



**Statement by Ambassador ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament**

**Second Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2026 NPT Review Conference
- Cluster I Specific Issue: Nuclear disarmament and security assurances -
25 July 2024, Geneva**

Mr. Chair,

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. Such tragedy must never be repeated again.

At the signing of the NPT in 1970, Japan underscored that, "the nuclear-weapon States must not have recourse to use of nuclear weapons or threaten to use such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States" in its statement.

The primordial importance of continuing the record of non-use of nuclear weapons was also stressed in the "Hiroshima Action Plan" announced by Japanese Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio at the NPT Review Conference in 2022.

Japan urges all States to make every effort to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again and refrain from any threats of use of nuclear weapons. Japan urges the Russian Federation to honor its own commitments and its declared obligation in terms of security assurances, including those related to nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

Japan believes that effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat to use nuclear weapons could serve as a step towards our ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Japan recognizes the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the NPT that are in compliance with their nuclear-non-proliferation obligations to receive proper security assurances. To ensure that NSAs contribute to reducing the role of nuclear weapons, realistic, practical and focused discussions based on comprehensive assessments of the security environment are necessary.

Japan believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones can contribute to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime. As noted in Action 9 of the 2010 Action Plan, we encourage the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the states of the region concerned, and in accordance with the 1999 Guidelines of the Disarmament Commission. The commitments, undertaken by nuclear-weapon States by signing and ratifying relevant protocols that contain negative security assurances, will contribute to further improving the security environment and to strengthening the global non-proliferation regime.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

(END)