Explanation of Vote by Ambassador Kuniko Inoguchi
on "Nuclear Disarmament"
(A/54/58/L.47)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to explain Japan’s abstention in the voting on the draft resolution contained in document A/54/58/L.47 entitled, “Nuclear Disarmament”.

Mr. Chairman,

As I stated in my “explanation of vote” on draft resolution L.31 concerning the advisory opinion of the IJC, it is Japan’s fervent desire and firm conviction that the use of nuclear weapons should never be repeated, and that continuous efforts should be made towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

Having said that, as far the draft resolution L.47 is concerned, I would like to state the following:

My delegation takes note of a number of positive elements concerning nuclear disarmament in this resolution. For example, it contains a reference to the NPT as the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. My delegation also appreciates that this draft resolution incorporates some of the steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference.

However, this draft resolution does not command the full support of my government, and my delegation made the difficult choice of abstaining in the voting. One of the reasons for this is that the draft resolution contains the elements of a specified time-frame for nuclear disarmament.

My delegation firmly believes that the steps towards nuclear disarmament should be realistic and progressive, with the involvement of the nuclear-weapon states from the very beginning of the process. Therefore, my delegation would prefer to see a different approach
from that proposed in this resolution towards the shared goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.