan calls on North Korea to take concrete steps towards denuclearization. Japan also calls on all member states to fully implement the relevant UNSCRs.

I thank you, Mr. President.