DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Statement by ICHIKAWA Tomiko
Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
At the First Committee of the 81st Session of the General Assembly
-- General Debate --
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Thank you, Mr. Chair.
I would first like to congratulate you, Ambassador Lok Bahadur Thapa, on your election as Chair of the First Committee, and assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,
This year's NPT Review Conference was held amid an increasingly severe security environment and deep divisions within the international community. While the States Parties could not reach consensus on an outcome document, the intensive deliberations undertaken at the Conference demonstrated the unwavering commitment of the States Parties to the NPT and strengthening of its implementation.

Japan is seriously concerned about the advancement of the DPRK's nuclear and missile development and its military cooperation with Russia. It is essential for the international community to be united and fully implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. Japan urges Pyongyang to abide by all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and fully comply with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Mr. Chair,
The tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki must never be repeated. Japan has assigned to itself the mission of taking the lead in international efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. In this spirit, my delegation will submit a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly 1st Committee, titled “Common steps towards a world without nuclear weapons”. The resolution seeks to encourage the international community to move forward together, by focusing on realistic and practical measures. Japan hopes to obtain the widest possible support from Member States.

Mr. Chair,
The use of biological or chemical weapons is unacceptable under any circumstances. Japan actively participates in the Working Group on strengthening the BWC, now in the final year of its current mandate, and supports the OPCW's efforts to address concerns over the use of chemical weapons in recent years.

Mr. Chair,
Urgent action is needed to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Together with Colombia and South Africa, Japan ~~will~~ submitted a draft resolution on "the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" and strongly hopes that this resolution will be adopted by consensus again this year to demonstrate our collective commitment.

Japan has been a staunch supporter of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and its core objective. Japan, together with Zambia and Belgium, ~~will~~ submitted a draft resolution on "Implementation of the APMBC" and calls for the widest support to it.

Mr. Chair,
We are also facing a pressing need to address a number of challenges deriving from the development of new technologies and new domains.

Japan considers that military use of emerging technologies should be examined comprehensively, taking into account both humanitarian considerations and security perspectives. Japan believes it essential to continue substantive discussions on LAWS under the CCW framework. We strongly hope that the upcoming Review Conference can form a common ground to enable the CCW to advance its work based on the consensus achieved at the GGE LAWS.

Japan welcomes the ongoing discussion at the PAROS Open-Ended Working Group. Japan strongly supports the continuation of discussions on reducing space threats through norms, rules, and principles of responsible behavior with the aim of seeking a common ground among Member States.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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