Mr. Chairman,

Recent developments in political and security situations pose a challenge for cooperative relations among states. In order to narrow this gap, we need to seriously consider what to do and how to proceed at this juncture.

First, we should be united in our efforts to maintain and strengthen the NPT, the most universal treaty and the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In particular, all States Parties should reaffirm their commitment and begin to take concrete steps based on the 2010 NPT Action Plan and past NPT agreements towards a successful outcome of the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Second, in order to fulfill Article VI obligations of the NPT, which is imperative to uphold the regime, all nuclear-weapon States must make further efforts to comply with this unequivocal undertaking. We call upon nuclear-weapon States to take the following actions, among others:
- To further reduce all types of nuclear weapons on a unilateral and bilateral basis, and eventually engage in multilateral negotiations with all nuclear-weapon States;
- To enhance transparency, including through regular reports with numerical information;
- To reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons and to enhance nuclear security in view of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences from the use of nuclear weapons.

Third, states which are not parties to the NPT should take concrete disarmament measures on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, Japan strongly urges these states to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon state at the earliest and without conditions.

Fourth, practical and concrete nuclear disarmament measures should proceed with constructive cooperation from all states.

- As for the CTBT, we call upon all countries, particularly, the remaining eight Annex II States to ratify the treaty.

- The final report of the High-Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group sets out a full-range of potential treaty elements, providing very useful signposts for future negotiators. We fully agree on the need to carry out further expert work, which should lead to actual negotiations. Moreover, until the entry into force of an FMCT, Japan strongly urges all nuclear-weapon States and states
possessing nuclear weapons to declare or maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

- Nuclear disarmament verification is indispensable to achieve transparent, verifiable, and irreversible reduction of nuclear weapons. Japan will continue to contribute to the activity of the GGE on this issue and the efforts of the IPNDV. These initiatives are important platforms where all states can work together to identify and apply measures and technologies necessary for verification.

- Promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education is imperative for us to pass on the threat of the diverse nuclear risks, the devastation that was caused by the use of nuclear weapons, and the necessary steps to overcome these challenges while encouraging developing critical thinking skills among young generations.

Fifth, nuclear disarmament and the security must move forward together. In this regard, in November, the third meeting of the EPG for substantive Advancement of Nuclear Disarmament will take place in Nagasaki to pursue a nuclear disarmament agenda, which will address hard questions about the relationship between security and disarmament.

Sixth, in parallel with nuclear disarmament, it is important to strengthen and maintain nuclear non-proliferation to enhance peace and security. Accordingly, resolving regional nuclear proliferation issues is vital. Japan reaffirms our strong commitment to the goal of achieving CVID of all of North Korea's nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs, and related facilities as well as ballistic missiles of all ranges, in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Mindful of the recent developments, including the U.S-North Korean summit, as well as the three Inter-Korean Summits, Japan calls on North Korea to take concrete steps towards denuclearization. We also call on all Member States to fully implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

Lastly, in order to narrow our differences and seek a common ground, an interactive discussion among states is indispensable. All states are encouraged to undertake answering the hard questions. We must fully utilize existing frameworks, including this committee, the NPT and the CD, and seriously consider effective ways to enable substantive discourse. These discussions could serve as confidence-building measures and set the foundation for a stable international security environment.
I thank you, Mr. Chairman, full text will be available on line.