STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT AT THE FIRST
COMMITTEE
OF THE 74rd SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THEMATIC DEBATE: DISARMAMENT MACHINERY
OCTOBER 31, 2019, NEW YORK

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan appreciates that the UNSG’s agenda for disarmament provides us with useful perspectives and guidance for effective partnership to address gender considerations, empowerment of women and youth, and cooperation with the civil society. Emerging issues and new challenges listed in his agenda will affect various cross-cutting fields and stakeholders, which requires us to take collective action. Japan stands ready to cooperate with the UN and other Member States to make strides towards strengthening the work of the existing disarmament machinery.

In particular, the UNIDIR is increasingly important as an autonomous institution. Japan highly appreciates UNIDIR’s significant contributions such as publishing issue-focused papers and convening activities in a broad range of areas including nuclear risk reduction, LAWS and cyber security. The rich expertise of UNIDIR can enhance meaningful and interactive dialogues in
various multilateral arms control and disarmament fora. Japan promotes further collaboration with the UNIDIR.

Regional cooperation is also imperative. The UN Regional Centers for Peace and Disarmament can play an important role in enhancing the capacity of disarmament and non-proliferation institutions in the region. In this regard, we are committed to providing more than half a million dollars for the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in Lome, Togo, for implementing a project on Small Arms and Light Weapons, last year. We will continue our cooperation with the regional centers and hope others will also join our efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

The CD is an unique multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament but the CD were unable to agree on a programme of work during this year’s session. In light of this reality and of the deteriorating international security environment, we believe it is important to hold more substantive discussions on specific disarmament-related issues. Four core issues, namely, (1) Nuclear Disarmament, (2) Fissile Material, (3) Preventing an Arms Race in Outer Space, and (4) Negative Security Assurances would be the possible areas. We encourage the member states to continue these discussions.

Also, we would like to highlight (1) Transparency, (2) Nuclear Risk Reduction, (3) CTBT, (4) Nuclear Disarmament Verification, and (5) Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education as potential topics for further discussions. Advancing substantive
discussions over these issues will help increase the positive momentum in the CD.

In order to make substantive progress during the 2020 session of the CD, robust cooperation and coordination among CD presidents is indispensable. We expect Algeria, the first President of the CD in 2020, to take proactive role, collective and concrete steps by holding informal consultations with all relevant stakeholders and further strengthening P6 coordination. Japan is determined to promote and contribute to such endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.