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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. TOSHIO SANO,
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DELEGATION OF JAPAN TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT,
GENEVA

THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY
ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

- CLUSTER II -

NEW YORK, 1 MAY 2014

Mr. Chairman,

At the last NPT Review Conference in 2010, it was recognized that the inalienable right of all the parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. This being the case, Japan believes that robust non-proliferation efforts by the international community as a whole are imperative so that we can promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy while minimizing the threats posed by nuclear proliferation. To this end, as shown in our working paper 'Strengthening International Nuclear Non-Proliferation' submitted to this session of the Preparatory Committee, Japan supports the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system and of export controls as well as other related mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

The IAEA safeguards is a fundamental component of the international non-proliferation regime. Japan is determined to promote various endeavours to further strengthen the IAEA safeguards. We will continue to work with the international community for the universalization of the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols. We will strive to make concrete contributions in such field as providing assistance to countries that need to establish national systems for safeguards implementation, training inspectors for the next generation, the institutionalization of knowledge and the research and development of safeguards technologies.

Japan welcomes the fact that the number of states with an additional protocol in force has been steadily increased since the 2010 NPT Review Conference. This trend of wider adherence to additional protocols makes it more convincing that the IAEA safeguards reinforced by the additional protocol should be the safeguards standard in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article III of the NPT. In this connection, Japan calls on all states to apply this safeguards standard, i.e. a comprehensive safeguards agreement reinforced by an additional protocol, as a condition for supplying nuclear material, equipment and technology to a recipient country, and to incorporate this condition in their civil nuclear cooperation agreements.

Japan considers it imperative that all States provide support to the IAEA so that the IAEA is able to maintain sufficient capabilities to fully discharge its responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner.

Mr. Chairman,

Export controls play a critical role in meeting the nuclear non-proliferation obligations prescribed in paragraph 2 of Article III of the NPT. Given the necessity of counter-terrorism measures and the increasing complexity of illicit procurement activities, Japan will continue to actively assist other states in their efforts to strengthen export control systems including through the Asian Export Control Seminar held annually in Japan since 1993, by pointing out that export control creates a favorable environment for further economic growth rather than impeding trade and investment.

Japan, recalling Action 36 of the last NPT Review Conference, encourages State parties to refer to, and align with, the multilaterally negotiated and agreed-upon guidelines and understandings on export controls. Japan is of the view that states that utilize and align with existing guidelines such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group Guidelines and the Zangger Committee Trigger List, actually find merit in enhancing their export transparency and competitiveness.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to effectively counter proliferation, Japan wishes to highlight the importance of fully implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, and will continue to support its smooth implementation through the work of the UNSCR 1540 committee, and through engagement in various regional seminars and workshops.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, Japan believes that this should be pursued on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned and in accordance with the 1999 Guidelines of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. Japan would also like to draw your attention to the relevant part of the NPDI Joint Ministerial Statement issued in Hiroshima in April this year.

Thank you.