



**Statement by the Delegation of Japan
At the United Nations Disarmament Commission 2025
8 April 2025**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

At the outset, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to congratulate you, Minister Mr. José Pereira of Paraguay on the assumption of the Chairmanship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and assure you of our full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

This year marks 80 years since we witnessed the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These catastrophes must never be repeated. As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan has assigned itself the mission of taking the lead in international efforts to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

However, the path towards this common goal is becoming more severe, given serious challenges posed to the international security environment. Russia's nuclear threats, let alone any use of nuclear weapons, in the context of the situation in Ukraine are absolutely unacceptable.

In the Indo-Pacific region, the security environment is rapidly becoming grimmer. Military buildups, including of nuclear weapons and missiles, are rapidly advancing around Japan

without transparency or meaningful dialogue, coupled with mounting pressures by unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion.

Moreover, Japan remains seriously concerned about the advancement of North Korea's nuclear and missile activities and its military cooperation with Russia. Japan reiterates its strong commitment to the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of all of the DPRK's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles of all ranges and urges Pyongyang to abide by all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and fully comply with NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Mr. Chair,

Against this backdrop, Japan will spare no efforts to realize a world without nuclear weapons. Japan continues to take a realistic and practical approach to nuclear disarmament in cooperation with both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States under the "Hiroshima Action Plan," which entails (1) continuing the record of non-use of nuclear weapons, (2) enhancing transparency of nuclear forces, (3) maintaining the decreasing trend of the global nuclear stockpile, (4) securing nuclear non-proliferation and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and (5) promoting an accurate understanding on the realities of nuclear weapons use through visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The NPT is the cornerstone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Japan is determined to constructively engage in the NPT review process to bring about a successful 2026 NPT Review Conference including the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee, which is scheduled soon after this UNDC session.

Japan has been submitting UN General Assembly resolutions on the elimination of nuclear weapons every year since 1994 and

they have been adopted with wide support from the UN membership.

Mr. Chair,

Japan reemphasizes the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, or FMCT. We view this as a matter of urgency to avoid a possible reversal of the continued downward trend of the number of nuclear weapons. We should build on substantial discussions accumulated over three decades and gather collective wisdom to break this impasse without any further delay. To this end, Japan is determined to continue its efforts to heighten political momentum for commencing negotiations on the FMCT. Pending the entry into force of such a treaty, Japan calls upon all relevant States to declare or maintain moratoriums on fissile material production for the aforementioned purposes.

Furthermore, Japan remains strongly committed to the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Japan urges all States, particularly the remaining States listed in its Annex 2, to sign and ratify the CTBT, and, pending its entry into force, urges all relevant States to declare or maintain existing moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions.

Japan also underlines the importance of transparency as the foundation of all nuclear disarmament measures. In an era of heightened tension and diverging positions, enhancing transparency, including on nuclear forces by nuclear-weapon States, could contribute to building trust and fostering a conducive environment for further progress in nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

In addition to disarmament measures, responsible engagement with the arms control framework is of benefit for the international community. In this context, we urge the Russian Federation to return to full implementation of the New START Treaty. Further, Japan expresses strong hope for dialogues leading to the development of a broader framework of arms control, which involves not only the U.S. and Russia but other countries and covers a wider range of weapons systems.

Mr. Chair,

With regards to military use of emerging technologies, Japan considers that it should be examined in a comprehensive manner, with a sufficient understanding of the risks and benefits, and taking into account both humanitarian considerations and a security perspective. In the course of such examinations, Japan places importance on military use of emerging technologies being conducted in a responsible manner, maintaining the "human-centric" principle and ensuring reliability and predictability.

We welcome further discussions to deepen our understanding and promote responsible behavior in this area. In addition, Japan reiterates our commitment to accelerate consensus building on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) within the framework of the the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). In this regard, ensuring effectiveness of the rules is essential, and Japan strongly supports the fulfilment of the 2023 consensus mandate of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of LAWS, which the High Contracting Parties are taking forward under the skillful stewardship of Ambassador Robert in den Bosch.

Japan also underlines the importance of deepening common understandings of emerging technologies in the context of international security in order to increase trust and prevent

misunderstandings and miscalculations. We look forward to having meaningful discussions during this UNDC session.

Mr. Chair,

Japan also firmly believes that outer space must remain a domain free of nuclear weapons and that it is our common responsibility to fully comply with the existing legal frameworks, including the Outer Space Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

Japan will endeavor to ensure, in cooperation with the Chair and Member States, that this year's session of the UNDC, which is the second year of the current triennial cycle, leads to a positive outcome.

Thank you for your kind attention.