

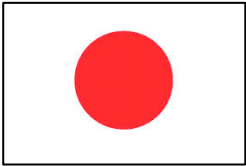
**Statement by Ambassador OGASAWARA Ichiro**  
**Permanent Representative of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament**  
**Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament**  
**Thematic discussion on education and research**  
**1 June 2023**

Madam President,

Let me begin by thanking you for convening today's plenary meeting for a thematic debate on education and research in the field of disarmament, that seems particularly pertinent to CD's work today.

The Government of Japan attaches primordial importance to our efforts to pass on experiences of the devastation and humanitarian consequences of using nuclear weapons in Hiroshima and Nagasaki across the borders and to future generations. Last month, the leaders of the G7 countries, including three nuclear-weapon States, met in Hiroshima for the G7 Summit. I believe that the G7 leaders' visit to Hiroshima as well as "Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament" that they issued on that occasion are deeply meaningful for further promoting our shared goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In the Hiroshima Vision, the leaders of the G7 underscored the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education and outreach.

Japan is of the view since long that disarmament and non-proliferation education is a useful and effective means to achieving our common goal, a world

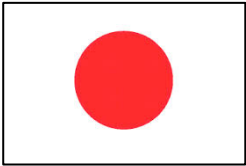


without nuclear weapons. To this end, it is essential to raise public awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, of the threat of diverse risks posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as of steps required to overcome these challenges. Such education should also nurture critical thinking skills that enable people to consider how to make progress in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as to protect themselves from threats arising from incidents of malfunction or violation of these norms and rules. Such critical thinking skills become all the more important since today we are constantly exposed to a danger of foreign information manipulation, including disinformation.

Madam President,

At the 10th NPT Review Conference in August last year, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio announced Japan's intention to contribute toward establishing the "Youth Leader Fund for a World Without Nuclear Weapons" as a part of our efforts under the "Hiroshima Action Plan" that he presented at the Conference. The primary goal of this program is to bring future leaders from both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States to Japan to learn first-hand the realities of nuclear weapons use. It also aims to create a global network of diverse international cohorts of future leaders and other key actors from governments, civil society, education, academia, media, industry, and other sectors.

Thanks to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the



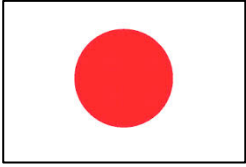
program will start in 2023 and culminate in 2030 – a year marked by the 85th year from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 60th anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT. The eight-year period will be divided into 4 phases, each phase consists of two years. Over the course of two years, the selected participants will receive training in general principles of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control through online courses, with a selected cohort going on a week-long in-person study tour to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Application is now open for this new program. The UNODA and the Government of Japan are calling on young people to apply for an innovative learning program.

Madam President,

Regarding the United Nations Program of Fellowships on Disarmament, Japan invites the participants of this program to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and 958 participants have visited so far since its creation at the Second UN Special Session on Disarmament at the UN General Assembly in 1982. Japan continues to support this fellowship program organized by UNODA with visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Japan has also had the pleasure of leading and delivering the Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education at the 10th NPT Review Conference in 2022, on behalf of 89 State Parties. This is the largest number of countries subscribing to this Joint Statement delivered at the NPT



DELEGATION OF JAPAN  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Review Conference since the first.

I am very pleased that the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education has been further recognized in recent years. Japan plans to submit a relevant working paper at the First Preparatory Committee to be held in August, and will continue to contribute to the discussions to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education.

I thank you, Madam President, for your kind attention.

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