



DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

(Check against delivery)

Statement by OGASAWARA Ichiro
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative
of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
CD Plenary, January 27, 2022

Mr President,

First of all, let me congratulate you, Ambassador LI Song, on your assumption of the first Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to our new colleagues at the CD. I also would like to thank the Secretariat for enabling us to carry out our activities smoothly despite all the difficulties we are facing due to COVID-19. Japan hopes that the Conference will adopt as early as possible a program of work under your able chairmanship so that the CD will be able to resume its role as a single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

As for the issue of the participation of non-member States to this august body, I believe that the participation of a greater number of UN Members contributes to making the CD's work more relevant to the international community, since its future outcomes will inevitably be universal in nature.

Building upon the previous work of the CD, we need to prioritize its substantive work 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. Japan will also remain strongly committed to the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and will spare no efforts to this end. In this regard, Japan urges all non-signatory States, including the remaining States listed in annex 2 to the CTBT, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay. Japan is ready and willing to join collective efforts in this august body so that we can resume substantive work and the Conference can fulfill its unique important mandate.

Mr. President,

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-

proliferation regime. It is unfortunate that the tenth NPT Review Conference was postponed again due to the pandemic. The Review Conference is an opportunity of critical importance to promote our efforts toward “a world without nuclear weapons”. Japan underlines that the Review Conference should be convened at the earliest possible date in conditions conducive to meaningful outcomes. We should keep and further increase momentum for the Review Conference.

In this regard, Japan welcomes the statement by which the leaders of all five nuclear-weapons States affirmed for the first time in history that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, since this will contribute to increasing momentum for realizing a world without nuclear weapons.

Japan also welcomes the extension of the New START Treaty and looks forward to development of the Strategic Stability Dialogue between the United States and the Russian Federation. Japan stresses the need for future arms control measures that involve other countries and a wider range of weapon systems.

For keeping and further increasing momentum for the NPT Review Conference, Japan and the United States released the Japan-U.S. Joint Statement on NPT and the significance of the Treaty was underscored by the Japan-U.S. summit video teleconference meeting, on January 21st 2022. As expressed in the statement, *“Japan and the United States wholly reaffirm their commitment to the NPT, which has been the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament for 51 years since coming into force.”*

At the same time, the Statement stresses that *“Japan and the United States are realistic about the danger the world faces today”* and that *“[t]he 40-year long decline in global nuclear arsenals must be sustained and not reversed.”*

On January 17th 2022, during the Policy Speech to the Diet, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio of Japan expressed that he would establish the “International Group of Eminent Persons for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons” in order to further develop the discussions of the “Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament”, a group he had founded during his tenure as Minister for Foreign Affairs. We aim to convene the first meeting of this Group in Hiroshima sometime this year. We expect candid discussions on how to pave the way to realize a world without nuclear weapons by incumbent and former political leaders from

both nuclear and non-nuclear countries, sharing thoughts and experiences beyond their national positions.

As one of its important continuous efforts on nuclear disarmament, Japan submitted to the first committee of the UN General Assembly last year the draft resolution entitled “Joint courses of action and future-oriented dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons”, which was adopted with 158 supporting votes, including from three nuclear-weapons States, namely, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. We would like to express our appreciation to the countries that co-sponsored the resolution and to other supporting countries. We hope that the middle ground language provided by the resolution contribute to the meaningful outcome of the upcoming NPT Review Conference.

Mr. President,

With regard to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, we hope to conduct appropriate discussions on outer space in order to address the increasing risks for the sustainable and stable use of outer space, taking into account the resolution “Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours”, adopted by the UN General Assembly.
Mr, President,

North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons and missiles, including the recent series of ballistic missile launches, poses a serious challenge to the international community. Japan reaffirms its strong commitment to the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all North Korea’s all weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges. Japan urges North Korea to abide by all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and return at an early date to full compliance with the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Thank you, Mr President.