



## *Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

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### United Nations Disarmament Commission 2009 Annual Session

Statement by H.E. Mr. Norihiro Okuda  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations  
(General Exchange of Views)

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by expressing my congratulations to Ambassador Andrzej Towpik of Poland, on his assumption of the post of Chair of the UN Disarmament Commission. I would also like to congratulate bureau members on their election. This year's session of the UN Disarmament Commission marks a new departure, and Japan pledges to extend its utmost support to all of you.

The international community is currently under threat of nuclear weapons development, as demonstrated by one country's unilateral declaration of withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and proclamation of nuclear testing. We are also threatened by nuclear terrorism as well as the potential risks of covert nuclear weapons development under the guise of the exercise of the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, which is built upon the NPT, is thus faced with grave challenges. Furthermore, despite international initiatives, including the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, the development and spread of ballistic missiles, which can be a means of delivery for nuclear weapons, continue to be a matter of concern.

Based on this awareness, Japan, as the only country ever to have suffered nuclear bombings, believes that a first step towards the total elimination of these weapons is for the entire globe to go beyond the positions of nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapons States and embrace the vision of "a world free of nuclear weapons". To achieve that goal, we should implement nuclear disarmament by taking a practical and incremental approach.

From this point of view, Japan submits annually to the UN General Assembly its resolution entitled “Renewed Determination towards the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons”, and we welcome the current intensification of global movements aimed at achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, which has been invigorated through the recent joint statements of the Presidents of the United States and Russia and President Obama’s speech in Prague calling for “a world without nuclear weapons”.

For the practical and incremental approach, we would like firstly to highlight the importance of confronting the aforementioned challenges to the NPT regime. In order to enhance the credibility of the NPT, it is also vital for all nuclear-weapon States to faithfully implement their nuclear disarmament obligations under Article VI of the Treaty. In this connection, we welcome the agreement at the US-Russia summit meeting to conclude negotiations for a new treaty to succeed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I (START I) by the end of this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Concerning the NPT itself, the success of next year’s review conference is a short-term imperative, and Japan is making efforts to contribute to a positive outcome, for example, by submitting working papers to last year’s Preparatory Committee, including one related to nuclear disarmament with a focus on improving transparency. In addition, universalization of the NPT is essential. Moreover, we anticipate that the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), which was launched by Japan and Australia as a joint initiative and is a second-track enterprise involving various eminent persons, will produce a meaningful and action-oriented report for the success of the Review Conference.

The realization of the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is also important, and we strongly hope that all the Annex 2 countries, including the United States and China, will ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

For the purpose of the early commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty at the Conference on Disarmament (CD), Japan calls for the cooperation of all CD Member States to this end. Pending the entry into force of such a treaty, we urge all the nuclear-weapon States and non-NPT States Parties to declare a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Mr. Chairman,

I would now like to turn our attention to the issue of regional non-proliferation and WMD development. The early realization of the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through the Six-Party Talks is critically important for peace and stability in Northeast Asia. Recently, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), disregarding the efforts of the international community, conducted a missile launch which was directly related to its ballistic missile development. This act, as indicated in the statement issued recently by the President of the United Nations Security Council, should be condemned, as it was clearly in contravention of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and damaging to regional peace and stability. Japan urges DPRK to comply fully with its obligations under those resolutions, by taking concrete actions toward the comprehensive resolution of the nuclear and missile issues.

Additionally, the international community faces a grave challenge from the potential risk of covert nuclear weapons development by non-nuclear States Parties to the NPT under the guise of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Japan is convinced that, if the aforementioned challenges are steadily addressed, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation will be comprehensively undertaken and the 2010s will have the potential to become a watershed decade for these issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan places great importance not only on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, but also on disarmament and non-proliferation in the fields of biological and chemical weapons and conventional weapons. We firmly believe that the building of systems for improving transparency is important. With this in mind, we take special note of discussions in the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Japan supports the idea of "responsible transfers", and hopes that a consensus will be formed on the essential elements of ATT in the OEWG.

This year, the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the UN Register of Conventional Arms is being held, and the meeting of the GGE on the Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures is scheduled for next year. Japan attaches significance to both GGE meetings, which will assess the effectiveness of the relevant instruments and should result in reports presenting recommendations for improved implementation.

It has been ten years since the entry into force of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Based on the view that there still remain challenges in its universalization, we call on the non-States Parties to reconsider the importance of the mine ban in the lead-up to the Second Review Conference.

We would like to extend our congratulations to the creation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Japan hopes that this convention will quickly enter into force, and to that end we are currently in the process of the Convention's ratification. At the same time, Japan also attaches great importance to the negotiations to create a new protocol within the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, in addition to the CCM.

In the area of small arms and light weapons, Japan is promoting the implementation of the Programme of Action through various measures including the UN General Assembly resolution that Japan submits each year.

Mr. Chairman,

As I previously stated, Japan believes the 2010s have the potential to become an epochal decade for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is encouraging that the declaration of a disarmament decade has become one of the topics to be discussed in this year's UNDC session. We hope that elements of a draft declaration will outline the broad areas of disarmament in a well-balanced manner. Japan also places great emphasis on disarmament and non-proliferation education, which focuses on the long-term future, and this should also be included in these elements.

The UNDC formerly produced various guidelines and recommendations. In recent years, however, there have been no substantive outcomes. Japan wishes that efforts will be made to move forward through productive discussions in the 2009 UNDC substantial session. In this respect, we support the Chairman's inclusive approach.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.