



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

**Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro,
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Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference
on Disarmament
at the NPT Review Conference, Meeting of Main Committee I
(5 August 2022)**

Mr. Vice-chair,

I would first like to congratulate you, Ambassador Thomas Göbel, on your assumption of the important responsibility of Vice-chair of Main Committee I. The Japanese delegation is ready to lend you and the Presidency our utmost support as you steer the work of this Committee.

Mr. Vice-chair,

It has already been 76 years since the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ever since that day, Japan assigned to itself a mission to take the lead in international efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. It is essential to make sure that the horrors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings are never repeated.

Accurately understanding the realities of the consequences of nuclear weapon use, including through listening to and interacting with the hibakusha, must be the starting point of all nuclear disarmament efforts.

Mr. Vice-chair,

The NPT is the cornerstone for global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture and for our efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. However, the very core values of the NPT regime have been seriously threatened and challenged by the words and actions by the Russian Federation in the course of its aggression against Ukraine, which Japan strongly condemns. It is completely unacceptable that a nuclear weapon state imposes its political will upon a non-nuclear weapon state with a thinly-veiled threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The series of actions and statements by Russia also run counter to the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances. Paragraph 2 of the Memorandum reaffirms the obligation to “refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine”. Japan urges the Russian Federation to honor its own commitments and its declared obligation in terms of security assurances, including related to nuclear weapons.

Mr. Vice-chair,

It is precisely because of this sense of urgency that Prime Minister Kishida highlighted 5 immediate actions, in his “Hiroshima Action Plan” speech at the General Debate this week. Let me succinctly elaborate those 5 actions.

First, we must extend the record of the non-use of nuclear weapons. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a clear violation of international law. The threat of use of nuclear weapons, such as that recently made by Russia, let alone the use of them, must never be tolerated.

Nuclear weapon States must honor, not by words, but by actions, their crucial commitment that "*a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought*", as stated in the Joint Statement issued by their respective leaders in January.

Second is the enhancement of transparency. Transparency will help us correctly understand whether we are moving towards a world without nuclear weapons by establishing a base line. In particular, we call on nuclear-weapon States to disclose information, including quantitative ones related to production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Thirdly, we must commit ourselves to make sure that the declining global trend in the number of nuclear weapons must not be reversed. Without at least maintaining this declining trend, a world without nuclear weapons cannot be achieved.

In this vein, we support the dialogue between the United States and Russia towards further reductions in nuclear weapons and encourage all nuclear-weapon States, including China, to engage in good faith in dialogue on nuclear disarmament and arms control.

Fourthly, we should redouble our efforts to raise awareness of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons. Concerns over the use of nuclear weapons has reinforced the urgent need of the accurate understanding of the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

Japan attaches great importance to visits by leaders, youth and others to communities affected by nuclear weapons. In this connection, we welcome the recent visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki by political leaders and the upcoming visit to Hiroshima by United Nations Secretary-General H.E. Mr. António Guterres.

Lastly, we need to enlarge the circle of torchbearers for a world without nuclear weapons to future generations. To this end, Prime Minister KISHIDA announced this Monday a contribution of ten million dollars towards the establishment of the “Youth Leader Fund for a world without nuclear weapons” in collaboration with the United Nations.

Mr. Vice-chair,

While these are immediate actions that need to be taken in the face of Russian aggression of Ukraine, over the past years, we have been making efforts for building consensus at this Conference by proposing elements to be included in a final consensus document.

Along with the proposals by the NPDI and the Stockholm Initiative, these elements can also be found in the Japan-led resolution adopted last year with 158 “yes” votes at the UN General Assembly entitled “Joint courses of

action and future-oriented dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons”.

This resolution identifies six concrete measures for nuclear disarmament on which both nuclear weapons States and non-nuclear weapons States can and should work together immediately. These measures are: (A) the early entry into force of the CTBT, (B) immediate commencement of negotiations on an FMCT, (C) transparency, (D) nuclear disarmament verification, (E) nuclear risk reduction and (F) disarmament and non-proliferation education. This resolution proposes several possible languages to be included in a final document, including reference to the commitments made in the past NPT Review Conferences.

These are the elements that Japan believes to be the closest to consensual language. As the drafter, we hope the language from this Resolution regarding these six measures be integrated into the final document.

Mr. Vice-chair,

The NPT is at an inflection point. Japan, along with all other willing members, is determined to firmly uphold the NPT together with other countries as its guardian. We will not spare any efforts to ensure that this NPT Review Conference will achieve a meaningful outcome.

I thank you, Mr. Vice-chair.