

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. KIYOTO TSUJI,
PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF JAPAN
2019 High Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament
27 February 2019, Geneva, Switzerland**

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Excellency's,

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), it is a privilege to address this august body, and I would like to congratulate you, H.E. Mr. Aidan Liddle, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the Conference on Disarmament, on your assumption of the Presidency. I assure you the full support and cooperation of my delegation. I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr. Michael Møller, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and his team for their support for the work of the Conference.

Mr. President,

Since the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the vision for a safer world free of nuclear weapons has been a shared goal of the

international community. As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan knows how catastrophic the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons would be. Japan has a responsibility to lead international efforts towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. The year 2020 is going to be a critical year, as it is the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the 2020 NPT Review Conference will take place. The international community faces challenges on how to advance nuclear disarmament substantially under the increasingly complex international security environment. We all need to work together at this important juncture.

Mr. President,

To establish common ground while converging different approaches, a dialogue engaging both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states is necessary. The CD is the single multilateral negotiating forum where both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states are its members. It is a shared responsibility of all CD members to achieve tangible results as it did before. We need to make this council chamber a place in which members are flexible and willing to understand the different positions in order to find solutions.

Mr. President,

Japan has been working hard to advance practical measures under the cooperation of both nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states, while striking a balance between the necessity to avoid the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and the real security threats. Recognizing the importance of bridge-building in re-establishing trust among countries with divergent views, Japan has established the “Group of Eminent Persons for Substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament (EPG).” In fact, I attended the third meeting of the EPG held in Nagasaki in November of last year. During the meeting, members of the EPG discussed concrete measures to advance nuclear disarmament as well as “hard questions” regarding the relationship between disarmament and security from medium to long-term perspectives. The discussion under the EPG needs to be further deepened. Japan will also make efforts to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation towards the 2020 NPT Review Conference with close cooperation with the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiatives (NPDI) members.

Mr. President,

Japan welcomes the launch of the United Nations Secretary General’s agenda for disarmament - as it demonstrates the United Nations’ active engagement for disarmament. The launch is timely as the agenda covers not only traditional disarmament and non-proliferation issues, but

also new challenges which could have serious implications on international security and disarmament, such as emerging technologies and lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS). Japan also stresses the importance of the younger generation's engagement in disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, which Japan wishes to continue its cooperation with the United Nations in this endeavor.

Mr. President,

I sincerely hope that we, the CD members, will carry on the efforts of disarmament and non-proliferation with a strong and renewed determination in which our work here will give hope for future generations. Currently, in the CD, the President of the Conference, H.E. Ambassador Liddle of the UK, circulated a draft proposal for a Decision of the Conference to establish Subsidiary Bodies and Special Coordinators for the 2019 session. We believe it is important to remind ourselves to work with agility, in which Japan will continue to support. Finally, Japan is committed to making the utmost efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, in cooperation with the Presidents of the CD, the Secretariat, as well as all its members.