



Statement by Counsellor NEMOTO Yurina
Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament
Thematic discussion on the Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race
10 March 2026

Mr President,

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.

The risk of a nuclear arms race is higher than at any time since the height of the Cold War. The rapid buildup of nuclear capabilities in an opaque manner by a certain country could spark a nuclear arms race involving other countries.

In these difficult times, maintaining and strengthening the NPT, the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, is the priority and in the interests of the entire international community. With the Review Conference of the NPT coming up, Japan continues to strongly urge Member States to demonstrate the spirit of dialogue and cooperation to the fullest extent and engage in a constructive dialogue.

Mr President,

Faced with increasing risks, it is more imperative than ever to materialize both qualitative and quantitative caps of nuclear weapons in order to avoid a nuclear arms race, as part of a realistic and practical approach to nuclear disarmament.

Japan believes that the universalization and entry into force of the CTBT and the immediate commencement of FMCT negotiations respectively can achieve these objectives in the most effective manner.

Furthermore, recently, at the CD, the United States proposed initiating dialogue on arms control following the expiration of the New START. Japan believes that efforts on disarmament and arms control involving the United States, Russia, and China are of critical importance, and we welcome the United States' intention to reestablish an arms control framework that reflects the current challenging security environment.

Mr President,

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 also appreciates that dialogue within the P5 process have continued even under the challenging security environment. Japan looks forward to the P5 members' continued efforts in dialogue to achieve positive outcomes ahead of the NPT Review Conference.

Non-nuclear-weapon States also have an important role to play. Japan has been actively participating in multilateral dialogues within various cross-regional frameworks, such as the NPDI, the Stockholm Initiative, and the Reducing the Risk of Nuclear Conflict initiative, and intends to continue contributing to these efforts.

Thank you, Mr. President,

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