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**United Nations Disarmament Commission
2007 annual session**

STATEMENT

delivered by Mr. Kentaro MINAMI

**Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament
(General exchange of views)**

Introduction

At the outset, allow me to extend my delegation's warmest congratulations to the chairman, Ambassador Rosselli, and the bureau countries on their assumption of these important posts to the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). Your roles are crucially important to our work to produce meaningful and concrete recommendations next year based on our deliberations in the current session. We believe continuing the active debates of last year is critical to achieving this. The Japanese delegation, which strongly hopes the UNDC will make every effort this year to demonstrate to the international community it is fully performing its mandated function, assures the chair of our strong support in his endeavors to steer this year's session to a successful outcome.

The meaning of this session

Mr. Chairman,

The international community is facing numerous difficulties to the steady and effective advancement of global disarmament. These difficulties will by no means be simple to overcome. For realizing humanity's earnest wish of a more peaceful and secure world, however, we must further strengthen our efforts to date, and take steady, step-by-step measures for achieving this goal. If we look back at the past 12 months following our last deliberations, we can perceive a new breath of life being injected into the field of disarmament. A number of these positive movements deserve mention.

In the area of weapons of mass destruction, the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) that took place in Geneva last year was hailed as a success. The normalization of the BWC process is particularly noteworthy since it had been unable to adopt a final document for more than a decade. In the area of conventional weapons, at the Third Review Conference of the CCW held in November last year, the states parties unanimously adopted a final document that included commitments towards the implementation of the Convention and compliance with its obligations. Furthermore, in December an overwhelming majority of UN Member States in the General Assembly adopted the new draft resolution on Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which Japan was a co-author.

Likewise, at the Conference on Disarmament, it was reassuring that the focused and substantive debates of the 2006 session have been actively continued this year. Japan strongly hopes that the P6 proposal currently on the table will be adopted as early as possible to get the CD back to substantive work as the "single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum". To that end, we encourage all CD member states to take a forward-looking approach while displaying the necessary flexibility.

Mr. Chairman,

In light of these positive developments in the field of disarmament, it is apparent that considerable expectations have been brought to bear on the UN Disarmament Commission. In order to further accelerate this momentum in the disarmament field, we must carry out positive and active deliberations over the next three weeks towards an agreement on beneficial recommendations next year. We must demonstrate, whenever necessary, the flexibility for achieving this goal. We cannot allow any negative influence on the current momentum. This means we assume a great responsibility, and each country should bear this in mind throughout the current session.

Nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation (WG1) and Conventional Weapons (WG2)

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the issues of nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation and conventional weapons, I would like to restate my country's basic position in my general statement today. I will detail my country's specific and concrete ideas on each agenda item within the respective working groups.

Mr. Chairman,

As the only country to suffer atomic bombing, nuclear disarmament has consistently been Japan's top priority. Japan's position is clearly represented by our UN General Assembly resolution on nuclear disarmament, which advocates a realistic and gradual approach towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The adoption last year by 167 UN Member States is clear evidence that the international community shares this position.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is being confronted by a variety of challenges. Nevertheless, the NPT still remains the cornerstone to the realization of international nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. The next NPT Review process, which will commence this month, is extremely important given that the 2005 Review Conference was unable to reach agreement on a substantial Outcome Document. It was reassuring, therefore, that the participants to the NPT Seminar in February hosted by Japan, collectively recognized the importance of maintaining the reliability of the NPT. To guide the 2010 Review Conference towards a successful outcome, constructive discussions are required in the first round of the NPT Preparatory Committee, and Japan is ready to fulfill its role as the chair designate.

Mr. Chairman,

As one of the main supporting pillars of the NPT regime, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is of great significance. Along with jointly convening a CTBT Friends Foreign Minister Meeting here in New York in September last year, Japan has been

making additional efforts to promote the entry into force of the CTBT, such as inviting a delegation from a country, which has yet to ratify the Treaty, to visit Japan in January this year. We once again call upon all the countries that have yet to sign or ratify the CTBT to do so at the earliest possible opportunity. Japan is determined to continue its work to heighten the momentum towards the fifth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT in September this year.

Furthermore, Japan will maintain and strengthen its active engagements in this field within the G8 Global Partnership. Disarmament and nonproliferation education will also be continued and encouraged. In addition, Japan will make every effort to further strengthen nuclear security through effective ways such as the universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol.

From the perspective of promoting these aforesaid disarmament efforts, Japan reiterates its condemnation of the nuclear test by the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK), and emphasizes that a nuclear armed DPRK cannot be tolerated. Although the agreement at the Six Party Talks in February is progress towards the DPRK abandoning their nuclear weapons programme, efforts for the full implementation of the Joint Statement in September should be continued.

Mr. Chairman,

The necessity of confidence building among states must be emphasized as an effective approach to tackling conventional weapons, which are actually causing much of the day-to-day destruction around the world. From this perspective, Japan is very pleased that the UN Conventional Arms Register, which is based on our 1991 UNGA resolution entitled "Transparency in Armaments", has become well-established as one of the vital international instruments for promoting confidence among states.

In the first part of this year's CD session, vigorous discussions were carried out on transparency in armaments. During these deliberations the delegation of Japan pointed out the relationship between the UN Arms Register and the current efforts to create an Arms Trade Treaty. That is, ensuring the responsible transfer of weapons through an ATT, and duly registering those transfers through the UN Arms Register, would further improve the reliability of the Register itself. In this light, an ATT and the UN Arms Register are closely connected as practical measures for enhancing international confidence building. At the Tokyo Workshop on SAIW hosted by Japan last month, participants from each region of the world also undertook a beneficial exchange of views on an ATT in the context of effective measures for transfer controls. While continuing to work toward accomplishing the goal of ensuring the responsible transfer of conventional weapons through an Arms Trade Treaty, Japan is committed to cooperating with each country to build greater confidence among states.

These actions being taken reflect Japan's basic position, which attaches great importance to the UN framework in dealing with disarmament and nonproliferation. Japan would like to take this opportunity to repeat its belief that effective disarmament and

nonproliferation will be secured through a multilateral approach that reaches agreement among Member States, including those that produce and possess weapons, particularly in the discussions on conventional weapons, which are closely connected to national security.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman,

It is widely known that Japan, as the only country to suffer nuclear attack, strongly desires that such events will never occur again anywhere on the earth. Without even mentioning the example of the resolutions on nuclear disarmament and on small arms and light weapons, Japan is working tirelessly to promote disarmament and nonproliferation as a central pillar to our international diplomacy.

Consequently, Japan welcomes the recently adopted resolution on strengthening the capacity of the Organization to advance the disarmament agenda (A/61/L.55). We hope this resolution will contribute to greater efficiency in advancing the disarmament agenda, including the activities of the UNDC. Furthermore, while steadily implementing the six measures recommended for improving the effectiveness of the Commission's methods of work agreed on at last year's UNDC, we must fulfill our primary task of assisting the construction of a peaceful and stable international community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.