

Statement by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko

Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament

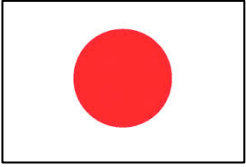
CD Plenary, January 20, 2026

Madam President,

Allow me to start by congratulating you, Madam President, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. I also join previous speakers in welcoming the new Permanent Representative of India. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their invaluable support. In order to advance substantive work in the area of arms control and disarmament, Japan hopes that the Conference will adopt a program of work as early as possible under your able leadership so that the CD will be able to revitalize its work as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

Madam 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. We are seeing accelerating moves that run counter to the progress of nuclear disarmament or threaten nuclear non-

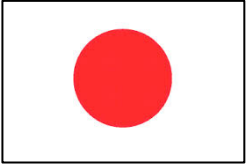


proliferation, such as the rapid buildup of nuclear capabilities in an opaque manner and the advancement of North Korea's nuclear and missile activities.

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 this year, 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.

Madam President,

Japan considers that it is extremely important for the CD to resume its substantive work as soon as possible, building on the progress made in 2025. It could include reestablishment of subsidiary bodies which in our view is well suited for informal and interactive deliberations. My delegation appreciates your efforts in this regard, Madam President, and looks forward to an early decision. We also need to prioritize the substantive work of the CD according to the degree of maturity of each subject. From this perspective, Japan reiterates the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. In addition, Japan calls for voluntary moratoriums on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices to be



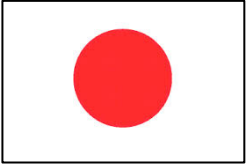
declared or maintained, without waiting for the start of the FMCT negotiations.

Japan also remains strongly committed to the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and will spare no effort to this end. In this regard, Japan calls on all States, especially the remaining States that are required for its entry into force, to sign and ratify the CTBT.

Japan also attaches great importance to discussions toward rule-making on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and on emerging technologies such as AI.

It is vital to reaffirm compliance with existing legal obligations, including those under the Outer Space Treaty, deepen understanding of the current state in outer space, and take a concrete and pragmatic step from there. We believe that reducing serious risks and threats through norms, rules and principles is the starting point for establishing an effective normative and legal framework that truly serves the objective of PAROS.

The military use of emerging technologies should be examined comprehensively, taking into account both humanitarian considerations and security perspectives. In this regard, Japan appreciates the substantive progress made in the GGE LAWS under the CCW and will spare no effort for the fulfilment of its mandate for this year. For an effective international rule-making on LAWS, it is necessary for all stakeholder states, including those with advanced technological capabilities, to participate. From this perspective, Japan strongly



supports the continuation of the discussions under the CCW.

Madam President,

Japan, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings in war, will continue to spearhead international efforts in realizing a “world without nuclear weapons”. As part of such efforts, Japan submitted to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly last year a resolution titled “Steps to building a common roadmap towards a world without nuclear weapons”. The resolution was adopted with 147 votes in favor. My delegation would like to express our appreciation to the countries that co-sponsored or supported the resolution.

Japan hopes that the concrete measures proposed by the resolution will contribute to global efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, engaging nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear weapons States alike in this endeavour.

I thank you, Madam President, for your kind attention.

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