



Statement by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament
Thematic discussion on the Prevention of Nuclear War
17 March 2026

Mr. President,

Allow me to start by congratulating you, Mr. President, on assuming the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you and your team of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to thank the previous Presidency Morocco, as well as Ambassador Thoni for his contribution as coordinator of Subsidiary Body 2 last year.

As we stated last week, the severe international security situation and deepening divisions within the international community are making the path towards a world without nuclear weapons even more challenging. While avoiding a nuclear arms race and pursuing a realistic and practical approach to nuclear disarmament, we must continue the record of the non-use of nuclear weapons. In this context, it is also increasingly relevant to discuss ways to reduce nuclear risks. Japan encourages nuclear-weapon States to promote meaningful discussions regarding risk reduction and to take concrete measures.

Japan has long been advocating for a realistic and practical approach to nuclear disarmament. Within this approach, Japan prioritizes both qualitative capping, by comprehensively banning nuclear testing, and quantitative capping, by banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We believe the instruments that realize most effectively these qualitative and quantitative capping are the CTBT and an FMCT respectively.

To this end, Japan stresses the importance of the immediate commencement of long overdue negotiations on an FMCT, as the highest priority for the CD, and deeply regrets that this body has not been able to come to an agreement on this point for more than 30 years since the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for an FMCT.

The United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled “Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons” submitted by Japan last year, also “calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to immediately commence and bring to an early conclusion, negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein”.

Last year, a Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty was held during the UNGA High-Level week in September. Japan will continue its efforts to build political momentum toward the start of FMCT negotiations.

In addition, Japan calls for voluntary moratoria by all the nuclear-weapon States on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices to be declared or maintained, without waiting for the start of FMCT negotiations.

Japan is of the view that the issue of how to deal with existing stock of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices should not be a pre-condition for commencing negotiations. This issue should be discussed and resolved during negotiations.

The preparations for the commencement of negotiations of an FMCT have already been addressed in an extensive manner. The only remaining factor is political will. In view of repeated commitments to this goal, I would like to call again on all Member States to exert the necessary political will to commence negotiations within the CD as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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