

Draft Statement by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations  
at the United Nations Disarmament Commission 2016

April 4, 2016

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the newly elected members of the UNDC Bureau. I assure you and the Bureau members the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

The UNDC was once renowned as the leading deliberative UN body in the field of disarmament. However, it has remained in deadlock for about 16 years now. Although Japan will continue to actively participate in the UNDC, all of us here should be aware that the lack of substantive outcome in this body has put its *raison d'être* into serious question, and we should cooperate to find a way to revitalize its work.

Mr. Chairperson,

Looking back on the recent situation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it is Japan's concern that, as a result of discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and effective measures on nuclear disarmament, the rift between the nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States seems to have widened.

Japan has consistently stated that to promote nuclear disarmament, practical and concrete measures with the cooperation between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States are necessary. Japan ascribes importance to the following measures, among others, as practical and concrete measures:

- enhanced transparency of nuclear forces,
- deeper reduction of all types of nuclear weapons by all States that possess nuclear weapons and eventual multilateralization of nuclear weapons reduction negotiations,
- early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT),
- early commencement and conclusion of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT), and
- promotion of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV).

With regard to the CTBT, last September, Japan, together with Kazakhstan, now acts as Co-Coordinator of Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT. Japan will continue to strongly call for the early ratification of the CTBT by all Annex II States, and to work to facilitate the CTBT's early entry into force. All the moratoria on nuclear testing must be maintained pending the Treaty's entry into force.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is of our view that nuclear disarmament must be promoted based on two understandings, a clear understanding of the humanitarian impacts of the use of nuclear weapons and the objective assessment of the reality of the security situation.

Japan, more than any other country, fully and directly understands the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Japan has long been working very hard to spread the awareness of the reality of the devastation that occurred in Hiroshima and Nagasaki across national borders and generations and to deepen its understanding. Awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons fundamentally underpins all nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

In terms of security, despite the repeated calls by the international community, the DPRK conducted the fourth nuclear test in January this year and launched ballistic missiles in February and March. The series of provocations in a short range of time seriously undermine the peace and security of Northeast Asia, as well as the international community. They are serious violations of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) and the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks of September 2005. Furthermore, they represent a serious challenge to the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the NPT. Thus, Japan lodges a serious protest against the DPRK, and strongly condemns its nuclear test and missile launches. Japan reiterates its strong demand for the DPRK to immediately and fully implement relevant UNSCRs, in particular the most recently adopted UNSCR 2270, and other commitments. Such a severe security environment must always be taken into consideration in promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

As a basis for promoting above-mentioned concrete and practical nuclear disarmament measures based on two understandings, it is imperative to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime. In order to strengthen the NPT regime, it is vital to achieve a meaningful outcome at the 2020 NPT Review Conference. Seizing every opportunity, Japan will make utmost efforts to this end through the 2020 NPT review process starting from the next year.

This year Japan holds the presidency of the G7, and will host the Foreign Minister's Meeting in Hiroshima on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of April and Summit Meeting in Ise-Shima in May. Making best use of these opportunities, Japan will work to make progress towards the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

Addressing the enormous damage caused by conventional arms continues to be of utmost importance for the international community. This is an area in which UN leadership is needed. Japan has been supportive of the greater role of the UN in this field.

In this regard, I would like to refer to two significant challenges that UN Member States will need to confront in the coming months.

First, Japan considers it very important to ensure that the Arms Trade Treaty is effectively implemented and also universally concluded. We would like to encourage all UN member states to conclude the ATT. As one of the original co-author states of the resolution that initiated the ATT process, Japan will actively work with other Member States and civil society to achieve the effective implementation of the Treaty.

Second, Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons will provide an important opportunity to advance UN efforts to tackle enduring problems of the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. Japan highly commends Ambassador Rattray, Chair-designate of the BMS6, for the transparent and efficient manner in which he has been conducting preparatory work towards the Conference in June. Japan will continue to engage actively to achieve a successful outcome at the BMS6.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last but not least, in order to make a positive impact on the UN disarmament machinery, now is the time for us to consider how we can revitalize the UNDC so that it can produce beneficial guidelines and recommendations on disarmament and non-proliferation, in accordance with its original mandate. For this purpose, Japan will continue to provide all support it can to the Chairperson and to contribute to productive deliberations in this important body.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.