Explanation of vote by Ambassador Kuniko Inoguchi on L.43
"Nuclear Disarmament"

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to explain Japan's abstention in the voting on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/57/L.43 entitled "Nuclear Disarmament".

Mr. Chairman,

It is Japan's fervent desire that the use of nuclear weapons should not be repeated and that continuous efforts should be made towards achieving a safe world free of nuclear weapons. In this context, Japan regards the NPT as a cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and a foundation for the promotion of nuclear disarmament. However, the Treaty is facing the reality that there are States which are parties to the NPT but do not fully comply with it and States which operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, remaining outside the NPT. It is therefore of urgent priority for maintaining international peace and security to ensure full compliance by all States parties with this bedrock instrument as well as to promote its universality.

As far as the draft resolution L.43 is concerned, I would like to state the following:

This draft resolution rightly refers to the NPT as a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. My delegation also appreciates that it welcomes the positive outcome of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Japan firmly believes that the maintenance and strengthening of the NPT is essential to achieving a safe world free of nuclear weapons.

However, L.43 contains a reference to a specified time-frame for nuclear disarmament. My delegation firmly believes that steps for nuclear disarmament should be realistic and progressive with the engagement of the nuclear-weapon States from the very beginning of the process. Therefore, my country takes a different approach from this resolution towards the shared goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.