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Draft Statement by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

at the United Nations Disarmament Commission 2017

April 04, 2017

Madam Chair,

The UNDC has remained in deadlock for about 17 years, although it was once renowned as the leading deliberative UN body in the field of disarmament. Japan will continue to actively participate in the UNDC, however, 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 work together to find a way to reinvigorate it.

Madam Chair,

The recent developments in nuclear disarmament deliberations make us seriously concern that the rift between the nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States seems to have widened. Japan has consistently maintained that engagement of nuclear - weapon States, as the major stakeholders, is imperative in nuclear disarmament deliberations in order to carry out effective disarmament measures. Japan ascribes importance to the following measures, among others, as practical and concrete measures:

- enhancing transparency,
- early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT),
- early commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT), and
- development of nuclear disarmament verification measures.

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

The early commencement of negotiations on an FMCT is vital towards the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons. The adoption of the FMCT resolution by an overwhelming majority of states at the 71<sup>st</sup> United Nations General Assembly

demonstrates broad international recognition of the importance of an FMCT. Japan welcomes the establishment of high-level FMCT expert preparatory group, and will actively contribute to discussions at the group.

Madam Chair,

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings in wartime, we are of the 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.

Despite the repeated calls by the international community, the DPRK conducted two nuclear tests last year. In addition, the DPRK launched last year alone more than 20 ballistic missiles, including SLBMs. In 2017, the DPRK launched ballistic missiles on three occasions already, including those landed within Japan's exclusive economic zone. The series of nuclear tests and launches of ballistic missiles have brought the threat of the DPRK into a new level. Furthermore, they represent a serious challenge to the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the NPT. Thus, Japan condemns the DPRK in the strongest terms and urges it to immediately comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions and other commitments. All Member States have an obligation to strictly and fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2270 and 2321.

Madam Chair,

The NPT remains to be the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It is imperative to maintain and strengthen the NPT regime. To this end, it is vital to achieve a meaningful outcome at the 2020 NPT Review Conference. Japan will make utmost efforts to this end through the 2020 NPT review process starting from this year. Japan will, as a member of the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), continue to strengthen cooperation with other States and groups of States.

Madam Chair,

The issue of illicit transaction and proliferation of small arms and light weapons continues to pose a major threat to international peace and security.

Japan stresses the importance of continuous operation of the United Nations Programme of Action and the UN Register for Conventional Arms, and calls upon all Member States to provide data and information for these reporting frameworks.

The major challenge of the Arms Trade Treaty is its effective implementation and promotion of universalization. Japan will actively work with other Member States and civil society to achieve the effective implementation of the Treaty.

Rapid progress of science and industrial technology has placed great challenge in the field of conventional arms. Japan welcomes the establishment of the Group of Government Experts on the lethal autonomous weapons systems under the Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons, and will actively participate in the discussions.

Madam Chair,

Last but not least, it is time for us to work together to produce constructive outcome to make a positive impact on the UN disarmament machinery. Japan will endeavor to ensure that this final year of the current triennial cycle leads to a positive outcome.

I thank you, Madam Chair.

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